

Letters:

To: ABC  
Re: Rascals

To: HPRB  
Re: 1721 21st Street, N.W.

To: HPRB  
Re: 1615 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.

To: Phyllis Crockett  
Re: Thanks for appearance at meeting, invitation to return to future ANC meeting

To: City Council  
Re: Comprehensive Plan

To: Park Police  
Re: Proposal to close and raze public restrooms at 20th and P Streets.

To: Mr. George Coropolous, owner, La Tomate  
Re: La Tomate

#### MINUTES OF THE MAY 13, 1992 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 1992 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Bass, Grandis, Meier, Pagano, Schwager, Shannon and Taylor were present. Chairman Bass called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Lt. McManus of the second district gave a crime report. Lt. Van Horn of the Park Police also gave a police report and cited an incident that took place in the P Street Beach area where a man was found semi-conscious after being beaten with a tire iron. The man reported that he had also been robbed. However, the victim gave the Park Police a fictitious name and address so the Police were unable to pursue the case further.

During the Open Forum, a resident spoke of her concern over the lack of tax relief for Class II property owners, and the quality of life on 19th Street between Q and R Streets. She also expressed frustration over unleashed dogs in the area and the inability of the owners to clean up after their dogs. The ANC informed her that the DCCA is going to discuss that matter at its next meeting and suggested she attend.

At this time, Commissioner Taylor introduced Phyllis Crockett of National Public Radio who presented her views of the aftermath of the LA riots and ideas of how citizens could help to improve race relations. She suggested that everyone examine how they relate with other cultures. She went on to say that if you want to improve relations you must open yourself up to people of different backgrounds, start a conversation. That, she said, is the first step. Ms. Crockett also suggested that the ANC might invite the Anacostia ANC to one of its meetings and likewise, attend one of theirs. She challenged the ANC to do something to help relations. The ANC thanked Ms. Crockett for attending the meeting and invited her back to a future ANC meeting.

## Adoption of the Minutes

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion to adopt the minutes of the April 22, 1992 meeting. This motion passed unanimously.

### Issues:

#### I.

Lt. Van Horn of the U.S. Park Police was present at the meeting and gave a short presentation about the Park Police proposal to close and raze the public restrooms at 20th and P Streets, N.W. Lt. Van Horn said that the area now is being used by vagrants, panhandlers, and drug users. Lt. Van Horn asked the audience their opinion on this subject and the general consensus was that they would not support tearing down the restrooms because the vagrants that hang out there now will only find another area in the neighborhood to congregate and the public should have access to these restrooms. One resident suggested that the building be preserved as an historic building. Commissioner Grandis suggested that the building could perhaps be used as a tourist information center. Many residents felt that the city needs more public restrooms and that they should be preserved and monitored daily instead of razed. Gary Simon of "Dupont Down Under" proposed to Lt. Van Horn that the building be used as a security station for the "Dupont Down Under" facility. This proposal will be looked into further. Commissioner Bass asked Lt. Van Horn to postpone the closing and razing of the restrooms until other options have been fully explored, to which Lt. Van Horn agreed.

III. Representatives for the building at 1721 21st Street, were present at the meeting to discuss their plans to renovate an existing building at this location from 27 units to 17 and to restore the building with stucco facade. Their plans also include building a new townhouse on the property. The greatest concern of both the ANC and the neighbors of this building is that the developers provide sufficient parking spaces for the building (at least one for every 2 units). The developer said that he could not commit to providing that many spaces because he was not sure whether there would be enough room for 9 spaces.

Mr. Pagano moved and Ms. Shannon seconded, a motion that ANC 2B take no position on this application for historic review because of the inability of the developer to provide 1 parking space for every 2 units or part thereof. The ANC appoints a committee comprised of Commissioner John Pagano, David Hattis and Jim Pewett to meet with the developer to resolve the parking space issue. This motion passed unanimously.

II. Councilmember Jack Evans was present at the meeting to discuss two bills he has introduced in the Council. Bill 9-392, "The District of Columbia Business Improvement Districts Act of 1991" would allow the establishment of business improvement districts in D.C. and the assessment and collection of fees by commercial property owners for improvements (primarily security and sanitation) in contiguous commercial areas. Bill 9-494, the "Resident Parking Plan Amendment Act of 1992" would authorize ANCs to extend restricted resident parking hours within their respective neighborhood areas. Hearings on

these two bills are expected sometime this fall.

IV. Representatives for 1615 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W. were present at the meeting to discuss their plans to construct a fence at the premises in order to preserve the property and prevent people from walking across the property. Landscaping cannot be done because of people trampling through the area. The representatives informed the ANC that the columns for the fence have been put up, but not the fence. They went on to say that a former employee of Shannon and Luchs did not file for the proper permits and started to construct the fence. However, the proper permits have now been applied for and plans have been submitted to the HPRB. Commissioner Meier said that his research indicated that the fence would be appropriate for the neighborhood.

Mr. Meier moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion to support the applicant to build a fence as described in the plans presented to the ANC. This motion passed unanimously.

V. Mr. Grandis, who has been retained by the owner of La Tomate to represent him in this case, recused himself from the discussion at this time and left the dais. The owner of La Tomate, Mr. George Coropolous, and the architect for this project were present at the meeting and gave a short presentation about their plans to use public space on the 20th street facade of the building as an unenclosed patio. Mr. Bass advised the architect to check with the Public Space Office to find out the legal requirements for use of public space and specifically those regulating the distance between the cafe's boundary and the curb or tree box, prior to submitting an application to the Public Space Committee. The ANC will again review this plan when it is formally submitted on an application. The ANC was informed that construction has already taken place on the exterior of the building without permits, but was assured by the owner that work has been stopped until proper permits are obtained.

#### Commissioner Reports

Ms. Schwager reported on the "Recycling Regulations Act" which has been conditionally passed by Council. One major issue she pointed out was trying to keep equal liability between commercial and residential areas. Ms. Schwager also reported that she appeared at the BZA hearing regarding 1767 P Street, N.W., and the hearing has been postponed until July 8th. Ms. Schwager will attend the hearing.

Mr. Grandis reported that the ANC 2nd quarterly report is due and asked that the ANC approve it and that Chairman Bass and ANC Secretary Martha Shannon sign it so that it could be turned in on time.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Schwager seconded, a motion to approve and sign the ANC 2nd quarterly report. This motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Grandis moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that ANC 2B send a letter to Councilmembers, urging that the Council, when considering PR 9-301 and PR

and PR 9-349, make only technical changes, the sole purpose of which are to conform the language of the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the Council to the maps prepared thereunder. These two resolutions should not be the occasion for any substantive zoning or use changes in the Comprehensive Plan, since there has been no prior input or debate. ANC 2B will shortly submit to the Council the technical changes necessary to make the narrative and maps for the Dupont Circle area consistent. This motion passed unanimously.

Lastly, Mr. Grandis reported that Charles Robertson has informed him that the Mayor's Agent has ordered the owners of 2000 S Street, N.W. to remove the illegally constructed exterior stairway. Mr. Grandis also said that he has been in a continued dialogue with city Inspector, Vincent Ford, who informed him that the construction at 1813 19th Street met with the plans submitted and city codes. Mr. Ford is going to send the ANC a letter reiterating his findings.

#### Old Business

Ms. Shannon made a public apology to Mr. Scott Siler, owner of the Popstop, 1513 17th St., N.W. for the Commission's error in its action concerning Popstop's use of public space. At the February 26th meeting of the ANC, the Commission passed unanimously a motion to approve his application for use of public space as an unenclosed sidewalk cafe. However, in the motion was a condition that there would be no external source sound amplification after midnight on any night. After checking the D.C. municipal regulations, it was found that external amplification is not allowed on public space at any time. Therefore, outdoor speakers that Mr. Siler was using on the patio would have to be removed. Mr. Siler has removed the speakers.

Mr. Bass reported the ABC Board's decision in the Show Cause hearing on Baker Enterprises t/a Rascal's 1520 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.

Mr. Bass moved and Ms. Taylor seconded, a motion that ANC 2B strongly supports the decision of the Alcoholic Beverage Control Board to implement a three-month license suspension for Baker Enterprises t/a Rascal's following a show cause hearing under DCMR 23 1513.5. The significant violations by this ABC-licensed establishment must be publicly noted and punished to prevent a recurrence, to maintain the credibility of the Board, and protect the integrity of the majority of licensees. Under the circumstances, ANC 2B feels that a three-month suspension is the minimum sanction that should be imposed; any appeal to shorten this penalty should be refused by the Board. This motion passed with Mr. Grandis and Mr. Meier abstaining.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Martha Shannon*  
Martha Shannon (H.S.)  
Secretary, ANC 2B