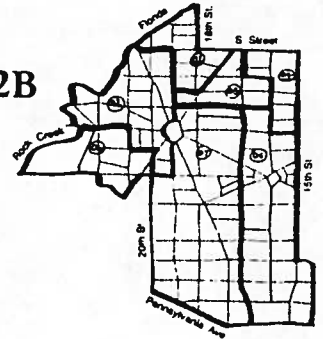




**DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B**

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Letters:

To: Public Space Commission
Re: Status of Lawson's Application

To: Public Space Commission
Re: JR's application

To: ABC Board
Re: Ambassel Restaurant - Opposition to Renewal of License

MINUTES OF THE APRIL 13, 1994 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled public meeting on April 13, 1994 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Shannon arrived late, Gamble, Bass, Taylor, Pagano, Holmes and Ray were present. Chairman Gamble called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Introduction of the Commissioners

Adoption of the Minutes.

Mr. Ray moved and Mr. Holmes seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 23, 1994 meeting of the Dupont Circle ANC 2B. This motion passed unanimously.
(Commissioner Shannon abstained).

ISSUES:

I. Police Reports

Sergeant Roofner of the Park Police said beginning April 1 one officer of the Park Police had been assigned to Dupont Circle Park during the hours of 10:00am and 10:00pm. This beat includes Dupont Circle Park proper, P Street Beach, and the bike path. The officer will also patrol the surrounding streets. The Metro Police and the Park Police working in conjunction cleaned and closed the Dupont Circle restrooms. These restrooms will remain closed until they are fixed. He gave statistics of arrests for violations in the jurisdiction. There has been an increase in all categories due to the warm weather. Officer Roofner stated that the parks are closed after 10:00pm. Commissioner Taylor asked what happens after 10:00pm. and have the Park Police noticed illegal activity after the hours indicated and are they considering the need of having an officer during the hours that the parks are closed. Officer Roofner responded that the Park Police chose to patrol the area when the most people are present. He added that at night plain clothes officers patrolled, but there is not a particular officer

COMMISSIONERS

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|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 01 Larry Ray
Parliamentarian | 02 Jay Pagano | 03 Martha Shannon
Secretary | 04 Dennis Bass | 05 Russell Gamble
Chairperson | 06 Pam Taylor
Vice Chairperson | 07 Dennis Holmes
Treasurer |
|---------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|

clothes officers patrolled, but there is not a particular officer dedicated to the area.

Captain Kalbacher of the 2nd District reported on March offenses and arrests comparing them to the same month in 1993. Commissioners Taylor and Ray said that residents did not see uniformed officers on the streets. Captain Kalbacher responded with numbers of patrol cars and foot officers assigned to the area. The Captain also addressed the issue of aggressive panhandling by reading the applicable law.

Third District Officer Ronald Hampton of community services reported on the Crime Prevention Street Fair April 23 - 10am to 6pm. He said that Commissioner Ray had Flyers. Commissioner Gamble asked how the ANC should advise residents on handling being accosted, or witnessing an incident of someone being accosted, also citing the absence of visible foot patrol officers. The officer responded that residents should be advised to get accurate descriptions and if it is an emergency to call 911. He suggested strongly that witnesses not get involved directly. He said he would speak to the Captain about looking into more officers on the street. It would be helpful if residents would report incidents so the 3rd District would know where it would be most useful to place additional personnel. Commissioner Gamble said that he did want Captain Boggs to know about the increase in aggressive panhandlers. Officer Hampton said that he would emphasize this issue in his report.

II.

Commissioner Holmes a request for a public space permit by Lawson's Gourmet, 1350 Conn., Ave., NW. for a single line of tables on its southwest wall. He said that he'd had no comments on this proposal and that unless there were comments from residents at this time he propose that the ANC take no position on this request. A resident Bob Meehan said that due to the congestion in that area he was opposed to the issuance of this permit. Commissioner Gamble asked if there were any further comments. Commissioner Holmes suggested that it be moved to the next calendar and that he would ask Lawson's to be present at that meeting. Mr. Gamble said that the Public Space office should be contacted to verify that the permit hadn't already been issued. He said that no further action would be taken at this time.

III.

The next agenda item concerned upcoming Class "CR" license renewals. Commissioner Bass will report on these. Mr. Bass read the list of "CR" renewals with which the ANC has no Voluntary Agreements and said that unless there were comments by the individual Commissioners or the audience that the ANC would take no action on these renewals. Mr. Bass then opened discussion of three licenses with which the ANC does have Voluntary Agreements. He said the first of these is the Ambassel in Commissioner Ray's

district. Mr. Ray said that there is going to be a show cause hearing on April 27, 11AM which will be attended by residents who oppose the reissuance of this license. He indicated Ambassel is, or has been in the past in violation of all the provisions of the Voluntary Agreement.

Commissioner Ray moved and Ms. Taylor seconded the motion to oppose the renewal of the Class "CR" license for the Ambassel Restaurant due to their impact on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. Motion passed unanimously. (Commissioner Shannon absent).

Mr. Bass said that a letter regarding this motion would be sent to the ABC Board. Mr. Ray requested that letters also be sent to the Corporation Council and to the Ambassel Restaurant.

The next Voluntary Agreement to be addressed was the renewal of the license for Pizzeria Paradisio.

Commissioner Pagano moved and Ms. Taylor seconded a motion to approve the renewal of the "CR" license for Pizzeria Paradisio and an extension of their Voluntary Agreement. This motion passed unanimously. (Commissioner Shannon absent).

(Commissioner Shannon arrived).

IV.

The next order of business was the application for a Public Space Certificate of Use by JR's Restaurant. Mr. Eric Little and Mr. Irv Morgan, representatives of JR's, were present to state their case for their application for a Certificate of Use for outdoor cafe seating on their premises, and presented a petition of support signed by 200 people. JR's said that the floor plan called for 15 seats and they also presented their intention to make the space aesthetically pleasing. They would have a monitor, exclusively for the patio, who would serve drinks and police the area for trash and keep the street people away. This would be in addition to a front door monitor to assure that persons with drinks from the bar would not be allowed to go freely back and forth between the bar and the patio and that the door would remain closed. In addition, drinks could only be purchased from the patio servers. JR's stated that it was not their intention to pack the place with the stand-up crowd. There will not be any large restaurant tables, only small cocktail tables and there would not be any bar stools. JR's said that they know noise is a big concern. They stated that they would keep the door closed so that the noise level would not create a disturbance and planned to re-configure the sound system to assure the noise would not be offensive to the neighborhood residents.

A number of nearby residents voiced their concerns about this application. These concerns included JR's non-responsiveness over the years to complaints about noise; importance of maintaining the balance between commercial and residential interests and needs; inappropriateness in this neighborhood of use of public space by a

issued over 20 years ago.

It was agreed that there should be further discussion. JR's is willing to enter into a voluntary agreement, which would address specifically hours of operation, noise abatement, etc. The issue can be brought back for further discussion by the Commissioners at a later date.

Commissioner Ray moved and Ms. Taylor seconded a motion, with amendments by Mr. Holmes and Mr. Gamble, that the ANC write a letter requesting the Public Space Commission hold in abeyance the request by JR's for a Public Space Use permit, until after Commissioners Gamble, Holmes and Shannon have an opportunity to meet with concerned residents and the representatives of JR's to further discuss and negotiate this application to the Public Space Commission. This motion was approved unanimously.

V.

Commissioner Gamble postponed further action on the next two agenda items, an application for the enclosure of Ruths Chris Steak House, per their request and the PUD at 1616 Rhode Island Ave., NW. Commissioner Gamble announced that on Tuesday, April 26, at Judiciary Square, there will be a meeting with the mayor and interested ANC Commissioners to discuss the assertion that some commissions are not giving the ANCs position the "weight" that is granted them in legislation. On April 22 there will be a seminar at Sumner Museum regarding organ donation particularly in the minority community, and on May 16 there will be a 10K Earth Day Jog starting at Meridan Park.

Mr. Gamble addressed Captain Boggs and told him that residents will be contacting him about the issue of aggressive panhandlers. Commissioner Shannon asked about a particularly aggressive panhandler at 17th and Q St., NW. Captain Boggs said that he would look into it. He also addressed problems of inadequate personnel and cars to deal with additional warm weather problems, one of which is the increase of aggressive panhandlers. He said that the 3rd District would attempt to align foot and car patrols to cover problem areas.

Lt. Charles McAllen reported on 1605 S St., NW. He said a move is still in process to seize this property, which is boarded up. The owner of the property at 1767 P St., NW (garage) is co-operating and Lt. McAllen feels that they will be able to vacate the garage soon. Captain Boggs said the police are looking into 1533-5 O St., which is an alleged crack house.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Commissioner Ray announced the Crime Prevention Fair this coming Saturday, April 23 - between 11am and 6pm.

Commissioner Shannon reported that at the DCCA meeting on

April 4, Betty Hager Francis, comprehensive cleaning program in the neighborhood west of 16th street would start within a month. Bids have been received for work on the Connecticut Avenue underpass. Q Street is being studied to determine if it should have no parking during the day.

Commissioner Bass reported The ABC Division is going to conduct two seminars on the ABC licensing process, the investigations process and protest process. If any commissioners would like to attend contact Mr. Bass. The dates are May 5th, 2:30pm until 4:30pm and May 12th from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Commissioner Taylor reported at the last Conservancy meeting the Big Hunt was requested to make some changes to their drawings as they were incomplete. Peoples Drug Store is changing it's name to CBS Pharmacy, their signage was approved. The JCC ramp was approved. The plans for a new business called Planet Fred were withdrawn because it needed better drawings. The Conservancy accepted the window design presented by the JCC.

In response to Commissioner Ray's question the Commission agreed that the cost of a citizen's efforts could not be reimbursed by the Commission

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bass presented a draft of six questions that he said should be answered by any independent inquiry into the financial stability of the City. Congress is currently conducting an investigation. Ms. Taylor suggested in that there is no rush that this issue be tabled until the next meeting. Mr. Gamble deferred this motion until the next meeting.

Mr. Bill Freese, the volunteer coordinator of the Dupont Circle Recycling Project asked the ANC if they would take a position on the Recycling Project. Mr. Gamble said that the issue had been addressed two meetings ago and the ANC had taken no position. Mr. Freese said that there is going to be a review of the city's decision on April 28. Mr. Gamble said that this issue could be re-addressed at the next ANC meeting which is April 27 and that a decision from that meeting could be FAXed. Ms. Taylor added that Mr. Freese would need to attend the April 27 meeting.

Mr. Gamble told the commissioners that they had gotten memos indicating that they would need to pick up mail, and flyers to be posted. These flyers need to be posted a week before the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shannon
Secretary, ANC 2B