



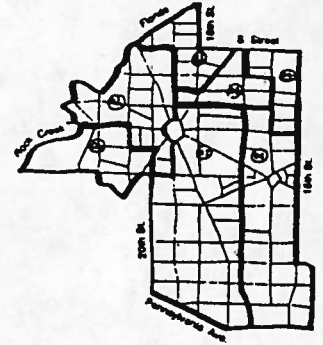
**DUPONT CIRCLE
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B**

1601 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., #802

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Letters:

To: Department Public Works
Re: Signs theft from auto

To: White House
Re: Closing PA Ave.

MINUTES OF THE MAY 10, 1995 MEETING OF THE DUPONT CIRCLE
ANC 2B

The Dupont Circle ANC 2B held a regularly scheduled public meeting on January 11, 1995 at St. Thomas Parish. Commissioners Fernandez, Heller, Smith, Bass, Wemple, Haransky and Pitsor were present. Chair Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:40 pm.

Introduction of the Commissioners

Adoption of the Minutes:

Adoption of the Minutes of April 12 was tabled.

POLICE CRIME REPORT

Captain Taylor gave the crime statistics for the Second District. He said there was a 28% increase, in overall crime which could be expected in the summer months. He said that the Second District is having its second annual Information Fair on May 13. We will be having experts on bikes to speak to interested residents.

Dr. Fernandez commended Officer Zelinka for apprehending a bike thief this Wednesday evening.

Captain Macmanus gave the statistics for the Third District. He said there had been a 2% overall decrease in crime between April 1994 and April 1995. He added that there had been a 10% decrease from March to April 1995. He said there had been a bank robbery on Connecticut Avenue, but no weapon was involved.

Mr. Haransky asked if it was possible to post pictures of persons who have been previously convicted of theft from auto in the Dupont Circle area. Captain Macmanus said that at this point

COMMISSIONERS

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| 01 Brad Haransky | 02 Stephen Smith | 03 Jonathan Heller
<i>Treasurer</i> | 04 Dennis Bass | 05 Erik Wemple
<i>Secretary</i> | 06 Henry Fernandez
<i>Chairperson</i> | 07 Kyle Pitsor
<i>Vice-Chair</i> |
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pictures are not taken of persons convicted of misdemeanors.

Mr. Smith said that his car has not been broken into since he installed an alarm which also has a light, and he recommended this type of car alarm to the residents and commissioners.

ISSUES:

1. Dr. Fernandez introduced Mr. Fondersmith of the Office of Planning. Mr. Fondersmith gave a report on the operations, jurisdiction and function of the Office of Planning. He read from a report on the major planning and development activities in Ward 2 and said this report would be updated in June and he welcomed suggestions from residents and the commission. He said that the Office of Planning is holding a forum for Ward 2 June 27 at the Charles Sumner School, which would focus on the plans for the Ward in the future.

Mr. Fondersmith said the City Council now wanted updates every four years rather than every two years.

2. Mr. Wemple reported on the progress of the Public Space Committee, which was created in April by the ANC. He said that he had selected a committee, which would represent the various interest groups in the area. He said that although the space for representatives on the committee itself was limited, he welcomed input from any interested parties. He said that preliminary guidelines had been drafted at the May 3 meeting. He said that these guidelines would be discussed by the committee at the next meeting, which will be held on May 24 at the Charles Sumner school - 6:30p.m until 9:00p.m. Mr. Wemple said he plans to have the guidelines worked out by the June 14 meeting of the ANC. He noted that Mr. Heller was also part of the Committee. Mr. Heller said that the focus would be to create guidelines to consider public space issues. Mr. Pitsor asked if the committee was going to consider guidelines and report back to the ANC commission at a public meeting, which would provide the opportunity for discussion.

MOTION

Mr. Wemple moved and Mr. Heller seconded ANC 2B express support for the efforts of the ANC 2B Public Space Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Mr. Pitsor introduced Mr. Dale Duset, who asked the ANC to request that the Department of Public Works conduct a study on the damage done by heavy vehicular traffic (trucks and buses) down Q Street in order to determine if traffic along this street would need to be restricted. He referenced the 1500 block as an example and said that the houses on this block are developing cracks as a result of the over use of Q Street. Mr. Duset said that Q street was never designed or meant to carry vehicles over a particular weight and the buses and trucks that use this street in great

numbers exceed the weight that the street could support. He gave to the ANC a written compilation of statistics, amassed by himself and other residents on the block. He said that Pepco has documentation of the damage done to the substructure of the 1500 block of Q Street as they had to rebuild one of their steel vaults, which is at a depth of 15 feet below street level, because of the excessive use of the street by heavy trucks and buses. He said that because the street is one-way he believes this route is used to exit the city. He and residents who monitored the passing traffic noted that 75% of the vehicles are not licensed in D.C. He asked ANC 2B to consider requesting that the Department of Public Works post signs to restrict traffic all along Q Street to non-commercial vehicles except those (trucks) that are making local deliveries. Mr. Heller asked why it was indicated in the handout that Q Street was a historical street. Mr. Pitsor said it was part of a Historic District as designated by the city. Mr. Heller asked if Mr. Duset had brought this issue up to the city. Mr. Duset said that he had and the city suggested a study like the one that he and the residents conducted. Mr. Duset said that Pepco has also raised concern about the damage to their equipment under the street. Mr. Heller asked if any thought had been given to where this truck and bus traffic would go. Mr. Duset said that aspect had been considered. Mr. Wemple asked if a restriction on commercial vehicles excepting local deliveries was a standard regulation. Mr. Heller said that Corcoran Street and 19th Street have signs which say no trucks over 1 and a quarter tons. Mr. Wemple said enforcing a sign that limited truck traffic to local deliveries might be hard to enforce. Mr. Duset said that the neighbors had discussed this point. Mr. Pitsor asked Mr. Duset if Washington Gas had expressed concern that the heavy use of the 1700 block of Q Street was breaking their gas lines. Mr. Duset said that was true. A resident said that he knew that UPS used Q Street as a route to its facility in Maryland. Mr. Pitsor said that as a separate motion perhaps the rush hour restriction on parking should be lifted to allow neighbors to park on both sides of Q Street. Mr. Pitsor said that a good indicator of the volume of traffic on Q Street is that during the same amount of time noted in both instances Q Street had half the volume of traffic as Pennsylvania Avenue and that this is clearly inappropriate for a residential street. Mr. Bass said that two years ago the ANC asked the Department of Public Works to do a traffic study with the view to eliminating the parking restrictions on the north side of Q Street. Mr. Bass added that people speed on Q Street because the lights are synchronized. A resident added that vehicles had been observed going 60 MPH in attempts to beat the light at 17th and Q Street. Mr. Wemple said he was still concerned about where the traffic would end up going if it was restricted on Q Street. Mr. Duset said that given where the trucks are originating from, decisions for alternate routes would not be made at the circle. He added that if the signs started at Mass. Avenue, the drivers would have to make a decision as to an alternate route well before they got to the circle.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Bass seconded a motion to request the Department of Public Works to restrict the use of heavy trucks and buses, excepting those vehicles making local deliveries, on Q Street from Massachusetts east to 11th Street N.W. and to post appropriate signs to that effect. The motion passed four to one with two abstentions.

4. Mr. Fernandez introduced Mr. Delgado, a building inspector for the building and land division of the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Mr. Delgado said that he accompanies the police on their calls. He said in order for him to be assigned to a patrol unit to do inspections in an area, it is necessary there be a request made of his department expressing the neighborhood's concerns. He said that in his initial visit he asks the owner to remedy the violation and if he goes back and it is not remedied, he issues a fine. Mr. Bass said there is a building in his SMD where there is an ongoing problem with drug dealing. He said this problem has been well documented by the police. The problem is in finding the owners. Mr. Bass asked is there anything that could be done, for that house is a minefield of housing violations. Mr. Delgado said he would put the location on a list and speak to Mr. Bass about it. Mr. Delgado suggested that the residents inform the commissioners of whatever housing code violations they have noticed and then the commissioners could make a formal request to Mr. Delgado's agency that he be assigned to investigate. He said the commission should contact Vincent Ford, Chief, Building Inspection Division.

Dr. Fernandez said the ANC is in the process of negotiating a new lease for office space in Dupont Down Under.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Smith seconded a motion to authorize the Chairman of the ANC 2B to enter into a contract with Dupont Down Under Associates with the public notice that any pending or future business relating to Dupont Down Under brought before the commission will in no way be influenced by approval of the above stated contract. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS REPORTS

Mr. Smith reported on the possibility of a new Bed and Breakfast in the 1600 block of 19th Street.

Mr. Wemple reported that the bake sale for Stead playground, held on Earth Day was a success. He said that the group would continue its fund raising efforts through the summer.

Mr. Pitsor reported that the residents were concerned about the elimination of the recycling program and that a letter had been

submitted to the DPW expressing this concern. He said that on June 7, The Dupont Circle Merchants and Professionals Association and DCCA will be having a joint meeting at the park at Dupont Circle to discuss beautification of this park. He asked the commissioners to give him a list of any problem Washington Post boxes as he intended to meet with a representative of the Post to discuss any problems with non-functional boxes, over concentrations, etc.

NEW BUSINESS

MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded a motion to send a letter to relevant parties stating ANC 2B's opposition to the closing of Pennsylvania Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. David Barrow asked the commissioners to speak with the management of the Ritz Carlton Hotel about various situations that are disturbing the peace, order, and quiet of residents in the adjacent buildings. Mr. Barrow said that the top of the dumpster is closed with a bang every 15 to 20 minutes up to 2 A.M. He said that the Ritz-Carlton even does repair work late at night, and that sometimes there are deliveries made as early as 5 A.M. He said that he has spoken to the night managers and asked them to stop the disturbances, but that hasn't helped. Mr. Smith said that he had spoken to the day managers about this problem. Mr. Wemple asked if Mr. Barrow had gotten any documentation about any of these complaints. Mr. Barrow said that no, but he would if that would be helpful. Dr. Fernandez said that he and Mr. Smith would be happy to work with Mr. Barrows and residents on this problem and try and help the residents. Mr. Haransky suggested that Mr. Barrow have pictures of trash violations. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Smith to report back on progress in this situation.

Mr. Haywood of ANC 2F gave a report on what he said were the deplorable conditions in the D.C. Jail and at the Lorton facility. He said that the health care for the inmates is inadequate and the facilities are overrun with vermin. He said that with great effort advocacy lawyers get a judge to pass an order which is usually ignored or just not acted on effectively. He said that the Mayor and the City Council have basically expressed no concern for this ongoing problem. He requested that ANC 2B write letters to appropriate parties expressing their concern and dismay over these inhumane conditions.

A resident asked that there be more public trash cans to solve the trash problems in Dupont Circle. Mr. Haransky said that due to budget cuts the City is actually removing the existing cans. Mr. Haransky said that he does have a number the resident can call to ask about the plans for the resolution of the city's street trash

problem. Mr. Wemple said that collecting fines for sanitation violations is very difficult for a variety of reasons.

Dr. Fernandez suggested the resident contact the DCCA as that group was very actively involved in the garbage/trash collection issues.

Mr. Heller said that an idea that might be of help would be to get the establishments which generate the trash to provide facilities for collecting it.

Respectfully submitted,

Erik Wemple
Secretary, ANC 2B