

## Letters

To: DPW (Harold Smith)  
Re: Proposed Rulemaking - P Street

To: PSC  
Re: Public Payphone - 20th and P Streets

To: DPW, Jack Evans  
Re: Hours - Diplomatic Parking

To: DPW  
Re: Recycling Pickup

To: DPW - Enforcement  
Re: Parking alley - on P St. between 20th and 22nd Sts.

## Minutes of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Public Meeting March 13, 1996

Mr. Haransky, the Vice Chair, opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Introduction of the Commissioners. Commissioners Heller, Haransky, Wemple, Pitsor, and Jackson were present.

The minutes were unanimously adopted with the following amendment. Mr. Heller had said that the ANC not commit ~~to the renovation of~~ <sup>renovate</sup> the Dupont Circle comfort station until the plans are in a later stage of development. *itself as a tent*

## POLICE CRIME REPORTS

Lt. Connors of the 2nd District gave the crime statistics. She said the vacant property at 1420 Hopkins Place, which had been mentioned at the previous ANC meeting, would be difficult to close because private property involves more red tape. She said it had been noted that citizens had boarded up the property. She said that officers had made an arrest for illegal entry. An officer for 2D said that there had been an arrest there for narcotics possession. He said the owners have been contacted about the property and they have until the 18th to respond and then the Board of Housing will go and inspect the property. Ms. Eastment said she

called the Housing Board on February 28. Lt. Connor said that if the owner does not respond in 7 days then the city will take over the property. Ms. Leonard said the neighbors will pay to have the property boarded up. Officer Connors said the 2nd District has a new composite drawing of the suspect in the robbery and shooting which occurred on N Street on March 9. She said she would leave it on the table for any interested residents.

Officer Shemeneck from the 3rd District gave the crime statistics. Mr. Pitsor asked if the reported thefts in the 3rd District were predominately from homes or businesses. Officer Shemeneck said primarily from businesses. Mr. Heller said he had a general question for both the Second and Third District. He said that he had a complaint about the mobile soup kitchen bringing a criminal element into the neighborhood. Captain Burrell said that this is not definitive, and until an arrest is made it is impossible to identify whether or not the suspect is also homeless. A resident said he had caught a man looking into cars. Ms. Eastment asked if the soup wagon went would crime go down. Captain Burrell said the 2nd District has mobilized a unit to address the problem of the homeless within the 2nd District. She said they had talked to many advocates for the homeless respective to the social needs. She said at that meeting that three types of homeless had been identified; the mentally ill, persons homeless because of economic problems and criminals. She said if the wagon were moved something would change, but it is not an absolute that crime will go down. She said that crimes would still occur. She said that she cannot say that the population which goes to the food wagon is totally responsible for the crimes, or that every one who goes to the wagon is homeless. She said that the 2nd District did have a task unit that was investigating offenses connected with the homeless. Mr. Heller said that within the past three weeks Dupont Circle has been hit by graffiti vandals. He asked if there was any connection with crime and graffiti. Captain Burrell said that incidents of graffiti vandalism are random.

Mr. Carney, a resident, said that his building had been broken into and the person left blood all over the walls. Mr. Pitsor commended the police for their responses to calls on Church Street, he cited the past Friday night in particular.

#### OPEN FORUM

A resident said he thought the situation and condition of the comfort station at Dupont Circle was a problem. A resident said that DCCA is sponsoring a spring cleanup effort on April 27, and there were flyers on the table for interested residents. A resident said that a public trash receptacle had been placed at Q and N.H. A resident said neighbors were confused about parking signs on 17th Street, and asked if someone from the ANC could get some clarification about these signs. Mr. Jackson said he would work with Mr. Pitsor on this problem. He said he has the same

replaced

problem with this in his SMD.

## ISSUES

I. Mr. Haransky introduced the first issue of proposed rulemaking in the 2100 block of P Street. Mr. Heller said the Department of Public Works (DPW) is proposing to change the parking designations on the south side of the 2100 block of P Street. He said the major changes are that parking is now restricted from 9:30 and will be changed to add parking before 9:30a.m. He said the two areas of one hour parking and one area of two hour and zone 2 Permit Parking will be changed to one-hour meter parking. He said the third major change would be that restrictions that now apply only to Monday through Friday will be extended to include Saturday. Mr. Heller said that Dr. Fernandez, the SMD Commissioner for this area, expressed his opposition to these changes. Mr. Heller said that a representative of the Parking Division of DPW had been invited to speak to this issue at this meeting. Mr. Pitsor said that this block is zoned fully commercial. Mr. Heller said in front of a parking lot in the 2100 block there are 5 non-metered spaces, with a two hour limit and Zone 2 Parking Permit holders excepted. Mr. Heller said another change is that a loading zone is being moved. Mr. Heller asked if the commissioners wanted to vote on the whole proposed rulemaking. Mr. Wemple said he wanted to vote on the whole thing. Mr. Heller proposed a motion which would oppose the proposed rulemaking that eliminates zoned residential parking and limits parking on Saturday. Mr. Pitsor suggested an amendment that would only oppose the restrictions on residential parking. Mr. Heller said he was still concerned about the changes in the Saturday parking.

### MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Mr. Wemple seconded to oppose proposed rulemaking by DPW for parking on the south side of the 2100 block of P Street which would eliminate Zone Two parking and the proposed restriction on parking on Saturday as the imposition of this proposed rulemaking would be inimical to the interests of the residents. The motion passed unanimously.

A resident complained about the delivery trucks in the alley behind P Street between 20th and 21st. Mr. Haransky said that is not the issue being addressed. Mr. Heller said this could be discussed as a separate issue.

II & III. Mr. Haransky introduced the issues and asked for comments on removal of the Public Pay Phone at 20th and P Streets, next to the comfort station, and the public bench, also at 20th and P Streets. Mr. Heller said he thinks the removal of the phone and benches is going to far in sanitizing the area. He said he thought a reasonable solution for the phone was to limit it to outgoing calls. He said that if the bench is removed the homeless will just move to the bench inside the metro stop, and the repair or removal

of the bench should be left to the Park Service. Ms. Eastment, a resident, said removal of the phone would not be a hardship as there are 12 alternative phones close by on P Street. She said that the benches are monopolized by the homeless and if it wasn't there would be less incentive to hang out at the comfort station park. Mr. Wemple said the neighbors organized and had the benches from the triangle parks at 17th and T and S Streets removed the parks are now undergoing landscaping. He said that used to be a park where a lot of homeless hung out. He said when the benches were removed the people left, but now it seems as if the street people are congregating on stoops of apartment buildings and residential alleys in that area. He said given this he was not sure if removal of the benches from P Street would not just create a problem elsewhere. He asked where this effort would stop in that it didn't solve the problem. A resident said people just shift, and the benches are an eyesore. Mr. Haransky suggested tabling the issues to a future date. Mr. Heller said he wished to move that the phone service only allow outgoing calls.

#### MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded to ask the Public Service Commission to limit the service of the Public Pay Phone at 20th and P Streets to outgoing calls only as there is neighborhood concern the phone is used for illegal activities. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Mr. Heller introduced the issue of diplomatic parking. He said he had received complaints from residents about the designated hours of 7A.M. for the diplomatic parking in his SMD. He said that between Dupont Circle and S Street on New Hampshire Avenue there are a dozen embassies, most of which are relatively new. He said they take up to 30 to 35 on-street parking spaces. He said the city is entitled to grant diplomatic parking between 7 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., and that all the embassies except two have the 7 a.m. starting time. Mr. Heller suggested as a motion that Councilmember Evans introduce a bill, or request to DPW to issue a change in the present ruling which would change the hours in the a.m. to be 7:30 or 8:00. A resident said that a neighbor, Mr. Richard Massey, was in charge of diplomatic parking for the State Department and suggested that the ANC bring their concerns to him. Mr. Pitsor said that the diplomatic parking has been an issue over the years as the neighborhood has diplomatic overlay zones. He said that frequently when the embassies apply the applications come before the BZA and then are referred to the ANC for comment. He said that the ANC might want to engage the Office of Foreign Missions of the State Department who oversee the embassy assignments and locations to see if anything could be worked out at least along New Hampshire Avenue where there is a particular problem. Mr. Heller said that it's a problem because it is also covered by the D.C. Municipal Regulations, so the ANC could deal with D.C. He said he would like to not make it more complicated than it already is. Mr. Pitsor said it is a complicated matter. Mr. Heller said he would like to

at least get something started. He said that there is alternative language in the motion he wishes to present.

#### **MOTION**

Mr. Heller moved and Mr. Wemple seconded to send letters to Councilmember Evans and the Department of Public Works urging them to amend Section 2406.4 of Title 18, of the D.C. Municipal Regulations, by changing the earliest times to limit on-street parking as specified from 7:00a.m. to 8:00a.m., for buildings, embassies, or chanceries in residential neighborhoods that have additional off-street parking, unless they prove an overriding need for the earlier time. The purpose of this request is to provide greater convenience to the residents of areas who must park their cars overnight and then have to move them by 7:00 a.m. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Mr. Heller said that he intended to introduce a discussion of removal of the taxi stand at the Dupont Plaza Hotel at the next public meeting of ANC 2B.

#### **ISSUES (Con't.)**

V. Mr. Wemple introduced the issue of the DPW's plan to change the pick-up schedule for its recycling program. He said the contractor for the residential curbside recycling has announce that beginning Monday, March 25 recyclables will only be collected every other week. Mr. Wemple said he had a copy of the new pick-up schedule, but the basic idea is that the recyclables are going to be picked up every other week. Mr. Wemple said the reason is when the city changed to contractors for the pickup service and renewed the contracts they said instead of paying two million dollars a year for the service the city would only pay one million, and the contractors said for that they would only pickup every other week. He said that residents will be issued a schedule and a calendar. Mr. Wemple said another issue is street cleaning and alternate side parking. He said the street cleaning program will start again on April 1, and until then residents will not be ticketed for parking in areas restricted by the street cleaning hours. Mr. Pitsor said he would want to move that the recyclables be picked up in the alleys if that is where the regular trash is picked up. He said this was especially important if the pickups were cut to only once every two weeks. Mr. Heller said that many residents had bedrooms on the alleys and didn't need more trucks waking them up in the morning. Mr. Haransky said a problem he saw was that if they missed a week residents would have to wait two weeks, and the trash would be in front. Mr. Heller said its the responsibility of the residents to keep the front of their houses clean. He suggested that people would have to take their trash back in. Mr. Haransky said once he puts the trash out he doesn't want to bring it back

inside. Mr. Haransky said he foresaw that people would just put all their recyclables in with the regular trash. He said a lot of people would be less willing to comply with the regulations about recycling and the DPW should be concerned about this. A resident said she has seen people put dog feces in the recycle bins in front of houses.

**MOTION**

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Wemple seconded that a letter be sent to the Department of Public Works urging them to have recyclables picked up where the regular trash is picked up, which typically is in the alleys. The motion passed 4 to 1. Mr. Heller opposed.

**COMMISSIONERS REPORTS**

Mr. Haransky introduced Mr. Harold Smith of DPW, who had come to speak about the proposed changes in parking in the 2100 block of P Street. Mr. Smith said the signs for parking in that block are improper in that the street should be all commercial parking only. Ms. Eastment, a resident, said that there was a condominium with 100 units on that block. Mr. Smith said that the DPW would look for places to create more residential parking, but it is inappropriate on the 2100 block of P Street. Mr. Haransky asked if any notice had been given to the residents. Mr. Smith said it had been published in the D.C. Register. Mr. Haransky said he never looked in a D.C. Register until he had become a commissioner. Mr. Smith said although the 30-day comment period had passed he would still consider comments. He said that DPW would try to identify 5 places for residential parking to replace the five that will be changed, but that the zoning was incorrect and never should have been residential in the first place. Mr. Smith said he would be happy to do a walk-through with residents to try and identify possible parking spaces in the neighborhood. Mr. Haransky said that Dr. Fernandez, the Chair, would give Mr. Smith a call after he got back in town.

**MOTION**

Mr. Heller moved and Mr. Wemple seconded approval for ANC 2B's participation in the District's 1996 ANC Security Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Heller reported the police are keeping the drug dealing in front of the McDonalds on 17th Street under constant observation. He said the major dealer had been put in jail.

Mr. Jackson reported that Crescox Architects will be returning to give another presentation to the ANC as they were seeking approval for necessary zoning variances on their renovation of three adjacent buildings on 16th Street.

Mr. Pitsor reported that there was a water main break in the 1700 block of Church Street that got repaired. He said the traffic light at 18th and Q Streets had been replaced.

## OPEN FORUM

A resident asked about how one goes about getting potholes repaired. Mr. Haransky said although the situation was terrible he had seen some repairs around the neighborhood.

A resident said he wished to give a public health announcement. He said that people with compromised immune systems should not drink D.C. water without boiling it first.

A resident asked that ANC do something about the delivery trucks parked illegally in the alley behind P Street between 21st and 22nd.

## MOTION

Mr. Wemple moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a letter be sent to Parking Enforcement asking them to ticket vehicles in violation of the no parking regulations in the alley behind P Street between 20th and 22nd. ANC suggests enforcement officers be sent in the A.M. hours as the primary offenders are delivery trucks during the morning. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric Wemple, Secretary