



DUPONT CIRCLE  
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B

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Letters

To: Councilman Frank Smith  
Control Board

Re: Alley closing, Scottish Rites Temple\*\*

To: ABC Board

Re: Trio Restaurant

To: Annie's Paramount Steak House

Re: Commendation for four tree boxes

To: Public Service Commission

Re: Public pay phone 1605 Conn. Ave.\*\*

To: Park Police

Re: Maintaining officer on duty Dupont Circle

To: DPW

Re: Signage (N.H. Ave., Corcoran, and 18th Streets)

To: PSC

Re: Signage temporary alley closings

Minutes of the September 14, 1996 Regularly Scheduled  
Public Meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

Dr. Fernandez called the meeting to order at 7:35P.M.  
Commissioners Heller, Haransky, Jackson, and Pitsor were present.

Introductions of the Commissioners. Dr. Fernandez declared the  
seat for SMD02 vacant and asked if any of candidates for that seat  
were present at the meeting. Dr. Fernandez acknowledged Mr.  
George Woods, a candidate for SMD02 was present. Dr. Fernandez  
declared the seat for SMD05 vacant.

The minutes for the public meetings of ANC 2B for July 1996 and  
August 1996 were approved and adopted without comment.

LOCAL POLICE CRIME REPORT

Lt. Harasack gave the crime statistics for the Park Police.

COMMISSIONERS

01 Brad Haransky  
Vice-Chair

03 Jonathan Heller  
Treasurer

04 Donald Jackson

06 Henry Fernandez  
Chairperson

07 Kyle Pitsor

Mr. Heller asked if there was any information about the attacks on the bike path a year ago. Lt. Harasack said he didn't know specifically which attacks Mr. Heller was referring to. He said there had recently been two incidents in the past two or three weeks on the bike path. He said in one of the incidents a woman jogger was accosted. He said the description of the alleged assailant was vague. Lt. Harasack said in another incident in the same time period the description of the assailant was similar. Dr. Fernandez asked about the stabbings of bikers near a bridge, the incident to which Mr. Heller was referring. Lt. Harasack said he didn't know of any progress.

Sgt. Burton gave the crime statistics for the Third District. He said overall crime is down. He said on August 16th the Safeway on 17th street was robbed by two men at gun point. He said the police have good descriptions of the robbers, but the case is still open. He asked if any members of the audience had any information to please call the Third District. A resident asked if the Safeway has surveillance cameras. Sgt. Burton said yes, but they were not working at the time of the robbery. Mr. Pitsor asked about the shootings, which occurred early September at Stead Playground. Officer Zelenka said that there are two rival Hispanic gangs in the area, and the shooting was retaliatory. Dr. Fernandez asked the officers about an armed robbery on 17th Street at the 7 Eleven. Officer Zelenka said no, it was still open and that he was working with the owner of that store. Dr. Fernandez asked about the spat of assaults on Riggs Place. Sgt. Burton said that was at 16th and Riggs and there have been no arrests. A resident said that the response to his call to the Third District had been great. Sgt. Burton said it was very helpful for residents to give descriptions of people when reporting crimes. Officer Zelenka asked residents to post their street addresses in the rear of their properties. Commander Proctor said that although there had been a significant decrease in theft from autos, she hoped that people would remain vigilant, as it was one of the most preventable crimes. She said the Third District had recently established a plainclothes task force unit. She said that they formerly had small units in each sector, but now they have established a unit for the entire Third District. She said the task force is very successful. She cited various arrests in the Dupont Circle area. A resident asked about the CAT program (a program marking vehicles to be stopped by police if seen being operated after a certain hour). Ins. Proctor said that the CAT program was an old program that the Third District is trying to re-implement. Dr. Fernandez asked Ins. Proctor if she had discussed the possibility of Third District's Gun Recovery Unit patrolling the west side of Dupont Circle. She said that Third District doesn't stop at any of its borders if there is a gun involved in any complaint.

Lt. Cullins gave the crime statistics for the Second District. He said crime is down overall. He said 2D has closed out four of its outstanding assault cases. Lt. Cullins said there had been some changes in the scheduling. He said he would be in charge of the

day work section effective September 22. He said Sgt. Fitzgerald would be taking over the night. He said the Second District has been able to move people around on the schedule and get a good police presence out on the street, which discourages crime. He said the new Commander for 2D is Captain Barry Malkin. He said the reason for this is that Captain Burrell is suffering from a serious illness. Mr. Heller asked if the sound detector at the corner of 20th and P Streets belonged to the Second District. Lt. Cullins said it was not the Second District's as far as he knew. Mr. Jackson asked about the nine officers giving jay walking tickets during the evening rush hour. Lt. Cullins said as crime is down in Sector One, the officers had time to do the ticketing. He said that people complain about the jay walking and the problems it creates. Mr. Jackson said as the pedestrians were being ticketed autos were running red lights and so on. Mr. Haransky said that often in the same area there are a lot of cars double parked.

#### ISSUES

1. Dr. Fernandez said the first item on the agenda was an incident of gay bashing in Dupont Circle on July 1. He said that this assailant was subsequently arrested by the 2nd District police, but that medical assistance was not provided to the men who were attacked and injured. Dr. Fernandez introduced Mr. Donald Edwards, Deputy Chief, of Fire and Emergency services, who was present to discuss the incident. Mr. Edwards told the audience that he was responsible for all the day-to-day activities of all companies assigned to Wards 1, 2, 3, and 4. He said that the incident involved two men who were assaulted and one assailant. He said a 911 call was made and a First Responder Unit was dispatched from Engine Company One. He said this Unit arrived on the scene within 5 or 7 minutes. He said a ambulance was also dispatched from a different location and it arrived about 6 minutes after the First Responder Unit (FRU). He said when the FRU arrived it was approached by one of the assaulted individuals. Mr. Edwards said that subsequent interviews with the four personnel of that Unit indicated they attempted to provide medical service to this individual. He said that there was another individual lying on the ground in an apparent state of unconsciousness surrounded by the police. Mr. Edwards said that according to the guidelines of emergency medicine, unconscious persons receive the highest priority. Mr. Edwards said the assaulted person, the individual who subsequently filed the complaint against the Fire Department, approached the FRU personnel and asked about the arrival time of the ambulance. Mr. Edwards said the FRU cannot give the approximate arrival time of an ambulance unless it leaves from the same location at the same time. Mr. Edwards said as near as he can determine from his investigation of the incident the complainant became frustrated with the delay and left the scene. Mr. Edwards said the complainant then walked to George Washington Hospital and was treated for his injuries and released later that evening. Mr. Edwards said his department received a telephone complaint on July

3rd about this incident. Mr. Edwards said he then requested written memos from the personnel involved. Mr. Edwards said that the Fire Chief (Otis Latin) asked for an in-depth investigation of the incident. Mr. Edwards said the two complainants were contacted and asked them to come in for an interview. He said they said they wished to consult with their attorney and would get back to the Fire Department. He said they eventually did contact the Fire Department and said their attorney was out of the country and they were going to wait until he got back after August 21. Mr. Edwards said that since that time the Fire Department has been in contact with this attorney and had an formal interview scheduled for September 15. He said the interview would be with the two complainants, their attorney, and a representative of the Corporation Council. Mr. Edwards said that there have been questions about the lack of sensitivity of some of the Fire Department workers. He said he wanted to assure the audience and the commissioners that the Fire Department had zero tolerance for any form of discrimination. He said that all of the Fire Departments command staff, senior command staff has received diversity and sensitivity training, which is given by the Metropolitan Police Department. He said a contract is now under way to include all agency members in this training. He said he wished to assure the commission that if any of the rules or established protocol of the Fire Department had been violated, the persons responsible will be dealt with. Dr. Fernandez said he knew that Mr. Edwards had interviewed the four firefighters who were at the scene. He asked Deputy Chief Edwards if he had also interviewed the Officers from the Second District or the Secret Service people who were at the scene on July 1. Mr. Edwards said he had not interviewed these persons. Mr. Heller said he found it interesting that although the two complainants had not been interviewed until much later after the incident there had been a lot media coverage. Mr. Edwards said that to his knowledge the two complainants had not been interviewed by the press or the media. Mr. Heller said that although there had been a lot of controversy over this he had been involved in an incident that involved an HIV positive person who was bleeding and that the emergency personnel at that time did everything they could to help in the circumstance. He said it was not in his view an endemic problem. Mr. Edwards said that the particular engine company (company number one) serves a very diverse population, and there have not been any complaints against that unit as far as non-treatment, mistreatment, or any discriminatory practices are concerned. He said the Fire Department is disturbed by this incident. Mr. Edwards gave the commissioners and the audience his telephone number. He said if anyone had any complaints he encouraged them to call. Dr. Fernandez thanked Mr. Edwards for coming and speaking to this issue as the commission is concerned about it and fire protection in general. Mr. Jackson asked Mr. Edwards about streets not being blocked during a fire. Mr. Edwards said that 911 calls for fires go initially to the police and they are supposed to dispatch a unit. He said however, sometimes fire is not the priority of the

police department.

#### OPEN FORUM

Mr. Sprague Simons introduced himself to the Commissioners and audience. He said he is the Republican candidate who is running against Eleanor Holmes Norton. He asked the audience to vote for him as Eleanor Holmes Norton was not providing service to the residents of the District, nor did she have a clear plan to do so. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Simons how long he had lived in Washington and paid D.C. tax. Mr. Simons said he has been a resident and paid tax for seven years.

A resident said he had a complaint about the activity on the sidewalk in front of Lauriol Plaza Restaurant. He said it was creating problems for pedestrians. Dr. Fernandez proposed a motion to write the Adams Morgan ANC stating that ANC 2B had complaints about the sidewalk in front of the restaurant. Mr. Haransky said that he would prefer to give the resident the name and number of the owner of Lauriol Plaza Restaurant. Mr. Haransky said the business is planning to relocate.

A resident complained about the construction noise on P Street. He said that he had talked to the contractor about them working on Saturdays. Mr. Pitsor said he talked to the contractor and is trying to negotiate that the work that begins at 7a.m. generate less noise. Dr. Fernandez said if Mr. Pitsor want the ANC to send letters to either Brookings or Carnegie the ANC would do so.

#### REPORT FROM JACK EVANS OFFICE

Ms. Michelle Sedgewick said that Mr. Evans won the the Democratic primary night before, and the City Council recess would end this week (week of Sept 12). She said there would be a lot going on because they wanted to finish a lot of legislation by December.

#### ISSUES

1. Mr. Jackson introduced Mr. John Boettjer, a spokes person for the Scottish Rites Temple. Mr. Boettjer said the Temple wished to have the alley closed behind the Scottish Rites Temple. He said the closing would not interfere with the access of the main alley. He said the dogleg of the alley that he is speaking of was used by buildings which have been taken down. He said the section of the alley the Temple wants to take over is now only used for questionable activities, dumping, and the walking of dogs. He said the advantages to closing the alley are safety and it would relieve the city of the up keep of the alley. He said the Temple planned to extend their fence and plant grass. Mr. Pitsor asked Mr. Boettjer about any future plans the Temple had to build on the vacant property which abuts the alley. Mr. Boettjer said they

Temple doesn't have the money or immediate plans to build. He said the Temple had some architectural concepts drawn up. He said that when they are eventually able to build it would be to provide services to the community. He said, however, it is unlikely that in the foreseeable future they would undertake any construction. Mr. Pitsor asked if an alley was closed could the alley then be built on. Ms. Sedgewick said if the alley was closed and the Scottish Rites Temple owns the property on both sides they can build. Ms. Sedgewick said that the Scottish Rites Temple had been turned down on their request three years ago. She said the Control Board rejected the proposed alley closing for reasons of loss of revenue. She said the Council and the Control Board have a different view of this situation. Mr. Jackson said the neighbors on 15th Street approve of the alley closing as proposed in Bill 11-832. He said the Scottish Rites Temple has consistently provide beneficial programs for the city.

#### MOTION

Mr. Jackson moved and Mr. Heller seconded to write Councilmember Frank Smith and the Financial Control Board stating ANC 2B supports the efforts of the Scottish Rites Temple to close the alley as proposed in Bill 11-832. The motion passed 4-1-0. Dr. Fernandez opposed.

2. Dr. Fernandez introduced the proposed installation of a public pay phone, 1605 Connecticut Ave. Mr. Heller said the proposed phone would provide one-way service only. He said he contacted the owner of the proposed phone and the owner is flexible on the exact location and mounting of the phone.

#### MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded support for the proposed installation providing the phone is limited to one-way service, and does not interfere with the flow of pedestrian traffic. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Dr. Fernandez introduced a list of establishments which were up for Class "CR" liquor license renewals. He said in that the list was long he was going to just read them off and respond only if there are any objections. The list is as follows:  
Alibi Restaurant, 1806 I St., Annie's Paramount Steak House, 1609 17th St., Army Navy Club, 901 17th St., Capitol Hilton, 1001 16th St., Dupont Plaza Hotel, 1500 Conn Ave., Gusti's Restaurant, 20th and M Sts., Hay-Adams Hotel, La Fonda Restaurant, 1639-41 R St., Luigi's, 20th and M St., Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Conn Ave., Mr. Eagan's, 1343 Conn. Ave., Raku, 19th and Q St., Ruth's Chris Steak House, 1801 Conn. Ave., Sulgrave, 1801 Mass. Ave., Meeting Place, 1100 17th St., Trio, 1624 Q St. Mr. Pitsor said that 1624 Q Street was the address of Trio Pizza, but Trio Restaurant's address is 1537 17th Street. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Pitsor what he wanted to do. Mr. Pitsor said it was a question as to what license was being

reviewed. Mr. Jackson said the placard is on Trio Restaurant. Dr. Fernandez said he would return to this issue later. (He resumed reading the list of liquor license renewal application). University Club, 1135 16th St., Anna Maria's, 1737 Conn. Ave., Washington Park Hotel t/a Doubletree, 1515 R.I. Ave., Ritz Carleton, The Washington Club, 15 Dupont Circle, Baha Grill, 1133 20th St. Dr. Fernandez said that completed the list of the renewals. Mr. Pitsor said that the application for the renewal of La Fonda reflects the new ownership.

#### MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Pitsor seconded that ANC 2B take no position on the restaurants listed with the exception of Trio. The motion passed unanimously.

#### MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded that ANC take no position on a liquor license renewal for Trio Pizza, 1624 Q St., but requests a clarification from the ABC Board on the status of the renewal of a Class "CR" liquor license for Trio Restaurant, 1537 17th St. The motion passed unanimously.

#### COMMISSIONERS REPORT

Mr. Heller said he wished to go on record commending the various businesses in his SMD and the ANC 2B area at large for their donation of tree boxes in front of their establishments. He said that he wished to send a letter to Annie's in that they are the only establishment which has its name on the tree box.

#### MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded a letter be sent to Annie's Paramount Steak House commending them for them installing and maintaining four treeboxes in front of their establishment. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Jackson reported that some neighbors got blocked in an alley off of Q Street by trucks associated with the construction of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) and a trash truck at the other end of the alley. He said his research indicates that Public Space is not required to notify residents of the possibility that alleys will be blocked. Mr. Jackson stated he was bringing this before the commission to get their view and possible solutions. Mr. Jackson said he considered asking the Public Space Committee to post signs for alleys which are closed temporarily due to construction, or for other reasons. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Jackson to work on a letter addressing this problem. Mr. Jackson reported that the JCC was working very hard to open in November. He said they plan to have a tour for residents in the next month or so.

Mr. Pitsor reported the bench extensions and landscaping for Dupont Circle got postponed. He said that the city should be able to come back and complete this work in the Fall.

#### MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded a letter be sent to the Park Police Chief, Robert Langston, urging the Park Police to continue the detailing of an assigned officer in Dupont Circle Park. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor said the color that the banisters and railings of the iron work in the Connecticut Avenue construction has been painted is not the correct final color. He said the color was to be a oxidized verte green and this part of the contract is being clarified.

Mr. Heller asked Ms. Sedgewick if Jack Evans had introduced the legislation to fix Connecticut Avenue. Ms. Sedgewick said she didn't know.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Heller said that about a year ago the ANC looked into the traffic problem at the intersection of N.H Ave., 18th, and Corcoran Streets. He said there were several accidents at this intersection. He said there continue to be accidents at this intersection. He said a year ago ANC 2B asked the DPW to put up better signage. He said they have finally put up one sign but the sign points in the wrong direction.

#### MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded ANC 2B ask the Department of Public Works to correct the sign that has been put at the intersection of New Hampshire Avenue, 18th Street, and Corcoran Street as the sign is now pointed towards the sidewalk and not the street it is referring to. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Haransky reported the Metro gave proper notice of their closing of the Metro entrance at 19th Street.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### MOTION

Mr. Heller moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded to allot up to \$300 per month for the rental of an office for ANC 2B. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Heller asked if this was an appropriate time to pass a resolution in support of the Halloween Celebration. Dr. Fernandez

said his view was to wait until the next meeting where the issue could be taken up on the agenda. Dr. Fernandez asked Mr. Gonzales if he would collaborate with Mr. Little of JR's on street closings for the Race down 17th Street, which is part of the celebration. Mr. Gonzales agreed to do so.

#### OPEN FORUM

A resident, Mr. Woods, asked about the status of the renovation of the comfort station in Dupont Circle. Mr. Pitsor said the Consortium is working on the renovation. He said it is doing fund raising to finance the project. He said it will take about a hundred thousand dollars. Dr Fernandez said that, in the proposed plans, the ANC 2B c would have offices in the comfort station after its completion. Respectfully submitted,

Donald Jackson  
Secretary, ANC 2B