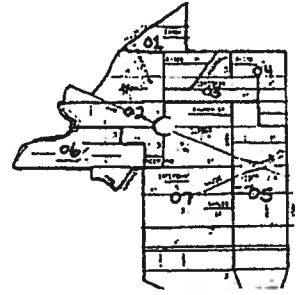




**DUPONT CIRCLE  
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 2B  
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Letters

To: DPW  
Re: water rate increase

To: PSC  
Re: PEPCO BG&E merger

To: Office of Planning  
Re: SP zoning issues

To: ABC  
Re: Wrapworks

To: Board of Elections and Ethics  
Re: Resignation of Dr. Fernandez

To: American Farmland Trust  
Re: Farmer's Market

To: U.S. Attorneys Office - Eric Holder  
Corporation Council - Joanne Robinson  
Re: Invitation to ANC 2B meeting March 12.

Motions

Resignation of Dr. Fernandez  
Approval of 4th Quarterly Financial Report  
Approval of contract with Office Coordinator  
Approval of contribution to Comfort Station Project  
Approval of \$200 to repair office

Minutes of the February 12, 1997 meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B.

Mr. Pitsor brought the meeting to order at 7:30pm. Commissioners Jackson, Cary, Angle, McRaney, and Fernandez were present.

The minutes of the January 10 meeting were approved unanimously.

## POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Bridget Sickon of the 3rd District gave the activity report for scout cars 97 and 88. She said the 3rd District had made many arrests for mostly for minor crimes like public drunkenness, and aggressive panhandling. She said that overall crime is down 50% from last year.

Mr. Pitsor Directed the audiences attention to copies of an article about the success of the new policing program in New York city. Mr. Pitsor said that at the meeting of the ANC last month there had been a briefing of the 'community oriented policing initiative'.

Inspector Proctor said at the last meeting of the Citizen's Advisory Council the 3rd District tried to identify citizens to pair up with the police beat leaders. She said that there will be a meeting with the representatives of the neighborhood and the police to help develop a strategy for dealing with crime in the 3rd District. She said the police department is going to work on developing partnership relations with other government agencies. Mr. Jackson asked about the status of Citizen Advisory Councils. Inspector Proctor said that in each police district there are advisory councils. Inspector Proctor said that volunteers can call 321-0163.

A resident said there had been a situation where she had reported a van that was being broken into, and the suspect was arrested. He said that the owner didn't show up at the trail and the suspect was let go. She asked Inspector proctor what could be done about situations like this. Inspector Proctor suggested that the ANC invite Eric Holder of the U.S. Attorney's Office to hear the concerns of the residents.

### MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Ms. McRaney seconded to invite Eric Holder of the U.S. Attorney's Office to the March 12 meeting of the ANC. The motion passed unanimously.

Sgt. Trippi of the 2nd District introduced his beat leaders, and gave the crime stats. He said there were extra plainclothes personnel working in the Dupont Circle Area. Sgt. Trippi said that detectives have been following leads on an individual suspected of holding people up at knife point. Sgt. Coleman said the hope is that by cracking down on less serious crimes the police feel they can improve the quality of life in Dupont Circle. Sgt. Burke said citizens should call their beat leaders about complaints that they have. Mr. Angle said there are drug dealers and gang markings in his alley. He requested that the area be patrolled to try and handle this problem. Sgt. Burke said he would inform the vice and hot squad.

## OPEN FORUM

Debbie Hanrahan, a resident, said there would be a neighborhood clean-up in Dupont Circle the end of April. She asked the ANC to co-sponsor this effort along with DCCA.

### MOTION

Mr. Angle moved and Mr. Jackson seconded ANC 2B co-sponsor the April Clean-up. The motion passed unanimously.

Maureen Leak, a resident and a program coordinator for a youth initiative division of Stead Playground, said her efforts are to help kids develop a sense of community. She asked for people to volunteer for the program.

A resident of 2B06 complemented Dr. Fernandez for his efforts as a commissioner.

Michelle Sedgewick of Jack Evans office said that Mr. Evans is the head of the oversight for the police and fire departments. She requested the residents write the mayor and control board asking them to support a request for more police.

## ISSUES

1. Mr. Dimitri Mallios, Wrapworks representative, said the restaurant wished to upgrade from a DR to a CR liquor license in order to be able to serve hard liquor. He said this was to add hard liquor to some "smoothy" drinks that are already on the menu, which now are non-alcoholic. He said they are doing this in response to many requests from their customers. He said that Wrapworks would not serve other (basic) mixed drinks. Mr. Angle said that because the restaurant is on Connecticut Avenue, and is not really near any residential areas he is comfortable with the upgrade. Dr. Fernandez said that over the past two and a half years he has heard a lot about the concentration of having restaurants on 17th Street. He sees this as a good opportunity to relieve the pressure from the concentration and to encourage good quality restaurants in other areas. A resident said that Wrapworks is a good place.

### MOTION

Mr. Angle moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded support for the upgrade from a DR to a CR liquor license for Wrapworks, 1601 Connecticut Avenue. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Mr. Toyer of the Department of Public Works (DPW) street construction division, Mr. Stallworth of the Mass Transit office of DPW, and Mr. Erion of Metro Office of Planning and Scheduling explained to the residents and the commissioners their schedule for fixing road in the District. Mr. Toyer said the District is back logged with work due to no money in the budget. Mr.

Stallworth said that Mass Transit works with Metro to establish bus routes and stops. He said the department also analyzes the problems involved with mass transit. He said in relation to 18th Street the DPW would want to solve the problems without moving the bus stops or routes. He said DPW prefers, if possible, to repair the streets. Ms. McRaney said that in that 18th Street can't be permanently repaired for years is there a possibility of rerouting the buses temporarily. Mr. Erion said there are terms and prohibitions concerning moves that would impact users of mass transit. He said it would be up to the city to make an exception.

Ms. McRaney said as a matter of clarification that if anyone had a problem with the condition of street it is necessary to get a petition of 51% of the residents to have the DPW conduct a survey. Mr. Stallworth said this was true for major work not minor. Mr. Pitsor asked if there was money available in the Federal Highway Trust Fund. Mr. Stallworth said that the department has money from both D.C. and Federal sources, but he did not know how much money. Mr. Pitsor asked if a bus route change went through a public hearing process and rulemaking, and what the time frame was. Mr. Erion said yes there was a process and it usually was 6 months. Mr. Erion said there were complaints similar to 18th Street city-wide. Ms. McRaney said that Mr. Toyer had a list of 1996, 97, and 98 of works in progress. Mr. Pitsor asked if the sizes of the buses were a factor in the damage done to streets. Mr. Erion said the buses aren't bigger, but they are heavier. He said Metro has been looking into smaller buses, but some specs forbid them in certain areas. He said it would be another 18 months before Metro gets any of the new smaller buses.

#### MOTION

Ms. McRaney moved and Dr. Cary seconded follow up letters be sent to DPW pursuing the status of the problem on 18th Street. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Mr. Pitsor introduced Ms. Bernice Prince and Ms. Ann Yonkers of American Farmland Trust (AFT). Ms. Prince said that AFT was formed in 1980. She said their concern is to save productive farmland and provide good produce for people. She said that for the past 18 years AFT has been active in informing the public of the need to protect farmland. Ms. Prince said that she and Ms. Yonkers have been meeting with Dupont Circle residents since January. She said these meetings have included the Dupont Circle Merchants Association and DCCA. She said that both of those groups are very supportive of the project. Ms. Yonkers said that the preferred site for the market is the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue, between the Circle and Q Street. She said the block would be closed during the hours of operation of the market which would be between 8:00am and noon on Sundays. She said the market would be a producer only market and there would be 30 vendors. She said that an alternate site would be the parking lot behind Riggs Bank, but that would be limited to 7

to 10 vendors and take place on either Saturday or Sunday. Ms. Yonkers said the first order of business for AFT is to raise the money for the start up costs to open the market. She said the money will come from foundations, businesses and residents. She said she has talked to many farmers and residents who are very interested in the idea. She said that AFT is a non-profit organization and the fees that would be charged to the vendors would be to cover operating costs only. She said only produce would be sold at the market. Ms. Yonkers said that she hoped that the ANC would add their endorsement to the proposed market.

A resident asked what the start-up costs covered. Ms. Yonkers said establishing the rules for operating the market, licensing, communications with the farmers, establishing a logo. She said all this has to be done by July. She said the reason the trust is involved is that in order to initially fund the market money has to be raised. She said the fees that are collected from the farmers are to cover operating costs; staff, clean-up, and so forth. Mr. Angle said he was concerned about the amount of traffic that would be generated. He asked if Riggs lot or the 1500 block of 19th Street could be considered. Ms. Yonkers said the trust would consider alternate sites. Dr. Fernandez said he agrees with Mr. Angle that the market is a great idea, but that other sites should be considered. He said that other areas of Dupont Circle could use the revitalization from an open air market and cited P Street, 19th Street, and the south side of Dupont Circle. Ms. Yonkers said the site selected has a lot appeal because of the high visibility. Mr. Pitsor asked why a Sunday had been chosen over a Saturday. Ms. Yonkers said because of the traffic AFT felt Sunday would be a better use of the space. A resident asked if the market could be held at more than one location. Dr. Cary said she thought it was a great concept. She asked if AFT had talked to the merchants on Connecticut Avenue. Ms. Yonkers said that AFT had talked to DCMAP and they support the concept. Dr. Cary asked if AFT had talked to Metro about re-routing buses. Ms. Yonkers said they had not yet done that because AFT was first looking for community support.

#### MOTION

Dr. Cary moved and Ms. McRaney seconded that ANC 2B support the concept of the market and wished to work with AFT on issues of location, traffic, and trash management. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Mr. Pitsor introduced the issue of a request for a grant for the renovation of the Dupont Circle comfort station. Mr. Pagano presented the request. He said the amount requested is \$3,000 to be paid over a period of time. Dr. Fernandez asked if one of the uses for the comfort station, after it is renovated, is for office space for the ANC. Mr. Pagano said yes. Mr. Pagano said that other neighborhood organizations had made grants to the project. Mr. Pagano said the building is a historic structure and cannot be changed fundamentally. Mr. Pitsor said the

building would be gutted, and used as a police sub-station and community use room. Dr. Cary asked if the costs were determined by the requirements of the police departments and the Park Service. Mr. Pagano said the cost is almost totally determined by the needs of the three police jurisdictions. He said these needs would be reviewed after the project has the money. Dr. Cary asked if there would be an alternative plan if not enough money was collected. Mr. Pagano said yes, the requirements would be reviewed.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Jackson seconded a motion that a request be sent to Congresswoman Norton seeking funds in a line item that funds for the renovation around the comfort station be put in the 1998 Budget. The motion failed 5-1. Dr. Fernandez was for the motion.

Mr. Pitsor said he opposed the motion because the ANC should not be requesting federal funds for a neighborhood project.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Mr. Jackson seconded ANC 2B contribute \$3,000 to the renovation of the Dupont Circle Comfort Station with dispersement to be based on monies allocated from the city to the ANC. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Heller, a resident, asked if there was a conflict of interest in giving this grant. Mr. Angle said there was no conflict of interest.

5. Mr. Pitsor opened a the discussion to consider the Office of Planning (OP) proposed special purpose zone text and map amendments. He said the areas included are 20th and New Hampshire Avenue and lower 16th Street south of Scott Circle. Mr. Pitsor said SP zones are designed to be buffer zones between residential and commercial areas. He said the Office of Planning is up for preliminary comment on the proposed SP zone text and map amendments. Mr. Pitsor showed the commissioners and audience a map which defined the residential, commercial, and SP zones. Mr. Pitsor said the first part of the SP text amendment would remove the current limitation on limited office use in SP zones. He said they would permit general office use. He said OP justified this on the basis that a number of the SP office areas are vacant because there are certain types of businesses that are not eligible to use such properties. Mr. Jackson said what he sees as being proposed seems extremely narrow in concept and planning. He said he thinks that a reason for a number of SP vacancies in his SMD are because of limited parking, which also affects the residents. He said that organizations that are devoted to helping people are desirable, not general offices. Mr. Angle said he felt it was necessary to the viability of the neighborhood to not permit this expansion of office use. A

resident said initially the SP zone was a compromise.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded ANC 2B strongly opposes the proposal permitting general office use in SP zones as this will; 1) adversely impact the surrounding residential area, 2) contribute to the decrease in the residential tax base, 3) there is already a surplus of available offices in the city, 4) and the proposal fails to insure a residential component in the SP zone as called for in the comprehensive plan. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor said the first of two map changes in the proposal is the area of the 20th and New Hampshire Avenue frontages, square 96, 97, 99, and 115. He said these are presently high density commercial SP level 2, and the Office of Planning proposes to change these areas to high density residential. Dr. Fernandez said that an example is the Lauren condominium, which is residential is under pressure to turn apartments into offices. He said this would prevent the Lauren and some others like it from becoming commercial. Mr. Angle said he agrees with the proposal because one of the biggest problems in Dupont Circle is conceding space to commercial use.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Angle seconded that ANC 2B strongly support the suggested changes to Section 1136 of the Generalized Land Use Maps. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor said the second map proposal is 16th Street below Scott Circle, from H Street to Scott Circle. He said the proposal is to include this area in a mixed use medium high-density commercial and high density residential category, which would reduce the matter of right height and density that can at present exist. He said the Office of Planning's proposes to provide a special treatment for the 16th Street corridor as a mixed use area.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded ANC 2B support the special treatment needs of 16th Street south of Scott Circle as a mixed use area, and that it should recognize existing scale and character. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Mr. Jackson reported said there had been a couple meetings at Foundry Methodist Church to discuss the problem of the homeless on 16th Street. He said some rules were set for the persons who were sleeping on the steps of Foundry. He said they broke all the rules and were asked to leave. Mr. Jackson said there will be a meeting in March to discuss having mobile shelters available

all-year-round. He said the model that is being looked at is in Georgetown, and operates during the winter months. He said that the JCC has become involved as has the First Baptist Church. Mr. Jackson said that at some of the meetings some homeless have attended and given their input. Mr. Jackson said that it is hoped that by the summer there will be at least part of a solution in place.

Mr. Pitsor reported he had been working on a noise problem at 1520 18th Street. He said this building is being renovated and will be occupied in July of 1997.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Mr. Angle seconded the ANC 2B 4th Quarterly Financial Report be adopted as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor announced the following committees would be headed by the following commissioners: ABC - Mr. Angle, Public Safety - Mr. Jackson, Parks and Recreation - Ms. McRaney, Education - Dr. Cary, and Historic, BZA, and gay and lesbian issues - Mr. Pitsor.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Dr. Cary seconded the signing of the contract with the staff coordinator, Karen Ruffin, be approved for the next 12 months. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Pitsor announced that Dr. Fernandez is resigning as of February 13, 1997. He said that a letter would be sent to the Board of Elections and Ethics.

MOTION

Dr. Fernandez moved and Ms. McRaney seconded a letter be sent to PEPCO thanking them for providing the map defining the ANC 2B SMD boundaries. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Cary said despite Pepco's compelling argument as to why the merger between Pepco and Baltimore Gas and Electric (BG&E) should be approved she felt there were important reasons it should not. She said that she has researched the situation and attended a community hearing. She said according to the People's Council there are real questions as to the benefits to the District of Columbia. Mr. Angle recused himself from the discussion and vote due to job related possible conflict of interest. Mr. Jackson recused himself from the discussion and vote as he is an employee of Pepco. Ms. McRaney recused herself from the vote as she felt she did not sufficiently understand the issue.



## MOTION

Dr. Cary moved and Dr. Fernandez a letter be sent to the Public Service Commission strongly opposing the proposed merger of Pepco and BG&E as it is currently developed because it is not in the best long-term interest of the city or its residents for the following reasons: The proposed merger 1) could reduce competition in the local market; 2) affect the reliability and quality of service to D.C. electric rate payers; 3) cut 10% of the workforce, affecting over 400 jobs in D.C. and, by moving out of the city, produce income losses to the District of close to 30 million annually; 4) that proposed economic development initiatives and low-income programs are insufficient to counteract the effects of the merger on the District's economy, eroding tax base and increasing unemployment; and 5) that safeguards be mandated should the merger be approved to ensure shareholders and not District's ratepayers bear the burden of the merger. The motion passed 2-1-3. Mr. Jackson, Ms. McRany, and Mr. Angle recused themselves.

## NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Cary said ANC 2B needed to consider addressing the issue of the proposed 42% rate increase, effective April 1997, for the use of city water. She said there are many questions that the Department of Public Works should be expected to answer before expecting residents of the District to absorb such a high rate increase with very little notice. Dr. Cary said she had attended meetings on the proposed increase. Dr. Fernandez suggested the issue be put on the agenda for March, and an invitation be extended to a representative from DPW. Mr. Angle said that he didn't see the ANC becoming involved with decisions that were the concern of other bodies within the D.C. government. Ms. McRany said she didn't feel it was necessary to have someone come and speak on every issue. Dr. Cary said she thinks the issue of the rate increase very much affects the residents of the Dupont Circle area. Mr. Jackson said he agreed with both points. Mr. Pitsor said DPW is going to act on the proposal within the next 30 days, so a position had to be taken at this meeting. Mr. Jackson said a rate increase of 42% is extremely irresponsible. Mr. Angle said he did not think the ANC had sufficient information to create a motion. Dr. Fernandez said there is not always the opportunity for all the commissioners to gather information individually. He said he trusted that Dr. Cary had done so, and would support the motion. Dr. Cary said the DPW did not give anyone adequate time to examine the situation thoroughly. She said it was necessary at least to raise concerns about the process by which the rate increase was proposed. Mr. Pitsor said he would support a motion that asked the DPW to

postpone the rate increase until such time that it had been sufficiently reviewed.

MOTION

Ms. McRany moved and Dr. Fernandez seconded ANC 2B oppose the proposed rate increase for use of city water for the following reasons: 1) the public needs to have information delivered in a more timely manner, about the rationale for a 42% rate increase to begin immediately without sufficient public notice and opportunity for community input and deliberation; 2) the public needs to know the status of efforts to recover millions of dollars in debt and millions more in prior years expenditures on the system; 3) the public needs to know the nature and status of cost-saving measures and of efforts to restructure and improve the administration of service delivery; 4) the public needs concrete information on the relationship between the proposed rate increase and the actual costs of improving services. The motion passed 4-2. Mr. Pitsor and Mr. Angle opposed.

MOTION

Mr. Pitsor moved and Dr. Cary seconded that \$200 be allocated for repairs and painting of the ANC Office. The motion 5-0-1. Dr. Fernandez abstained.

Mr. Pitsor announced the next meeting of the ANC. He thanked Dr. Fernandez for his service, and congratulated him on his new job.

Mr. Pitsor Adjourned the meeting at 10:40.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Jackson, Secretary  
ANC 2B, Dupont Circle