



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

February 16, 2017

Marnique Heath, Chair
Historic Preservation Review Board
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024
historic.preservation@dc.gov

RE: 1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW (HPRB #17-183)

Dear Chairwoman Heath:

At its regular meeting on February 8, 2017, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 7 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0):

WHEREAS, the applicant at 1500 New Hampshire Avenue NW proposes to improve the exterior streetscape and public space along its 19th Street NW side between Dupont Circle and Q Street NW in conjunction with a renovation of its restaurant,

WHEREAS, the project as proposed is within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B and the Dupont Circle Historic District,

WHEREAS, the applicant is the Dupont Circle Hotel, which has a strong history of community involvement and support of the Dupont Circle community,

WHEREAS, in conjunction with the project, the applicant proposes to improve the streetscape along 19th Street NW by replacing dying trees, adding hedges, and expanding tree boxes,

WHEREAS, the project proposes to expand the currently-existing patio space farther north towards Q Street NW than currently exists,

WHEREAS, there is a currently-existing enclosed sidewalk cafe on the public space of the premises,

WHEREAS, across 19th Street NW from the proposed streetscape and public space improvements are the dumpsters for businesses fronting the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW and the enclosed and unenclosed sidewalk cafes of Kramerbooks and Rakuya,

which protrude much farther into the sidewalk than the currently-existing enclosed sidewalk cafe on the applicant's premises,

WHEREAS, the project proposes to add new fixed retractable awnings to the unenclosed sidewalk cafe, with the retractable awnings going to the sidewalk rather than stopping at the current extent of the existing enclosed sidewalk cafe,

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B has a history of opposing new enclosed sidewalk cafes which go past the farthest extent of the currently existing viewshed, ANC 2B believes that the 1500 block of 19th Street NW is unique in its presence of large enclosed sidewalk cafes, a currently existing hotel which spans the entire block, and the back door atmosphere of 19th Street NW, and

WHEREAS, while ANC 2B would typically not support a project similar to the one proposed by the applicant and would not support full-time awnings on the unenclosed sidewalk cafes, ANC 2B believes that the proposed retractable awnings will help balance the current public space by adding more character to the street level of the building and will enhance the pedestrian experience of this block of 19th Street NW.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the project as proposed contingent on the unique built environment of the 1500 block of 19th Street NW and the applicant's improvement of the treeboxes along the streetscape.

Commissioners Stephanie Maltz (2B03@anc.dc.gov) and Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nicole Mann', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Mann
Chair