



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

August 19, 2013

DDOT Director Terry Bellamy  
Associate Director of Urban Forestry Administration John Thomas  
55 M Street, SE, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20003  
[ddot@dc.gov](mailto:ddot@dc.gov)

RE: Thanking the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) for Tree Removal

Dear Director Terry Bellamy & Associate Director Thomas:

At its regular meeting on August 14, 2013, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter.

With 8 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0):

Whereas a major elm tree in a tree box in front of 1716 New Hampshire Avenue NW that leaned at a 60 degree angle and stretched across the street appeared on July 3, 2013 to neighbors to be at risk of falling due to splits in the surface root system;

Whereas in response to calls from neighbors, staff from the DDOT Urban Forestry Administration did inspect the tree on July 10, 2013 and marked it for removal at some future time;

Whereas by July 17, 2013, splits in the surface roots had more than doubled in width since July 3, 2013;

Whereas this elm tree is located across the street from the national headquarters of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, which was sponsoring during this time a major reunion with hundreds of members milling about within the fall zone of the tree;

Whereas upon receiving photos of change in the root structure in the late morning on July 18, 2013, the Director of Urban Forestry Administration immediately ordered that the removal of this elm tree be completed before the end of the day, fearing that a predicted major rain within two days might cause the tree to fall; and

Whereas within four hours the tree was “topped” by the removal of the major limbs with the remainder of the tree removed the next morning.

Therefore, be it resolved that ANC 2B recognize the Urban Forestry Administration for its outstanding response to Dupont Circle neighborhood safety concerns about a major elm tree at 1716 New Hampshire Avenue NW during July 2013.

This response included working closely with the community, taking seriously the concerns of neighbors about risk of life and property from the tree, and immediately moving up its removal plans to same day removal when updated pictures of root damage indicated that the tree would fall at the next major rainstorm which was predicted within two days. ANC 2B and the community at large are very grateful for the swift, professional action taken by the Urban Forestry Administration to avert a potential major catastrophe to life and property.

Commissioners Stephanie Maltz ([stephanie.maltz@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:stephanie.maltz@dupontcircleanc.net)), Will Stephens ([will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net)), and Mike Feldstein ([mike.feldstein@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:mike.feldstein@dupontcircleanc.net)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

*William F. Stephens*

Will Stephens  
Chairman