



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

April 21, 2008

Mr. Emeka C. Moneme
Director
District Dept. of Transportation
Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center
2000 14th Street NW
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Director Moneme:

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, April 9, 2008, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the plans for the 17th Streetscape. This is the second month in a row that the Commission considered a resolution on the 17th Streetscape project. With eight of nine Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of 8-0-0:

Whereas, brick sidewalks require constant maintenance and DDOT has historically been unable to service and maintain brick sidewalks satisfactorily to ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially the elderly and those with disabilities and mobility impairment;

Whereas, even when well maintained, standard red bricks tend to be slippery when wet and tend to ice over more quickly than concrete, particularly in Washington where weather can change quickly and dramatically;

Whereas, bricks are difficult to keep on a uniform plane and create tripping hazards for pedestrians, especially the elderly and those with disabilities and mobility impairment;

Whereas, utility maintenance and construction projects continually render brick surfaces dangerous and create additional hazards for pedestrians;

Whereas, the standard sidewalk finish for commercial and mixed-use zones in the Dupont Circle Historic District is not brick, but concrete, according to DC regulations, including the DDOT design and engineer manual, Section 31.2.8;

Whereas, in recent months DDOT has completed a similar streetscape renovation project on P Street, NW, in ANC 2B that included paving all sidewalks with standard red brick, where maintenance is already required to fix loose, popped and damaged bricks;

Whereas, DDOT has ignored the predominant opposition to standard red brick sidewalk construction expressed during the series of community meetings held by DDOT to receive public comment on the streetscape project;

Therefore, be it resolved by ANC 2B:

That standard red brick should not be installed as part of the 17th Streetscape project;

That DDOT should now consider alternative proposals to standard red brick and investigate alternative materials that reflect the broad community consensus in opposition to brick expressed at DDOT's public meetings;

That DDOT should be charged with finding an alternative sidewalk treatment that incorporates the safety of concrete and the aesthetic of brick, and which also follows DC regulations that note that the standard sidewalk finish for the Dupont Circle Historic District is concrete;

That no equipment or furniture be installed without budgeted maintenance;

That DDOT's budget, on an annual basis, direct adequate funding to maintain the renovated 17th Street to ensure the safety of pedestrians, especially the elderly and those with disabilities and mobility impairment;

That a business leader from the Dupont Circle Historic Mainstreet Project with P Streetscape experience be added to the 17th Streetscape Committee;

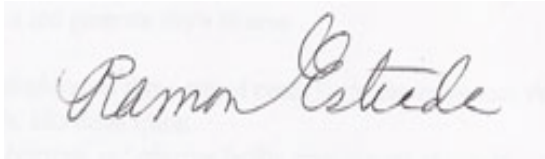
That DDOT is encouraged to work with businesses to use one design of public space fencing;

Resolved, subject to DDOT's and Dupont Circle Historic Mainstreet's acceptance of the above recommendations and resolution of all other issues, ANC 2B supports the continued development of this important and long-awaited project.

Please feel free to contact Commissioners Meehan, Carney, Wexler or Jacobson regarding this very important matter. Their contact information is provided for your convenience at our website: www.DupontCircleANC.net.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ramon Estrada". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Ramon Estrada
Chairman

CC: Christopher Ziemann
Mark Bjorge
Abby Petersen