



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

November 12, 2009

Gabe Klein, Director
District Dept. of Transportation
Government of the District of Columbia
Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center
2000 14th Street NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
gabe.klein@dc.gov

Dear Director Klein,

As you know, members of our Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) have in the past expressed concern that while DDOT has carried out some very good work on the streets, alleys, and sidewalks in our neighborhood, the agency has not sufficiently communicated with the ANC and the community on these projects. The result is that residents develop a negative view of the agency, despite the agency's efforts and its ability to frequently implement projects in a timely and well-constructed manner.

At its October 14, 2009 regular public meeting, ANC 2B unanimously passed the following resolution 9-0:

***Whereas** DDOT has worked productively with the Dupont Circle ANC (ANC 2B) in the past to host community meetings and allow for community input on major streetscape and street reconstruction projects — including the forthcoming projects on 17th Street NW and 18th Street NW; and*

***Whereas** other sidewalk, alley, and street resurfacing projects — while not considered “major” projects by DDOT — are also disruptive to residents and businesses on the affected blocks; and*

***Whereas** residents and businesses require a minimum amount of time to plan ahead for such projects, including making different arrangements for parking, commutes, meetings, customers, and ingress/egress from front and back entrances;*

***Whereas** as one example, residents and businesses on the 1700 block of T Street NW received 1 business days' notice of an entire sidewalk removal and reconstruction project in November 2008 and 4 days' notice of a street resurfacing project in September 2009; and*

***Whereas** such notice is insufficient to allow residents and businesses to make alternative arrangements and plan ahead; and*

***Whereas** the sidewalk was also reconstructed from concrete to brick without any input from the community or any notice to the ANC; and*

***Whereas** the DDOT website only provides information on the fiscal year (or two-year window) that such a project is planned;*

***Therefore be it resolved** that ANC 2B requests DDOT to implement a system which allows for a minimum of two weeks' notice to affected residents and businesses — and to the relevant ANC — of non-emergency resurfacing or reconstruction of sidewalks or alleys, or resurfacing of streets;*

***Be it further resolved** that where sidewalks or alleys are to be reconstructed in an entirely new material or look, that DDOT allow for public comment and input through the relevant ANC;*

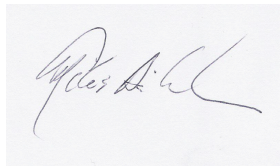
***Be it further resolved** that ANC 2B would be pleased to communicate and work with DDOT further on such a system of notice;*

***Be it further resolved** that the Chairman send a letter to DDOT Director Gabe Klein and the Mayor's Office in accordance with this resolution.*

At that same October 2009 meeting, we heard testimony from Dupont Circle Citizens Association President Robin Diener that DDOT had also recently carried out repair work on Corcoran Street NW without sufficient notice, frustrating the neighbors on the affected block, even though the work itself appeared to be well done.

We appreciate your efforts to improve DDOT's operations and technology, and we remain available and willing as an ANC to work with DDOT in implementing better practices for community notice and community input. Thank you.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Silverstein", is shown within a light gray rectangular box.

Mike Silverstein, Chairman

cc: francisco.fimbres@dc.gov, andrew.huff@dc.gov