



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

November 12, 2009

Jack Evans, Ward 2 Council Member  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106  
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilman Evans,

Our ANC followed with interest the Council's deliberations on tax categorization for vacant and blighted properties. We are supportive of the actions you took within the Council to create a tax penalty for "blighted" properties, but we are also concerned that "vacant" properties can easily become "blighted." However, we also recognized that vacant property owners should not be overly penalized if they are acting in good faith and are simply unable to secure the financing necessary to make their properties productive and useful.

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

**Resolution to Support Legislation Recognizing Two Tiers of Vacant Property**

*Whereas the District has been levying a tax of \$10 per \$100 of assessed value for certified "vacant" properties; and*

*Whereas the Council has considered legislation which would eliminate the additional tax burden for "vacant" properties and instead tax a new category of "blighted" properties;*

*Whereas the vacant property tax appears to have been effective in the Dupont Circle neighborhood in providing incentives for vacant property owners to make their properties useful and occupied; and*

*Whereas blighted vacant properties are a public nuisance which lead to structural damage on neighboring properties, rat infestation, criminal activity, and other problems; and*

*Whereas the Commission recognizes that in tough economic times, it may be difficult for well-intentioned vacant property owners to find interested financiers, buyers, or renters; and*

*Whereas the Commission recognizes that vacant properties can quickly morph into blighted properties if not provided the proper upkeep and care;*

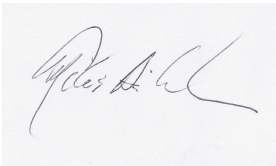
*Therefore be it resolved that ANC 2B supports the concept of an additional tax burden on “blighted” vacant properties; and*

*Be it further resolved that in order to help prevent vacant properties from becoming more problematic blighted properties, ANC 2B supports the continuation of an increased tax burden on “vacant” property, though at a lower tax rate than “blighted” properties; and*

*Be it further resolved that the Chairman send a letter to the members of the D.C. Council in accordance with this resolution.*

Thank you for your continued efforts to keep our neighborhood free of problematic and nuisance properties.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Silverstein", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Mike Silverstein, Chairman