



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

December 10, 2009

Gabe Klein, Director  
District Department of Transportation (DDOT)  
2000 14th Street, NW, 6th Floor  
Washington, DC 20009

John Thomas, Director  
Urban Forestry Administration  
2000 14th Street, NW  
6th Floor  
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Director Klein and Director Thomas,

Thank you very much for attending our ANC 2B public meeting Wednesday, December 9th. At that meeting, with eight commissioners in attendance, we unanimously passed the following resolution by a vote 8-0:

**Resolution to support a tree plan for the 17th St Streetscape project**

*Whereas the design of the 17th St Streetscape Project included installing new types of tree boxes that would permit tree roots to expand in a five foot strip under the sidewalk along the curb without pushing up the sidewalk in the pedestrian right of way, thus encouraging faster and healthier tree growth, and*

*Whereas the specifications for such new tree boxes requires the removal of all existing trees in the sidewalk sections between roads and alleys where the new tree boxes would be installed, and*

*Whereas these new tree boxes were to be installed in the business strip from Riggs Place to P St thus removing all existing trees except one, and*

*Whereas the overall engineering requirements of the project also required the elimination of additional trees, resulting in the tagging, on November 30, 2009, with orange ribbons of a total of 39 trees in response to the agreement reached at the November 23, 2009 public meeting to show the community the potential impact of the project on the 17th St tree canopy, and*

*Whereas vociferous community and business objections to such massive removal of healthy, mature trees caused DDOT to remove the orange ribbons on December 1, 2009, to prepare on December 4, 2009 an alternative tree plan that called for the removal of only seven trees, and to conduct a walkthrough in the sleet and snow Saturday morning, December 5, 2009 to show the impact of the revised plan to 20 residents and business leaders, and*

*Whereas the walkthrough resulted in a much better understanding of the health of trees on 17th St and of the merits of installing the new tree boxes in four stretches along 17th St, now*

*Therefore, ANC 2B resolves to support the following tree plan for the 17th St Streetscape project:*

*1. For the length of 17th St between New Hampshire Ave and Q St, remove two trees on the East side between McDonalds and Artistic Shoes and install two new tree boxes in this area. The sapling in front of McDonalds must be removed to accommodate a doublewide catch basin and the tree in front of Artistic Shoes should be removed because it is severely damaged by large trucks maneuvering at the opening of the alley. Its removal allows for the installation of the new tree box system between Corcoran St and the alley to the North.*

*2. For the length of 17th St between Q St and Church St: remove the tree on the East side in front of JRs in order to install a double-wide catch basin. Install the new tree box system between the PEPCO box in front of JRs and the alley to the North. Try to plant two trees between JRs and Jack's. This means reopening a tree box in front of Jack's. In addition, to make up for the removal of the tree in front of JRs, plant one to two trees along the side of JRs on Church St. Also add a second tree on the South side of Church St.*

*3. For the length of 17th St between Church St and P St on the East side: remove the sapling in front of Yogato and the sick rosebud in front of Komi. Install the new tree box system between Church St and the alley South of Church St and include three tree boxes.*

*4. For the length of 17th St between Church St and P St on the West side:*

*1. For the area in front of the Copley Plaza (Church St South to the alley, there are six healthy trees on the lawn in front of the Copley Plaza (6 crepe myrtles and one magnolia) which already provide a canopy over the sidewalk. Remove the tree in the tree box next to Church St because it is badly damaged and competes with the trees on the Copley Plaza lawn. Remove this and the empty tree box. Install the new tree box system under the sidewalk but do not reinstall the tree*

*boxes until the trees on the lawn fail. This is an investment in better street trees for the future.*

*2. For the area between the alley and P St to the South, remove the tall tree in front of 1508 17th on the basis that it has less than 10 years to live. Also remove the sapling at the corner of P and 17th in order to install the new tree box system between the alley and Church St. Replant two trees.*

*5. For the length of 17th between P St and O St on the East side: install a new tree box in front of 1413-1415 17th St.*

*6. For the length of 17th between P St and O St on the West side: remove the tree and tree box in front of the steps leading to Brunswick House and move the tree box and a new tree South of the steps.*

*7. For the length of 17th between O St and Mass Av on the East side: remove the large, decaying mulberry tree near the alley inside the sidewalk. This is an invasive “weed” tree and also creates a choke point there in the sidewalk.*

*8. For the length of 17th between O St and Mass Av on the West side: remove the tree and tree box opposite the South side of O St in order to accommodate a new street crossing with handicap ramp and a double-wide catch basin. Re install the tree box and tree to the South. Plant a new tree in the empty tree box at the SW corner of 17th and Mass Av.*

*9. For the full length of 17th, use caution in removing and reinstalling curbing so as not to kill otherwise healthy trees.*

*10. Where roots are uplifting the sidewalk, use gradual concrete ramps for the minor upheavals and rubber matting for the extreme upheavals.*

*The ANC appreciates that DDOT is planting 11 additional trees within the streetscape area.*

*ANC recognizes that in segments of 17th Street in which the existing canopy is retained, DDOT'S innovative root protection system which will support large and longer-living trees will not be installed.*

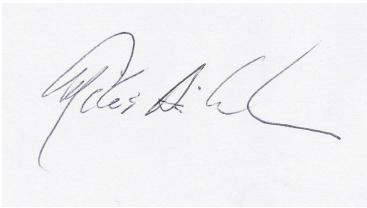
*Furthermore, ANC 2B understands that construction may damage the existing canopy resulting in tree loss, but that in those section, saplings will be replaced without installation of an innovative root protection system.*

This resolution memorializes the agreements we made together with you through the course of our walk-throughs of the 17th Street streetscape zone. We thank you very much for your continuing attention to this matter.

Commissioners Jack Jacobson ([jack.jacobson@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:jack.jacobson@dupontcircleanc.net)), Bob Meehan ([bob.meehan@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:bob.meehan@dupontcircleanc.net)), Victor Wexler ([victor.wexler@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:victor.wexler@dupontcircleanc.net)), and Phil Carney ([phil.carney@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:phil.carney@dupontcircleanc.net)) are the points of contact for this project.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Silverstein", is centered on a light gray rectangular background.

Mike Silverstein  
Chairman