



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

August 11, 2011

William O. Howland Jr. Director  
Department of Public Works  
2000 14th Street, NW, 6th Floor  
Washington, DC 20009  
Email: [dpw@dc.gov](mailto:dpw@dc.gov)

Re: Resolution on DPW Recycling Enforcement

Dear Mr. Howland:

Constituents around the neighborhood have brought to our attention their concerns about enforcement of trash and recycling separation. According to reports from neighbors, DPW investigators are ripping open trash bags and fines are being levied for *de minimus* violations such as a single soda can in the wrong bin. We have also read the media stories about these concerns, including the cover story in the Washington Examiner in July. At its regular meeting on August 10, 2011, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With eight of nine Commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following motion by a vote of (8-0).

ANC 2B strongly supports recycling efforts and appropriate enforcement of recycling and trash separation.

Therefore, be it resolved, that ANC 2B encourages and urges all residents, businesses, and landlords in the Dupont Circle neighborhood to provide for necessary separation of trash and recyclables;

Be it further resolved, that ANC 2B finds it inappropriate and a serious invasion of personal privacy for Department of Public Works (DPW) investigators to tear open trash bags as part of investigation and enforcement of trash and recycling separation;

Be it further resolved, that ANC 2B urges DPW to better train investigators to respect personal privacy and not issue citations illegally for *de minimus* violations.

I am the Commission’s representative in this matter. You can reach me at [will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:will.stephens@dupontcircleanc.net).

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William F. Stephens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Will Stephens, Chair

CC: [tanya.mitchell@dc.gov](mailto:tanya.mitchell@dc.gov)