



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



November 14, 2005

Dan Tangherlini, Director
District Department of Transportation
2000 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009

Re: Need for Traffic Study for Proposed Preschool Use at 138 12th St NE

Dear Mr. Tangherlini:

On November 10, 2005, at our regularly scheduled monthly public meeting, our Commission unanimously voted to request that the DDOT require a traffic study from the AppleTree Institute for the proposed use of 138 12th Street NE as a preschool for 3 and 4 year olds. As initially proposed, the program would have capacity for 72 students and 16-20 staff. Hours would be from 8 am to 6 pm. This use has the potential to add to traffic during rush hours, impact safety, reduce on-street parking, and obstruct the alley.

The major traffic impact of this use is expected from parents as they attempt to navigate the surrounding streets, find space to park, and transfer their children from car seat to preschool and back. Reaching this location can be difficult due to the directional restrictions on the surrounding streets, magnifying the impact of a wrong turn. Parents will have to contend with rush hour traffic on Constitution Ave NE and East Capitol Street NE. As nearby residents can attest, the nearby intersection at 12th Street NE and Constitution Avenue NE is the scene of frequent accidents. This intersection is controlled via a two-way stop on 12th Street NE. Adding more daily traffic during the periods of peak use will strain the existing infrastructure and probably increase the number of accidents.

Continued availability of residential parking is also a concern. AppleTree has not requested a loading zone in front of their building, but residents are concerned that one will be imposed by the city. This would reduce the number of on-street parking spots available for residents and their visitors. Furthermore, there are concerns about where AppleTree staff and visitors will park since the neighborhood is largely RPP zoned and only 3 off-street parking spots will be provided. There is a strong possibility that the alley behind the building will become jammed with illegally parked vehicles, denying residents access to their own garages and impeding mobility. Given the age of the children, it is likely that drop-off and pick-up will be a protracted process.

ANC 6A urges that you require the AppleTree Institute initiate this study as soon as possible and inform us of the schedule for completion and your subsequent review. Thank you for your attention and prompt action on this request.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

CC: Sharon Ambrose, Ward 6 Councilmember
Christopher Delfs, Ward 6 Transportation Planner
Commander Diane Groomes, First District of the Metropolitan Police Department