



Single Member District 6A03
310 9th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002



October 5, 2005

Rick Hussain, Owner
7-Eleven Food Store
407 8th St N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

Re: 7-Eleven Store No. 21926 at 407 8th Street NE in Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Hussain:

Over the past few years, residents have been working to improve the cleanliness and safety of the neighborhood surrounding your 7-Eleven Store at 407 8th Street NE. At this point, we would like to enlist your support in these efforts. As you know, business owners like yourself are important stakeholders in the community, and your cooperation could make a huge difference to the quality of life in the neighborhood.

The intersection of 8th Street and Maryland Avenue, NE is a major crossing point for pedestrians, vehicular traffic, and public transportation. It is also the home of a small, neighborhood-serving commercial area. Obviously, these conditions are ideal for a store like 7-Eleven. However, these conditions also create the potential for problems.

For example, it is common to find substantial amounts of litter with the 7-Eleven logo on the sidewalks, streets, and gutter within a block of your store. This litter is unsightly and, with the overflowing dumpsters in the rear of your store, contributes to a feeding and breeding ground for rodents. During a recent site, we observed rat burrows, rat droppings, and live rats immediately behind your store in the alley. Not only do these rodents create an unsafe environment for residents using the alley, but the larger public health implications are deeply troubling.

Additionally, your store is a popular location for loiterers. At most times of the day or night, individuals obstruct the entrance to your store while panhandling. Recently a woman was robbed immediately after leaving your store. It does not appear that your store's employees are calling for police assistance or effectively deterring these activities. Your leadership in this area is critical.

We hope that you would agree that conditions could be improved. To assist you, we have compiled several action items that would address these conditions:

- 1) daily litter removal and cleaning along your store front on 8th Street, Maryland Avenue and the adjacent alley;
- 2) removal of the empty flower boxes lining the entrance way and extension of existing fencing along the entrance way to your store; and
- 3) initiation of a contract with a rodent removal specialist.

While some of these action items may seem onerous, we understand that your store on Barracks Row is a member of the Capitol Hill Business Improvement District so we know that you are aware of the positive impacts a stakeholder like you can have on a community. We also believe that attention to these items will improve your business by making the local area more attractive and inviting.

On a positive note, we would like to applaud you for spending the time and money to improve the landscaping in the public space around your store. Corner locations for most convenience stores on Capitol Hill are surrounded by concrete. You have taken the time to install shrubs and flowers, and we thank you for making this investment in the community.

Finally, we want to assure you that your business is not the only business at the intersection of 8th Street and Maryland Avenue NE that we have approached. A variety of businesses call this intersection home, and we will be approaching all of them as part of our initiative to further improve this neighborhood-serving commercial area in the midst of Capitol Hill.

We look forward to working with you and would invite you to inspect the surroundings with us to further discuss these recommendations. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Commissioner Cody Rice, the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for this area at the phone number listed below.

Sincerely,


Cody Rice
ANC Commissioner (6A03)
(202) 544-3734


Michael Kurken
Capitol Hill Resident
(202) 369-0735

cc: Mr. Ilay Yousaf, Store Manager
Peter Jones, Neighborhood Services Coordinator
Commander Diane Grooms, Metropolitan Police Department, First District