



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



June 8, 2004

Peter Jones  
Ward 6 Neighborhood Services Coordinator  
Suite 124  
609 H Street, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Auto Zone Investigation

Dear Mr. Jones,

On behalf of the residents of ANC 6A-02, I am requesting your assistance in resolving some long standing issues regarding the operations in the parking lot and alley of the Auto Zone located at 1207 H Street, NE. .

Several members of our community have noticed unlicensed mechanics conducting automotive repairs in the parking lot and alley around Auto Zone. The attachment lists the residents who will verify this potential illegal activity.

Mr. Anthony Hooks from the Office of Investigation, Weights and Measures completed an investigation of the community complaint on April 7, 9, 14 and May 10, 2004. Mr. Hooks observed no illegal operations of a vehicle repair business. However, the attached photos taken by residents could lead one to conclude differently. Based on the photos provided, it would appear that there is a thriving trade being conducted on the in and around the property of Auto Zone.

In close, we are seeking your assistance to request that the Office of Investigation, Weights and Measures reinstate an investigation on the entire property surrounding Auto Zone – to include the parking lot and back alley.

Respectfully,

Joseph Fengler  
Commissioner, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A-02

cc: Mr. Anthony Hooks, Office of Investigation, Weights and Measures  
Councilmember Sharon Ambrose  
Commissioner Jessica Ward  
Mr. Bobby Pitman  
Mr. Richard Luna  
Mr. Charles and Helen Wooden  
Mr. Lyndon Bonaparte  
Ms. Deia Var Sovczyky  
Ms. Venessa Ruffin  
Mr. Dennis Crayon

1230 Linden Place NE  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-415-7110

June 8, 2004

Mr. Anthony Hooks  
Office of Investigation, Weights & Measures  
Dept. of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs  
941 North Capitol St., NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Hooks:

I have received your letter dated May 11, 2004. I am writing to request that you continue your investigation for three reasons.


First, I was unaware that you had initiated an investigation and you did not contact me seeking information relating to the investigation. As such, your investigation to date probably lacked information and resources that would have been of material assistance. I have taken the liberty to include copies of photographs of the most regular mechanics of which I am aware. These photographs should help you identify the unlicensed mechanics. There may be other forms of assistance that I would be able to offer.

Second, it appears you may not have tapped the community as part of your investigation. I have included a list of residents that are willing to share what they know about the unlicensed automotive work in our neighborhood. Like me, they have witnessed these mechanics in different parts of the neighborhood and are interested in putting an end to their activity.

Third, it appears your investigation may not have covered a sufficiently broad area. Your letter states that you "conducted investigations of the parking lot in front of Auto Zone. . . ." As you know, I initially complained of unlicensed mechanics operating in *and around* the Auto Zone parking lot. As the included photographs demonstrate, the mechanics often operate immediately adjacent to the Auto Zone. I am sure, if you consult with me and the other members of the community that I have listed for you, that we will be able to direct you to specific locations where we have witnessed mechanics working. At the very least, your investigation should have included a survey of the street parking, alley ways and empty lots immediately adjacent to the Auto Zone. To assist you in this endeavor, the photographs included list dates and times at which I observed their activity. These observations were made fairly randomly. In any event, an investigation commencing in the morning between 9 and 10 a.m. seems most likely to encounter the mechanics.

Thank you for your continued assistance in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Richard V. S. Luna

cc: Joseph Fenger (ANC 6A)  
Bobby Pittman (Linden Place Neighborhood Association)

enclosures

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs



Office of the Director

May 11, 2004

Richard Luna  
1230 Linden Place, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Auto Zone of 1207 H Street, NE

Dear Mr. Luna

The Office of Investigation, Weights & Measures has completed the investigation of your complaint. On April 7, 9, 14, 2004 and May 10, 2004 the undersigned conducted inspections of the parking lot in front of Auto Zone located at 1207 H Street, NE regarding the operation of an illegal motor vehicle repair business. On those dates there were no signs of any repair activity being performed from the premises. The investigation was unable to substantiate any violations of the District of Columbia's Codes or Municipal Regulations.

Should you have any further inquiries concerning this matter, you may contact me on (202) 442-8616 during the hours of 8:15 – 4:45 Monday – Friday. Thank you for bringing this matter to our attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Hooks".

Anthony Hooks,  
Investigator

**List of Residents  
Who Are Willing to Volunteer Information  
On  
Mechanics Working In the Neighborhood Surrounding  
the Auto Zone at 1207 H St. NE**

- |    |                                      |                                    |
|----|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. | Richard Luna                         | 1230 Linden Pl. NE<br>202-388-4627 |
| 2. | Charles & Helen Wooden               | 1248 Linden Pl. NE<br>202-396-2223 |
| 3. | Lyndon Bonaparte & Deia Var Sovczyky | 1224 Linden Pl. NE<br>398-8788     |
| 4. | Gabe & Sharen                        | 1220 Linden Pl. NE<br>202-396-5777 |
| 5. | Venessa Ruffin                       | 1219 Wylie St. NE<br>202-488-1265  |
| 6. | Dennis Crayon                        | 1214 Linden Pl. NE<br>202-396-3443 |
| 7. | Commissioner Jessica Ward            | 1310 G St. NE<br>202-396-3193      |