



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



February 20, 2009

Ms. Linda Argo, Director
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
941 North Capitol Street NE, Room 9500
Washington, DC 20002

RE: DCRA Issuance of Permits for Equipment Illegally Located on Public Space

Dear Ms. Argo,

At our November 13, 2008 meeting, our Commission voted unanimously to request that DCRA (1) train its permitting staff to recognize when electrical equipment (e.g., electric meter boxes and air conditioning units) is located on public space and (2) refrain from issuing permits for such equipment unless the owner has first obtained a public space permit from DDOT.

Our ANC has written numerous letters to DDOT to draw attention to large electrical equipment that is installed on public space without a public space permit. In most cases the electrical equipment is an eyesore and detracts from the green spaces and unobstructed sightlines that are the intent of the L'Enfant Plan, of which ANC 6A is a part.

While public space is within the jurisdiction of DDOT, ANC 6A has concluded that DCRA contributes to this problem by issuing permits to allow the installation of equipment illegally located on public space. We are asking that you help address the problem by first, requiring all DCRA inspectors be trained to recognize the division between public space and private land; second, *as part of the permit review process*, require plans that show where utility boxes, meters (gas and electrical) and equipment will be located (when such equipment is to be installed), require approval from DDOT before the issuance of a permit for such work, and refrain from issuing permits on equipment illegally located on public space; and third, *as part of the inspection and enforcement process*, issue citations and/or stop work orders when utility boxes, meters and mechanical equipment are located in public space (presumably as a material violation of the official approved plans previously filed with DCRA). Furthermore, we ask that DCRA permitting officials be held accountable in their job performance evaluations if they continue to erroneously issue permits for illegally sited equipment.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Drew Ronneberg, Chair of our Economic Development and Zoning Committee at ronneberg6a02@gmail.com or (202) 431-4305.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc. Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator
Nicholas Majett, DCRA
Connie Wheeler, DDOT

Matthew Marcou, DDOT
Lennox Douglas, DCRA (BLRA)
Marvin McFadden, DDOT