



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



February 9, 2018

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Re: ANC6A Supports Daytime School Parking Zone Amendment Act of 2017 (B22-0351)

Dear Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on February 8, 2018,¹ our Commission voted 5-1 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to support the concept set forth in legislation authored by Councilmember Charles Allen for a daytime school parking zone and pass program.

Through the reconstruction process of a school in our ANC, it has come to our attention that DC Public Schools are under extreme pressure to meet zoning requirements for providing on-site parking for school staff. In the case of this and many other schools throughout the district, this has often meant the creation of parking spaces, often at the expense of recreational space set aside for students and the larger community, which lack similar zoning protections. While we are sympathetic to the transportation needs of the hardworking staff at our public and charter schools, we believe the current system creates a perverse incentive to convert recreational play space into parking.

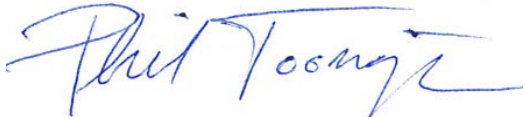
The bill proposed by Councilmember Allen puts forward a creative approach to balancing the needs of school staff, students, and the broader community, while disincentivizing single-occupancy auto commuting. It would allow school staff to avail themselves of on-street parking reserved for area residents at a time of day when many of those residents are at work and not using it. We believe that this concept strikes the right balance between meeting the commuting needs of DCPS staff, while not sacrificing precious recreational space available to students and the public. It also provides an opportunity for residents to voice their concerns prior to establishment of the school parking zone, through both a public hearing and consideration of input from the impacted ANC.

The Commission applauds Councilmember Allen and the bill's cosponsors for their ingenuity and dedication to resolving this pressing issue. We also recommend the Council consider adding language stating that when schools possess adequate space to meet parking, instructional and recreational needs that the school not seek to utilize curbside parking. We encourage the Council to swiftly give this proposal consideration and, in consultation with the executive, make the necessary changes to move it closer to passage and implementation.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendation of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to contact me at philanc6a@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc-6a@yahoogroups.com, and newhilleast@yahoogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Phil Toomajian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Phil Toomajian
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A