



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



July 10, 2015

Mr. Matthew Marcou
Deputy Director for Public Space Regulation
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Application for a curb cut and driveway across public space at 746 19th Street NE

Dear Mr. Marcou,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on July 9, 2015, our Commission voted 7-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to express our opposition to a public space application for a curb cut and driveway across public space at 746 19th Street NE.

The location of the proposed curb cut and driveway along this particular portion of 19th Street NE, just south of a busy intersection at Benning Road NE and directly adjacent to a left turn only lane for turning onto Benning Road NE, is troubling for the following reasons. First of all, this is a well-travelled portion of 19th Street with a good deal of pedestrian traffic given the restaurant at the corner (at Benning Road NE). The attached photo shows typical auto traffic flow for the lane of traffic adjacent to the proposed curb cut location (you can see the side of the building adjacent to the applicant's currently renovated building in the picture). Given that the curb cut and driveway will be for a one-car garage, this means the occupant will have to either back in or back out of this garage across a sidewalk and into a fairly busy street. Based on the traffic at this site, we find it hard to believe the occupant will have an easy time getting traffic to stop so a car can be backed into or reversed out of this garage parking spot. Attempts to do so will likely cause a good deal of confusion and traffic congestion, and create a dangerous situation for motorists and pedestrians.

Further, it is problematic that the proposed curb cut and driveway will be right next to another curb cut and driveway for the property immediately north of the applicant's lot on 19th Street NE, which also has a garage entrance. We believe having two curb cuts side-by-side with two garages right next to each other in this location unnecessarily increases the risk of accidents and endangers pedestrians.

Finally, it is our policy to view curb cut requests skeptically and to only entertain supporting them when they are very well-justified uses of public space (e.g. the homeowner has no other option to access a pre-existing off-street parking spot). Here, the garage does not currently exist

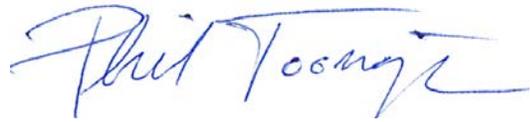
¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on anc6a-announce@yahoogleroups.com, anc-6a@yahoogleroups.com, and newhilleast@yahoogleroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

and we have been told it is only being built to satisfy a Zoning Administrator parking spot requirement that we believe does not fit this particular location.

Due to the considerations explained above, we respectfully request that you deny this curb cut application.

Thank you for affording great weight to the views of ANC6A feedback on this curb cut application. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at philanc6a@gmail.com or the ANC 6A Vice-Chair, J. Omar Mahmud, at mahmud6a01@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Toomajian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Phil Toomajian
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

ATTACHMENT A

