



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



September 12, 2008

Juan Amaya, Acting Executive Secretary  
Public Space Permitting Division, Room 2104  
941 North Capitol Street, NE, 20002

Re: Public space permit (#40122) for a two-sided sign at 1400 Maryland Avenue, NE

Dear Mr. Juan Amaya,

With a quorum present at our September 11, 2008 public meeting, and by a unanimous vote, our Commission formally requests a postponement of the public space hearing scheduled for September 25, 2008 regarding installation of a two-sided sign in public space at 1400 Maryland Avenue, N.E.

In reviewing the application, it is clear other public space concerns need to be addressed at this property. It is our position that the cumulative effects of erecting a sign, installing new curb cuts, and paving significant areas of public space need to be considered in one hearing. We are not supportive of a piecemeal process that considers each element out of context with the other proposed elements.

Our Commission has an extensive history with this property that is not positive. The owner of the property previously illegally erected a fence without a permit on public space to facilitate a car sales business. The public space was also paved over with asphalt for use as the car sales lot. The fence was removed by the city in the fall of 2005 after the owner belatedly applied for a permit #13868 which our ANC successfully opposed. The asphalt remains on public space today. For the last decade, this property has been a blight on our community - attracting loiterers (squatters live there today), trash, human waste and other debris that is located on the private property and the public property.

As this property falls within the realm of the revitalizing H Street Arts and Entertainment District, we respectfully request the public space committee work with the appropriate agencies and the property owner to remove the asphalt on public space. We request that this public space be vegetated and maintained to a level appropriate for a L'Enfant Plan street with a view of the United States Capitol. The existing condition of this property is a disgrace to our neighborhood that can no longer be tolerated.

In the event you do not share our view that all public space issues should be discussed at one time, we are resolved to oppose the placement of the requested two-sided sign on public space. It is bad precedent to reward poor stewardship of the public space with public space grants from the City. We request an e-mail notification on the outcome of our request by September 23, 2008. Commissioner Schultheiss, Mr. Omar Mahmud and the officers of our Commission have been authorized to represent the community regarding this matter.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc: Ann Simpson-Mason, Chair Public Space Committee  
Council Member Wells, Ward 6  
Mayor Fenty  
Linda Argo, Director DCRA  
Neil Albert, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development