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

May 30, 2007

Jeffrey A. Taylor
United States Attorney for the District of Columbia
United States Attorney's Office
555 4th St., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530

Dear Mr. Taylor:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 10, 2007 with a quorum present, our Commission voted 7-0-0 to support the joint efforts of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the U.S. Attorney's Office (USAO), and the District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General (OAG) with regards to "papering" reform.

Our Commission takes the "papering" issue very seriously – we consider it to be one of the key process reforms that can improve the ability of MPD to perform their mission. The excessive time, including rampant overtime, that police officers have historically had to spend filling out arrest paperwork is unacceptable – it takes officers off the streets or requires them to report on their days off, which in turn decreases the time officers spend patrolling and being visible in the community, lowers officer morale, and increases the taxpayer expense.

As we understand it today, progress has been made. Assistant Chief Peter Newsham, AUSA Tracey Lanker and AUSA Kenneth Behle have stated that changes have been implemented to permanently alleviate the papering burden. Specifically, these recent changes will make it possible for MPD officers to transmit their arrest paperwork to the USAO and OAG intake attorneys electronically. This will significantly cut down on the number of matters requiring the officer to appear in person at the intake office.

In close, we respectfully commend these offices for working together on an amenable plan and request your continued support.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

CC: Tommy Wells, Councilmember Ward 6
       Cathy Lanier, Chief MPD
       Jeffrey Taylor, U.S. Attorney's Office
       Lisa Marie Singer, Director Office of the Attorney General
       Phil Mendelson, Councilmember At-Large