



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



October 27, 2004

To: The Honorable Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia

At the regularly scheduled, duly noticed public meeting on August 12, 2004, and with a quorum present, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A voted to adopt a Prostitution Victim Impact Statement for our community.

Victim Impact Statement

As citizens of ANC 6A, we ask that you consider the impact that prostitution has on our daily lives. For the past several years we have witnessed incidents of prostitution as well as illegal drug related activity and violence that accompanies these activities in our neighborhood. As you prepare to sentence this person on this prostitution related conviction, please consider the impact their actions have had on our daily lives.

We are victims of this crime. We face harassment by customers who approach innocent neighbors. We face dirty needles and used condoms on our sidewalks and in alleyways. We face danger from gangs who supply illegal drugs to which many of the prostitutes are addicted. We face intimidation by the men who stake out the territory their girls work. As businesses, resident property owners, and tenants, we face destruction of our property and the degradation of our lives, especially near the working locations of these criminals. They drive families from our neighborhood and encourage other criminals to congregate in the area.

We firmly believe that if the current punishments authorized by the District of Columbia Council were enforced to the maximum allowed by law against individuals involved in prostitution and individuals who solicit prostitution, that this crime would be curbed. A short period in jail, a small fine, or a probationary period is considered by many of these criminals to be a normal cost of doing business. However, a large fine and substantial time in jail might deter a person from soliciting a prostitute or to convince a person to seek treatment, training, and legitimate employment rather than to continue to work the streets of our neighborhood.

Your Honor, final steps to curb crime in our neighborhood rests in your hands. We report the activities, the Police Officer arrests the criminal, and the Prosecutor has presented you with evidence beyond any reasonable doubt. It is now up to you to impose the sentence. We ask that you consider the effect that this crime has on us. Please impose a significant amount of jail time for first offenders. For first offenders, we ask that you impose a substantial period of actual jail time and a maximum length of probation, with the remainder of a maximum sentence held as a deterrent. As a condition of probation, we ask that they be ordered to stay away from the location of their offense and five blocks in all directions. If the defendant has a prior conviction for this crime, we implore that you impose the maximum penalty that is allowed by law, with no portion suspended, on those, who by their own actions, have shown their repeated contempt of the law and a total disregard for the community.

Respectfully,

Joseph Fengler, Chair
ANC 6A