



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6A01  
Box 75115  
Washington, DC 20013



May 21, 2009

Mr. Gabe Klein  
District Department of Transportation  
2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Re: Request for removal of curb cut and illegal fence at 1414 Maryland Avenue, NE

Dear Mr. Klein,

We write to request DDOT remove the curb cut and illegal fence located at 1414 Maryland Avenue, NE. Our ANC has been working hard to combat vacant property and we believe properties which have been vacant for long periods of time should lose the right to maintain curb cuts. This property has been vacant for over ten years, yet during the redesign of the H Street project, DDOT allowed the curb cut to remain. In June 2008, our ANC requested a review of all the curb cuts on the 1400 block of Maryland Avenue as there were many that existed to vacant property. All were removed except for this property – a decision made apparently because this property was well maintained as compared to the others.

Our ANC did not agree with this decision. The curb cut was reconstructed at city expense as part of the improvements to Maryland Avenue. We request that DDOT remove this curb cut. The presence of this curb cut at a vacant property has allowed motorists to drive on the sidewalk to park vehicles on the rear of their lots (fronting the 1400 block of H Street) creating a hazard to pedestrians. It has also removed two parking spaces from public use. The chain link fence is a danger to pedestrians as it overhangs the sidewalk. It is our belief that this fence is illegal both in its design and placement. We ask that DDOT work with the property owner to remove this danger or if the owner is unresponsive, for DDOT to remove the fence.

We are hopeful under your leadership that the protection of public space will be an important issue. There should be a high bar for the issuance of curb cut permits to private property. Vacant property owners should not be entitled to keeping curb cuts. This is particularly true on Capitol Hill where the majority of the “front yard” of properties is actually public space. We are anxiously awaiting your response and we are looking forward to working with you to improve our neighborhood. Please contact me or Commissioner Schultheiss with any questions.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joe Fengler  
Chair Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc: Omar Mahmud, Chair ANC Transportation Committee  
Commissioner Bill Schultheiss, ANC6A06



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 6A01  
Box 75115  
Washington, DC 20013



1414 Maryland Avenue – Longstanding Vacant Property



1414 Maryland Avenue – Illegal fence protrudes into sidewalk endangering pedestrians