



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 15020
Washington, DC 20003



February 25, 2023

Timothy W. Spriggs
Acting Director Department of Public Works
Frank D. Reeves Municipal Center
2000 14th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Re: ANC 6A Support for Zero Waste, Curbside Composting and Additional Staffed Composting Drop-Off sites

Dear Director Spriggs,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on February 9, 2023 our Commission voted 5-0-0 (with 4 Commissioners required for a quorum) to support the District's efforts to achieve Zero Waste, including curbside composting and additional staffed compost drop-off sites. These environmentally-friendly initiatives provide residents with a convenient and efficient way to reduce waste, while also helping to combat climate change.

Due to the long waiting list to join the volunteer composting site run at Lovejoy Park in ANC 6A and the distance to the Eastern Market drop-off point, ANC 6A considered applying to the Department of Public Works (DPW) for an additional drop-off compost site at the H Street farmers market. We ran into a few obstacles, however, including the requirement for an all-volunteer operation, the requirement to store equipment year-round, and the need for a year-round permit. Since the farmers market is closed for three months in the winter, the new all-volunteer composting program was not feasible for us.

We were excited, however, to learn during our discussions that DPW will pilot a curbside composting program soon for 12k households. We also learned that there are ten sites in DC where DC pays contractors to run drop-off sites for composting. We are writing to support both of these programs and to urge DPW to increase the number of contractor-supported compost drop-off sites and expand to DC-wide curbside composting as soon as possible. By diverting food scraps and yard waste from landfills and incinerators, we can reduce the emissions of methane and other greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change. Additionally, the compost

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on anc-6a@googlegroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, on Twitter (@ANC6A) and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

created through this process should be used to help improve soil health and fertility, which in turn can support local agriculture and food security.

Curbside composting would make it easy for residents to participate in this beneficial process. With a simple collection service, we can ensure that compostable materials are properly handled and processed without the need for residents to travel to Eastern Market, join the year-long waitlist to compost at Lovejoy Park, or invest in their own composting equipment.

Another benefit of more curbside composting and compost drop-off sites would be addressing the rodent epidemic, which is partly due to food waste and partly due to the impacts of climate change on extending the rat breeding season. Expanding composting programs will divert food waste away from landfills and allow for more rodent-proof handling of food waste than the default of having it combined with other trash in bags and bins. Finally, we hope that the curbside composting program can be implemented alongside educational efforts to explain how composting works, why it is beneficial, and to reinforce the rules around trash and recycling.

Many neighbors do not know their correct trash collection location and need a reminder that trash should be bagged in a closed bin and only put out the night before pick-up and that recycling should NOT be bagged. The initiation of a popular new curbside program is a great opportunity to clarify the correct trash, recycling, and composting locations and procedures. DPW should require anyone applying to be in the curbside compost program to self-certify that they understand where their trash collection point is, that they only put out bins the night before and that they bag their trash but not their recycling.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of this Commission. I can be contacted at 6A04@anc.dc.gov and Commissioner Chatterjee can be contacted at 6A01@anc.dc.gov.

On behalf of the Commission,



Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A