



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



January 14, 2020

The Honorable Mayor Muriel Bowser  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Support for Halloween pedestrian safety measures on East Capitol Street

Dear Mayor Bowser,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting<sup>1</sup> on January 9, 2020, our Commission voted 7-0-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to send a letter to District leadership expressing our gratitude for and support of the measures taken by MPD's Special Operations Division and DC's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to improve pedestrian safety on October 31, 2019 (Halloween).

For the last several years, ANC6A has received numerous resident requests for additional pedestrian safety measures on East Capitol Street (west of Lincoln Park). This area of Capitol Hill, including the 800 to 1000 blocks that fall within the boundaries of ANC6A, is a popular spot for trick-or-treaters, due to the wide avenue and extensive efforts of residents of the area to provide an entertaining and safe Halloween experience for Capitol Hill's many children. Nationally, Halloween is the most dangerous day of the year for children, representing a tenfold increase in pedestrian deaths among children 4 to 8 years old relative to other days of the year.<sup>2</sup> This year our ANC embarked on a collaborative effort with Advisory Neighborhood Commissions 6B and 6C to engage with MPD and other agencies to identify and deploy additional safety measures.

In response, MPD's Special Operations Division, with support from DC's Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency, closed vehicle traffic in the 800 to 1000 blocks of East Capitol heading east and west and carefully managed the intersections at 9th and 10th streets for north/southbound traffic. The result was a much safer and more pleasant Halloween experience for residents and visitors alike. ANC6A is grateful to MPD Special Operations and HSEMA for proactively seeking to improve the safety of our residents on Halloween. We look forward to further collaborative efforts in this regard and would welcome opportunities to engage in advance planning and discussions regarding additional procedures and safety measures.

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<sup>1</sup> ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the [anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com), [anc6a@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc6a@yahoogroups.com), and [newhilleast@groups.io](mailto:newhilleast@groups.io), at [www.anc6a.org](http://www.anc6a.org), and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

<sup>2</sup> <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapediatrics/article-abstract/2711459>



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Here is a selection of comments from residents:

"My wife and I appreciated that East Capitol Street was closed to traffic on Halloween. There are a lot of people and it overcrowds the sidewalks. Not having cars around allows parents like me to feel more comfortable with walking on the road. While we were not out for the floodlights to be turned on - we thought it was a good idea to have them as it helps increase visibility. In future years, if the cross streets - 10th, 9th Streets - could also be closed to traffic, it would make the experience better. Many commuters probably were unaware of the road closures ahead of time - would it be possible to put a traffic sign up warning them of the road closure?"

"Overall, it was a much better and safer experience with the streets closed. Thanks for organizing!"

"I just wanted to write to thank everyone involved in closing East Capitol Street to car traffic tonight. It made such a positive difference in our trick-or-treating experience to not have to worry about cars buzzing past. I hope closing the street on Halloween night becomes an annual tradition on Capitol Hill -- it adds so much to the spirit of community in our neighborhood. Thank you!"

"We thought it was great Amber. Thanks for pushing for that. Ideally they would close the whole road but hopefully this is a start."

"Thank you for organizing the partial street closure and MPD presence in E. Capitol Halloween night. I thought it made a huge difference for the safety of the trick or treaters and parents. East Cap was still crowded, but more manageable because the sidewalk overflow could step into the street without fear of being run over, and having traffic control on the cross streets was a big improvement. The flood lights also helped parents keep track of kids and kept the whole situation more in check. It was a great idea and I would love to see it carried forward in future years."

"East Capitol closure was amazing, and I fully support a continuation with both more organized DDOT/MPD closure, and advance notice to the public so drivers can choose to stay away, and people on foot can come. In-street programming could be part of it too."

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendation of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at [AmberANC6A@gmail.com](mailto:AmberANC6A@gmail.com).

On behalf of the Commission,

Amber Gove  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

CC: Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember  
Chris Rodriguez, Director, HSEMA  
Jason Bagshaw, Lieutenant, MPD Special Operations Planning Division