



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



March 3, 2020

Mr. Matthew Marcou
Associate Director for Public Space Regulation
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20003

Re: Public Space Application #343819 - 1518 North Carolina Ave NE

Dear Associate Director Marcou and Public Space Committee Members:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on February 13, 2020, our Commission voted 5-0-2 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to oppose a public space construction application #343819 from Octopus Properties, to install a driveway through public space at the rear of 1518 North Carolina Avenue NE. The applicant, Melissa Wilson of Octopus Properties, purchased a property without alley access and now wishes to create parking in the rear of the property, which backs up to public space on a very steep hill along the 1500 block of C Street NE. She proposes that a short driveway be constructed through a public green space to connect the alley to her rear yard. The site is very steep and could erode from being driven over, so she is proposing to use an engineered and pervious material to line the driveway.

The ANC appreciates the applicant's concern for the environmental impact but believes that it would set an unacceptable precedent if the applicant is allowed to compromise public use of the land to benefit an individual. Others in the same row of houses might request the same, which would further subtract from the public space. And, if permission is given for this encroachment, it will be more difficult to oppose similar requests – or other claims for individual use of public space – in future. Once the driveway is installed, it will be impracticable for the public to reclaim that right of way, should another public-serving use or need arise.

Thank you for giving consideration to our ANC's feedback on this public space issue. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please feel free to reach out to me at amberanc6a@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc6a@yahoogroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.