



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



August 5, 2023

Charles Allen, Chair
Committee on Transportation and the Environment
Council of the District of Columbia
Via email and the ANC Resolutions Website

Re: ANC 6A Support for Sidewalk Repair and Maintenance

Dear Chairperson Allen,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on July 13, 2023 our Commission voted 5-0-0 (with 4 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request that the Transportation and Environment Committee and the Council, exercising their oversight responsibility for the District Department of Transportation, request that DDOT develop a formal assessment and plan for systematically repairing, maintaining, and replacing dangerous sidewalks in ANC 6A, including an assessment of the impact of different sidewalk surfaces on maintenance costs and safety. We request that such an assessment and plan be completed within 120 days of the date of the ANCs request to the Committee.

At the June 2023 6A Transportation and Public Space Committee, ANC Commissioner Shapiro (6A03) presented results from a resident survey sponsored by ANCs 6A, 6B, 6C and Capitol Hill Village. Also included were data from a FOIA request to DDOT previously submitted on behalf of ANC6A. The findings presented included the following:

- 473 residents of the Hill-area/H Street corridor responded to the survey
- 305 respondents noted that they or a household member had fallen on a DC sidewalk, some multiple times, over the last 2 years
- The preponderance fell on brick sidewalks (without snow or ice present)
- 263 people reported injuries
- These falls resulted in 114 uses of medical care including surgeries and in-patient hospitalizations
- In more than 400 free narrative comments, 184 cited brick-related issues and 52 mentioned the lack of timely and effective preventive or remedial sidewalk maintenance.

DDOT currently targets 270 days for sidewalk repairs, compared with a 3-day performance target for potholes in roadways. A DDOT official, subsequently shared with Commissioner Shapiro that, at present, there is a backlog of 6500 sidewalk repair requests citywide. The FOIA data also revealed that numerous 311 requests for sidewalk repair had been classified as “completed” or “closed”;

¹ANC 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.

however visual inspection in several areas of 6A revealed that many had not been repaired or had been repaired poorly.

Finally, if the pain and suffering caused by hundreds of injuries each year, just in one community, were not enough, data from DDOT and ORM indicate that these injuries are costly for the City, resulting in settlement and judgment payments of \$1.9 million in 2021 (not counting the cost of litigation.)

It is clear that the current program for sidewalk installation, monitoring, and repair is not working. Accordingly, we are asking the Committee, in its oversight role, to urge DDOT to study this situation and put forth a fresh and more viable approach to these issues.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of this Commission. I can be contacted at 6A04@anc.dc.gov, Commissioner Shapiro at 6A03@anc.dc.gov and Transportation and Public Space Committee Co-Chairs Lynch and Rogger can be contacted at 6ATPSChair@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,



Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A