



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



September 15, 2005

Denise L. Wiktor
District of Columbia Department of Transportation
Manager, Public Space Permitting Division
Room 2104
941 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ms. Wiktor:

At our regularly scheduled public meeting on September 8, 2005, with all Commissioners present, we voted unanimously to oppose Public Space Application #13868, an application by 1400 Maryland Avenue Ltd (Carlink) to use public space for parking, at 1400 Maryland Avenue, NE. We urge the Public Space Committee accept our Commission's recommendation and reject this application.

If this application is granted, Carlink would be permitted to continue occupying an area extending 22.5 feet beyond its western property line, on 14th Street, and 32.75 feet beyond its southern property line, on Maryland Avenue NE. The corner at 14th Street and Maryland Avenue, NE has been an eyesore for years. Cars have been parked for years on public space which is fenced in by barbed wire and surrounded by overgrown weeds, strewn with trash.

Commissioner Borbely, whose single member district the property lies, distributed letters (Attachment #1) and e-mails to more than 200 residents living near the property in question and received 16 written responses (Attachment #2). Every resident who responded expressed opposition to the application. The owners have not demonstrated an ability to maintain the property. See current photos, in Attachment #3.

The 1200, 1300 and 1400 blocks of H Street, NE have been designated by the Office of Planning as the Arts and Entertainment District. A car lot on public space is inconsistent with the future that is being planned by the city as well as the community. On the same short block there are two restaurants: The Argonaut and Daavi's West African Restaurant. The car lot detracts from the attractiveness of the block and thereby negatively effects businesses and the economic viability of the H Street corridor.

In close, please reject Public Space Application #13868 and support the desires of our community as well as our emerging Art and Entertainment District.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, ANC 6A

cc: Donna Housek, Office of Public Space
Councilmember Sharon Ambrose
Olufemi Fakiyesi, Carlink/Jotts Car Rental



Commissioner Marc Borbely (6A06)
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
536 13th Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002



August 24, 2005

Dear Neighbors:

Carlink, the used car lot at 1400 Maryland Ave. NE, is applying for a public space permit so it can legally use public space outside its property to park up to 14 cars and keep a chain-link fence around the lot. The permit would allow the business to extend 22.5 feet beyond its property line on 14th Street, and 32.75 feet beyond its property line on Maryland Avenue.

(Carlink is already using the space for this purpose but recently found out, in trying to start a car rental business on the property, that it has been occupying public space and therefore needs a public space permit.)

The District Department of Transportation has asked the ANC whether it has any objections to the application, and the ANC 6A Economic Development & Zoning Committee will be considering this application on Tuesday, Aug. 30. at 7 p.m., in the community room at Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G St. NE. I've invited the business's owner to attend. This discussion is 4th on the agenda; it most likely won't take place before 7:30, because there are two presentations scheduled before -- one on NCRC's plans for the firehouse at 1341 Maryland Ave. NE.

Everyone who lives near 14th & Maryland and has thoughts on this should come to this meeting next week to let the committee know whether you think the city should or should not allow Carlink to use this public space as part of its lot -- and why or why not. If you absolutely can't come to the meeting, please share your thoughts with me (borbely@anc6a06.us; 202-544-2447) and Committee Chair Cody Rice (rice6A03@verizon.net; 202-544-3734).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marc Borbely".

Marc Borbely
Commissioner, ANC 6A06

Comments from ANC 6A06 Residents and Business Owners Regarding Carlink's Public Space Application

-----Original Message-----

From: Aryeh Fishman [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2005 9:31 AM
To: borbely@anc6a06.us
Subject: RE: FW: 1400 Maryland Ave NE Car Lot?

Marc,

I doubt I can make this meeting, but would note, this business does little if anything to keep it clean on either the Maryland Ave. or 14th street sides on which it is located...they always let the vegetation go wild, and never pick up the trash, further it's really an eyesore in of itself.

Car rental? hmmm, what hours are they going to be operating, what type of traffic and parking problems will this business create? Do they intend to continue performing mechanical services, and sales?

Without knowing how they will deal with the above issues, I'd have to say I would be happier without this type of business, but at the same time the last use of this space was also for car repairs.

That's my two cents.

--Aryeh Fishman
[REDACTED] 14th Street, NE

-----Original Message-----

From: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com [mailto:anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com]**On Behalf Of** Sharon Cochran
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2005 10:41 AM
To: anc-6a@yahoogroups.com
Cc: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [anc-6a06] Re: [anc-6a] 1400 Maryland Ave NE Car Lot?

Isn't this the place with the ugly (and illegal) barbed wire surrounding it?

-----Original Message-----

From: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com [mailto:anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com] **On Behalf Of** Grigsby, Lavita L.
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2005 11:12 AM
To: 'anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com'
Subject: RE: [anc-6a06] Re: [anc-6a] 1400 Maryland Ave NE Car Lot?

Once again, we are discussing the parking and access to my street (1400 Block Maryland). The lot does not appear to be doing much business over there and I suspect that activities of an unsavory nature are taking place.

We do not need anymore businesses that are not doing business on Maryland Avenue. I have to live on this street, apparently most of you live on side streets off the main path. I am fighting to park from the club Argonaut, liquor store, now the other liquor(beer) store and the funeral home.

I also would like to introduce an idea that the Funeral Home should use that area(which the car lot wants)for lining up procession rather than block all the residential properties on the opposite side of the street.

La Vita Grigsby
[REDACTED] Maryland Avenue, N.E.

-----Original Message-----

From: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com [mailto:anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Warner S. Sterling
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2005 11:44 AM
To: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [SPAM] RE: [anc-6a06] Re: [anc-6a] 1400 Maryland Ave NE Car Lot?

I agree that the public space should be public space. I don't see much activity going on there either. As far as the Argonaut is concerned, though I think patrons should use legal spots, I support the pub because I think it is a positive development in the community.

Regards,
Warner Sterling (600 Block of 12th Street)

-----Original Message-----

From: S. Micah Salb [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2005 12:41 PM
To: Marc Borbely
Cc: rice6A03@verizon.net
Subject: Re: 1400 Maryland Ave NE Car Lot?

Dear Marc and Cody,

Thank you for bringing to our attention Carlink/Jotts Car Rental's application for a public space permit to park outside of its property. I understand that you will be having a hearing on Tuesday, August 20. Unfortunately, we cannot attend because we have a new baby at home who consumes far too much of our time and energy. We are writing, therefore, to express our views.

We live on the 1300 block of G Street, NE, so we are very close to this lot. We very much oppose this application for several reasons. First, there is far too little space on 14th Street and Maryland Avenue for parking already. To allow a business to take precious space would not be warranted because it offers no benefit to the community. Second, it would make a dangerous intersection more dangerous. Visibility in the area, including as it extends to the turn onto G Street, is limited. With more cars in that area (including the ripple effect outward) would make visibility worse. Third, it would be unsightly to have more cars crowding the street. It is worth noting that this business has not paid attention to the attractiveness of its operations.

Very truly yours,

Micah Salb

Douglas Lachance

G Street NE

Washington, DC 20002

-----Original Message-----

From: Grigsby, Lavita L. [mailto:]
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2005 1:18 PM
To: 'Marc Borbely'
Subject: RE: 1400 Maryland Ave NE Car Lot?

If that is so, they need to stay within their boundaries. We don't need them protruding. I understand that they always had abandoned or collisioned cars on the street. Marc, I realize you are for businesses, but what about the residents on the block. I was hoping they would use property for something like a vegetable stand.

La Vita

-----Original Message-----

From: MARTHA MONCIBAIZ

Sent: Saturday, August 27, 2005 9:44 PM

To: borbely@anc6a06.us

Subject: Re: [anc-6a06] FW: 1400 Maryland Ave NE Car Lot?

Marc,

Don't think we can make it for the meeting and though Martha and I don't live in the immediate area, we live close enough at 13th and F St. We have only been in the neighborhood a little over a year, but living in the District now for almost 3 years. Believe it or not, we're still trying to get use to the parking problems, having been raised in Texas. Even in Texas, streets were public as well as sidewalks and front easements, and I feel I have a good understanding for the need by the city to require these as public spaces. Still, as residents who live and pay taxes, we had a general responsibility to maintain the areas and keep them free from litter, dangers and unsightly debris, etc which could cause a hazard or health concern. The city also had certain responsibilities in these public spaces.

Here in the District, while we can't own or "claim" street areas in front of our houses, I believe the city understands and has heard/responded over the years. It is apparent in the signage, etc that adorns our streets, allowing us to park and on certain streets protecting that area for resident's use.

This is a good example of how businesses placed too close to residential areas can affect us, and why we need to voice our concerns and be involved to our extent in these matters. I'm not an expert, but I think the city probably protects businesses also. If I wanted wanted to park my personal vehicle in a public parking lot of a business and use it as my personal parking space, it wouldn't last long there.

Perhaps there's a place where this could work out, but in our neighborhood where parking is already so tight, I just don't think it makes sense. After all, the only one truly who profits is the business. Maybe I should start my own business and petition the city for a few feet in front of my residence...I could call it Mike's Parking and Rentals...

-----Original Message-----

From: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com [mailto:anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com] On
Behalf Of Jock Friedly
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 1:01 AM
To: rice6A03@verizon.net; borbely@anc6a06.us
Cc: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [anc-6a06] Carlink request

Cody and Marc and other ANC Commissioners,

My wife Deborah and I write to object to the request by Carlink to use
public space at 1400 Maryland Ave. NE.

The property is an eyesore and the business has not distinguished
itself in any way in order to receive the privilege of appropriating
public property for its own. Had the owner been active in fighting
trash and crime, funding H Street redevelopment efforts and taking
other measures to make the company a model corporate citizen in the
neighborhood, we might be willing to overlook such an extraordinary
request to use public property for private gain. However, that is not
the case as far as we can tell.

Furthermore, although we're not sure if this property has been
discussed in any way with regard to the H Street changes, this
property's use does not comport with the general tenor of the H Street
redemption efforts.

Therefore, this extraordinary request should be denied summarily. You
face many tough public policy decisions. This is not one of them.

Jock

-----Original Message-----

From: Pamela Causer [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 10:10 AM
To: rice6A03@verizon.net; borbely@anc6a06.us
Subject: Re: [anc-6a06] Carlink request

I would definitely second Jock's assessment. I took a closer look at
the place when I walked over to the Argonaut for dinner Saturday night.
I'm not sure what public property the owner wants to use, but use of
the
current property is quite dismal and should not be rewarded in any way.
If the owner cared, the area could easily be maintained without weeds,
trash, etc. Obviously, they do not care.

-----Original Message-----

From: Matt Streit [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 2:40 PM
To: borbely@anc6a06.us; rice6A03@verizon.net
Subject: Opposition to Carlink application

To: The District Department of Transportation
ANC 6A Economic Development and Zoning Committee

We oppose the public space permit application for Carlink at 1400 Maryland NE. This property is an eye-sore and in disrepair. Vagrancy and trash accumulation are existing on-going problems. As the neighborhood looks to renewing its public spaces on H Street and at the Starburst Interesection, this application would be to the detriment of those goals as well as the safety of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matt & Amber Streit
[REDACTED] 14th St NE
Washington , DC 20002

-----Original Message-----

From: Balthazaar Ford [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 2:05 PM
To: borbely@anc6a06.us; rice6A03@verizon.net
Subject: oppose Carlink request

Marc, Cody:

As a resident of [REDACTED] F Street NE, I urge you to oppose the public space permit requested by Carlink/Jotts Car Rental for the purpose of parking up to 14 cars and keeping a chain-link fence around its lot. Carlink does not appear to maintain in a clean or aesthetic manner the space it currently occupies. With public concerns over additional beer & wine sales (Hahu) or other corner stores (the now-demolished grocery store adjacent to Kingman Park) it seems altogether consistent and appropriate to restrict expansion of car rental and car sales establishments. Thank you for your consideration.

Todd Atkinson
202-228-[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Aryeh Fishman [mailto: [REDACTED]]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 1:15 PM
To: borbely@anc6a06.us
Cc: barbtugs@yahoo.com; zebracom@mac.com; rice6A03@verizon.net
Subject: RE: Opposition to Carlink public space permit, 1400 Maryland Ave, NE

Marc,

We strongly agree with the Tierneys (see their letter below).

As I have indicated to you in an earlier email, the existing business is has not been a responsible or good neighbor (see Barbara's note below regarding trash, vagrancy, etc). Indeed, the fact that it has operated without proper permits strongly reinforces the impression that this is not a responsible business deserving of support from the community or the City Gov't. Therefore, I believe it would be bad public policy for DC Gov't to turn a blind eye to this business' bad behavior, and it would be totally perverse to reward this irresponsible business with a permit.

--Aryeh Fishman and Jai-Wei Gan
[REDACTED] 14th Street, NE

From: *Barbara Tierney* <[REDACTED]>
To: *Marc Borbely* <borbely@anc6a06.us>, *Cody Rice* <rice6A03@verizon.net>
Subject: *Opposition to Carlink public space permit, 1400 Maryland Ave, NE*
Date: *Mon, 29 Aug 2005 09:43:43 -0700 (PDT)*

To: The District Department of Transportation

ANC 6A Economic Development and Zoning Committee

We strongly oppose the public space permit application for Carlink at 1400 Maryland NE. This property already is derelict and in disrepair. Vagrancy and trash accumulation around the existing property is an ongoing problem. As the neighborhood looks to renewing its public spaces on H Street and at the Starburst Interesection, this application would be to the detriment of those goals as well as the safety of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

William and Barbara Tierney

[REDACTED] 14th St NE

Washington , DC 20002

-----Original Message-----

From: Vericat Cazcarra, Montserrat [mailto:]
Sent: Monday, August 29, 2005 10:37 AM
To: rice6A03@verizon.net; borbely@anc6a06.us
Subject: CAR LINK REQUEST

This is to inform you of our opposition to the request submitted by Carlink to use public property for the conduit of its own business objectives.

We do not support this request.
Nothing positive for the residents of the area can come out by granting this request.

As it is, the business is an eyesore and does not contribute anything good to the neighborhood.

We, unequivocally and emphatically oppose Carlink's request.

Sydney Gibson and Montserrat Vericat
600 block of 12th Street, N.E.

-----Original Message-----

From: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com [mailto:anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of al-karim dhanji
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2005 9:15 AM
To: anc-6a06@yahoogroups.com
Subject: RE: [anc-6a06] Carlink request

marc,

I just wanted to ad my opposition to carlink also

al dhanji
 14th st

-----Original Message-----

From: Kindred, BJ [mailto:]
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2005 1:21 PM
To: borbely@anc6a06.us; rice6A03@verizon.net
Cc:
Subject: Additional Parking for Carlink

Dear ANC Commissioner,

Currently parking around and within the 14th Street and Maryland avenue vicinity is very sparse for Homeowners/residents. If we allow Carlink and other similar businesses extended parking privileges, Homeowners/residents will not have enough parking accommodations that is needed. Therefore, lack of parking for Home owners/residents in this area will increase the percentage rate for Parking violations being issued by First District Police.

Perhaps Carlink owners should consider purchasing additional properties

(Lots) elsewhere for parking and storage of over inventoried cars for their facility.

Sincerely

Mr. and Mrs Davie Kindred
[REDACTED] 14th Street NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 396-[REDACTED]

-----Original Message-----

From: Bridget O'Connor
Sent: Tuesday, August 30, 2005 7:54 PM
To: borbely@anc6a06.us
Subject: Opposition to Carlink/Jotts Car Rental Request

Marc,

I oppose this request. I see no potential benefit to the community and do see many potential downsides. This is not the direction in which this community is working so hard to go.

Indeed, in light of your note that the business is already using the space for this purpose, I would ask that you urge the ANC to encourage enforcement of existing limits on Carlink's permits/licenses, etc.

Sincerely,

Bridget K. O'Connor

--

Bridget K. O'Connor
[REDACTED] F Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202)271-9046

-----Original Message-----

From: Jane Lang [mailto:[REDACTED]]
Sent: Wednesday, August 31, 2005 8:43 AM
To: Marc Borbely
Subject: RE: Carlink / Vacant Houses / Listserv

Marc --

I am on vacation in Estonia at the moment, Russia tomorrow. However, I want to congratulate you on getting such strong input from the residents of the ANC. I am quite appalled by the barbed wire monstrosity around the putative rental car lot. It implies all the wrong things about H Street and sets up an expectation of danger. This is contrary to everything we're working to achieve on the corridor. Although I

am not a resident, I am part of the revitalization effort through the ATlas Performing Arts Center and regard the barbed wire fence as antithetical to all of our goals. Thank you for your superb efforts to energize community input.

[snip]

Jane

Carlink (1400 Maryland Ave. NE)



(photos taken August 28, 2005, by ANC Commissioner Marc Borbely)