



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



September 15, 2013

Mr. Terry Bellamy
Director, Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Public Park questions

Dear Director Bellamy:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A is disturbed at the very strange extended delay in providing promised answers about public space permitting, particularly focused on the pocket parks which are such an attractive feature of our community. It is now more than two months since Matthew Marcou promised a swift response to the public space questions asked at our Transportation and Public Space Committee and at our earlier ANC meeting. Consequently this letter is written pursuant to a motion adopted September 12, 2013 by a vote of 5-0-1.

A commitment was made to provide ANC 6A with information on the District Department of Transportation's (DDOT) processes and policies governing requests by private citizens and corporations to build upon, landscape, enclose, or otherwise utilize public park land. In a June 17, 2013 email, a formal response was made to have your agency's staff address our concerns. On July 15, 2013, Matthew Marcou came to a well-attended ANC 6A committee meeting to address our questions. The ANC provided Mr. Marcou with a list of our concerns prior to that meeting, as he had requested.

However he declined to address any questions at the meeting, both those provided to him in advance (the receipt of which was acknowledged) and questions raised by the audience at the meeting. Instead, he promised to provide written answers to all questions the following week. It is disappointing that it has taken your agency so long to respond to questions that should have had ready answers.

The ANC remains concerned about the policies and processes followed in the issuance of permits for the use, enclosure or alteration of public parks and the standards by which DDOT evaluates such permits. We believe it is important that DDOT have a transparent policy and process for managing all public lands including "pocket" parks. The fact that it has taken so long to answer our questions may show that transparency is lacking. We believe that DDOT owes the citizens of our community a prompt response to our inquiries.

For the Commission,

David Holmes
Chair