



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



March 13, 2007

Councilmember Phil Mendelson
Chair, Committee on the Public Safety and Judiciary
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 402
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Mendelson:

At our regularly scheduled meeting on March 8, 2007, with a quorum present, we voted unanimously to support the following two recommendations for the Fire and Emergency Management Services (FEMS) budget.

First, we appeal for higher staffing. We need 100% full-time staffing for the increase in ambulances and fire trucks. To promote safety of our community, we would like to ensure that funding is available for ambulances and emergency vehicles to be staffed with the appropriate number of paramedics. Each person in need of assistance needs to be provided with the necessary medical care when in an emergency medical situation.

Second, we ask for funding to combat illegal fireworks. The District has substantial problem with illegal fireworks used on holidays and other days during the year. We call for the Metropolitan Police Department to pair police officers with armed arson investigators on dates with historical high call volume for fireworks and firecrackers. Accordingly, an increased budget to provide for armed arson investigators with training and certification are required as well as the funding for the use of shifts beyond normal work hours during the fireworks season.

Our Commission has authorized Commissioner Stephanie Nixon, or her designee, to provide testimony at the committee's hearings.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

CC: Fire and Emergency Management Services (FEMS) Director
Councilmember Tommy Wells, Ward 6