



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



December 10, 2009

Honorable Adrian Fenty
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20004

Dear Mayor Fenty:

This is to thank you for supporting the continued revitalization of H-Street as one of the city's main street gateways. We are especially appreciative that your Administration has pushed forward the initial street level investments needed to facilitate the eventual traffic flow needed to sustain the H-Street renaissance, including the addition street cars.

Unfortunately, as these efforts take place and new establishments and visitors are attracted to our area, we also are experiencing a higher level of criminal activity that we believe will threaten the positive gains we have made. Because our ANC recognizes that it will take more than simply a police response to address this issue, we are working with all aspects of our community, including area businesses, community groups and the Metropolitan Police Department, to develop coordinated and community sustaining strategies and solutions to help curb this disturbing trend.

As part of our efforts, we are asking that you consider the following actions to assist our community in addressing this problem:

- a. An immediate DDOT lighting survey, which will specifically review lighting of the corridor with the intent of providing temporary additional street lights during the current H Street construction phase.
- b. Deployment of a special "Economic Development, Hospitality-Focused Core Team" to look at what the District can do to expedite additional anchor development options in the area to diversify offerings and visitor traffic.
- c. A review, in conjunction with DDOT, the placement of current construction barriers, and how they may be increasing opportunities for crime by creating blind spots in poorly lit areas along walking corridors.
- d. Review parking options, specifically to review the former commitment of allowing eight additional parking spaces on each intersection along the corridor that would enhance parking options for visitors to improve safety (by prohibiting

long walks down dark sections of the corridor) without impeding parking options available to residents.

- e. Support H Street Main Street in finding and enabling creative uses of vacant spaces that would encourage greater evening activity and fewer “hot spots” for crime. These may include support for artist use of vacant spaces for temporary work spaces and display areas, installations on vacant plots, etc.

While we know that no one solution will solve this problem, we are hopeful that initiating some of these community focused ideas, along with enhanced community policing, will help turn the tide and allow H-Street to once again become the premiere destination for all to enjoy.

On behalf of the Commission, thank you for your consideration of this request.



Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Councilmember Tommy Wells