



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



March 21, 2011

Nicholas A. Majett, Director
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
1100 4th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

RE: H Street NE Overlay provisions

Dear Director Majett:

On March 10, 2011 at its regularly scheduled and publicly noticed monthly meeting, the ANC voted 7-0 (with a quorum present) to request the creation of a DCRA questionnaire for any building permit applications subject to the requirements of the H Street NE Overlay.

The H Street NE Zoning Overlay requires that new construction have 14' ground floor ceiling heights, entrances fronting on H Street, translucent windows, and has a number of other requirements that enhance the quality of retail space. These requirements can be difficult for DCRA to enforce, especially because non-compliance of some items (e.g. non-tinted windows) often cannot be determined from the building plans.

DCRA currently uses a questionnaire for eating establishments to distinguish between fast-food establishments, prepared food shops, and restaurants. A similar H St NE Overlay questionnaire would help DCRA enforce the Overlay requirements before issuing building permits.

We make this request because we have seen new construction/rehabilitation that fails to conform to the requirements of the Overlay, failures that can be prevented in the future by use of a questionnaire.

On behalf of the Commission,

David Holmes
Chair