



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



December 11, 2015

Mr. Leif A. Dormsjo
Director, District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003

Re: Pedestrian crossing signals at 10th Street NE and Maryland Avenue NE

Dear Director Dormsjo:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed¹ meeting on December 10, 2015, our Commission voted 7-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) make changes to the timing and activation of the pedestrian crossing signals at the newly installed traffic lights at 10th Street NE and Maryland Avenue NE.

The Commission believes the current pedestrian walk signal configuration at this intersection makes it unnecessarily difficult and sometimes dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists to cross the street. As currently configured, the pedestrian walk signal is not activated unless a pedestrian pushes a “beg” button requesting the light. At most other intersections around the District and within our ANC, the walk signal is activated as soon as the corresponding traffic light turns green. We see no need to have a different walk signal configuration at this particular intersection and have serious concerns that its current status poses an unnecessary danger due to the high likelihood that pedestrians will cross without a signal given that they have been conditioned to expect cross walk signals to come on automatically at all other nearby intersections. We therefore request the traffic light at Tenth (10th) Street and Maryland Avenue NE be retimed so the pedestrian walk signal automatically comes on when the light turns green, and reconfiguration of the beg button so that it is need not be push to activate the walk signal when the corresponding traffic light has turned green.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendation of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter, please feel free to reach out to me at philanc6a@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

Phil Toomajian,
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@yahoo.com, anc6a@yahoo.com, and newhilleast@yahoo.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag