



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



May 13, 2015

Kenneth Brewer  
President  
H Street Community Development Corporation  
900 2nd Street Northeast Suite 201  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Wylie Street Community Garden

Dear Mr. Brewer,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting<sup>1</sup> on May 14, 2015, our Commission voted 8-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to send this letter of support for efforts to find a solution that will enable preservation of the Wylie Street Community Garden (on 13<sup>th</sup> Street NE between Wylie Street and H Street NE), which has been an integral part of the greater H Street community for several years.

Our ANC recognizes the H Street Community Development Corporation (HSCDC) has played a key role in development projects along the H Street corridor. We appreciate HSCDC's interest in continuing to see our community thrive and grow as H Street enters a new phase of development. Our hope is that HSCDC plans to sell or develop this plot of land, which will likely remove the garden from this property, can be put on hold for a period of time so the community can work with you to develop a solution that will meet the needs of all parties involved. There may be ways to learn from the successes of other communities in preserving space such as the Wylie garden that you and the community can learn from in developing a plan.

One of the most significant issues along the H street corridor is a severe lack of green space. There are no parks or pocket niches, and only a limited number of small trees. Although the growth of H Street has been exciting, the growth has been largely commercial and concrete, with little to no green space creation for the benefit of families, schools, the environment or the aesthetics of the community. Without the preservation of vital green space like the Wylie Street Community Garden, the sustainable development of the H Street area will suffer.

The community that is working to maintain the garden has been serious about achieving its goals. Our ANC has been in regular contact with the neighbors who maintain the garden and work hard to keep it an attractive green space. Neighbors work tirelessly to keep the area clean and free of rodents. Neighbors are also engaging businesses on H Street and local partners who can realize a shared benefit from supporting the garden (Miner Elementary School, for example, has expressed an interest in using the site for instruction). Our ANC is

---

<sup>1</sup> ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the listservs [anc6a-announce@yahogroups.com](mailto:anc6a-announce@yahogroups.com), [anc6a@yahogroups.com](mailto:anc6a@yahogroups.com) and [newhilleast@yahogroups.com](mailto:newhilleast@yahogroups.com), at [www.anc6a.org](http://www.anc6a.org), and through print advertisements in the *Hill Rag*.



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



encouraged to hear of your willingness to hear neighborhood concerns and engage in a meaningful dialogue, which we hope will continue.

Thank you for hearing our concerns about this critical matter for our community. Our hope is we can work together to find solutions that benefit HSCDC's long term development goals and the hopes of the community for a diverse and sustainable green space environment. Please feel free to reach out to me at [philanc6a@gmail.com](mailto:philanc6a@gmail.com) or our Commission's Vice-Chair and Co-Chair of our Transportation and Public Space Committee, Omar Mahmud, at [mahmud6a01@gmail.com](mailto:mahmud6a01@gmail.com) should you wish to discuss this matter further and share any thoughts on how we can work together on this matter going forward.

On behalf of the Commission,

Phil Toomajian  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Muriel Bowser, Mayor  
Phil Mendelson, Council Chair  
Charles Allen, Councilmember Ward 6