



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



June 16, 2006

Councilmember Phil Mendelson, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 402
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Mendelson:

At our regularly scheduled public meeting on June 8, 2006, and with a quorum present, our Commission voted unanimously to support PR 16-766, the Metropolitan Police Department Closed Circuit Television System (CCTV) Regulations Amendment Approval Resolution of 2006 with a suggested modification described in the paragraph below. Our Commission believes that the pilot projects authorized by PR 16-766 have the potential to help fight crime in our neighborhoods.

One area where we believe this proposed legislation may be improved is with the addition of a requirement to have an external auditor monitor, not less than once a quarter, the implementation of the pilot CCTV projects authorized by this resolution. Moreover, the commission suggests amending the Resolution to provide information on the general location of the cameras.

In 2003, the United States General Accounting Office (GAO) prepared a report related to the use of video surveillance for law enforcement purposes. In this report, the GAO identified several best practices that should be considered by localities interested in adopting CCTV. One best practice cited is an audit of CCTV systems, to ensure that they are only utilized for the stated purpose of law enforcement and not misused through the inappropriate use or release of data captured through the system.

In close, we ask that you strongly consider our community's request for support of PR 16-766. If you have any questions, please contact ANC 6A Public Safety Chair, Ms. Stephanie Nixon, at (412) 612-8881.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Councilmember Sharon Ambrose
Chief of Police Charles Ramsey
Deputy Mayor Edward Reiskin, Public Safety and Justice