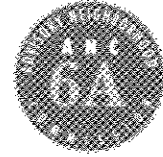


District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



June 18, 2007

Honorable Jack Evans
Honorable Mary Cheh
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington DC 20004

RE: Bill 17-0086, "Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2007"

Councilmembers Evans and Cheh:

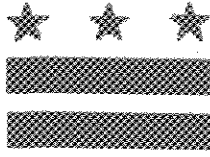
At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on June 14, 2007, our Commission voted 8-0-0 to support the "Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2007" and request two important changes be incorporated into the final bill.

Our neighborhood has been plagued for too long by unmaintained vacant properties and the associated problems of drug use, vermin and trash that are attracted by these properties. We share the Council's desire for vacant properties to be rehabilitated and reoccupied and believe that increasing the tax rate for vacant properties will help achieve this end.

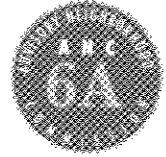
The current law is unnecessarily cumbersome and had resulted in many vacant properties not being classified as vacant. Residents of ANC 6A and ANC 6C have recently catalogued over 200 vacant properties within our boundaries – of which less than 50 are on DCRA's vacant property list and taxed at Class III rates. Our ANC is hopeful that the changes proposed in this bill, including making DCRA the sole determiner of whether a property is vacant, will help streamline the current process and result in the high number of vacant properties being registered and charged at Class III rates.

The residents of ANC 6A are especially interested in using the proposed law to help promote the reoccupation of the historic structures on the H Street NE corridor. A number of property owners on H Street are using loopholes in the current law (including advertising buildings as leasable while inquiries are not returned) to keep their vacant properties at Class II tax rates. We are hopeful that changes in the proposed bill will close these loopholes and help spur the revitalization of H Street NE.

Although we are generally in favor of the proposed changes we do have two concerns with Bill 17-0086. First, we ask that Section § 42-3131.16(a), which requires DCRA report the list of vacant properties to OTR on a semiannual basis, be changed to a require reporting on a quarterly basis. Under the proposed regulations, more than a year can elapse between when a vacant property is first reported to DCRA and when it is charged Class III rates by OTR. Second, we ask that § 42-3131.06(5) be amended to require the Mayor or the Mayor's agent notify the affected ANC within 15 days of invoking this section and provide the ANC with the rationale for



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exempting the property from the vacant property list. We think that this change will help bring transparency to Mayoral decisions and limit the potential abuse of this Section.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact the Chair of the ANC 6A Economic Development and Zoning Committee, Dr. Drew Ronneberg, at 202 431-4305 or ronneberg6a02@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph Fengler".

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisor Neighborhood Commission 6A

- cc. Honorable Vincent Gray, Council Chairman
 Honorable Tommy Wells, Ward 6 Councilmember
 Honorable Phil Mendelson, At-Large Councilmember
 Honorable David Catania, At-Large Councilmember
 Honorable Carol Schwartz, At-Large Councilmember
 Honorable Adrian Fenty, Mayor