



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



May 12, 2011

Councilmember Michael Brown
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 406
Washington, DC 20004

Councilmember Jack Evans
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004

Councilmember Phil Mendelson
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 402
Washington, DC 20004

Councilmembers,

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A at its regular May 12, 2011 meeting, which was publicly posted and with a quorum of Commissioners in attendance, voted unanimously to oppose the taking of any part of the Commission area from Ward 6 and called for an end to the decade-long isolation of Kingman Park (currently ANC 7D01) by returning it to Ward 6.

ANC 6A is geographically compact and contiguous. Other than orphaned Kingman Park, it is widely separated from Ward 7 by the broad basin of the Anacostia River, RFK Stadium's extensive parking lots, Interstate 295, and the Anacostia parks. Moreover, the eastward-oriented pattern of streets and residential locations on the east side of the River move us an even greater distance from Ward 7.

If Rosedale (ANC6A07) and northern Hill East (ANC6A08) are taken, the experience of Kingman Park will be repeated. There is little common interest in schools (no elementary or junior high schools are shared); development (Rosedale and Hill East are oriented by shopping, work, and community amenities west and south towards H Street, Benning Road, and Pennsylvania Avenue on the west side of the River, as well as the Eastern Market area); and transportation (only the two bridges, Benning and East Capitol, link the two sides of the river and there is obviously no network of neighborhood streets holding the two sides of the River together). Conversely, there is a common pattern of development, housing stock and neighborhood history that closely ties Hill East and Rosedale to the rest of the Capitol Hill community.

Rosedale Recreation Center serves the children of ANC 6A, especially Districts 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Only Kingman Park is also close enough to use these facilities. Redistricting would orient the Center to Ward 7, placing it on the margin of another Councilmember's district while still primarily serving the residents of Ward 6 – likely marginalizing its status as a priority for

development. Similarly, Eliot-Hine is the Junior High School for eastern Capitol Hill. It makes no sense to pass its political guardianship to Ward 7. Sitting proudly as the gateway to Capitol Hill, Eastern High School's motto, The Pride of Capitol Hill, will be absurd if it's incorporated into Ward 7.

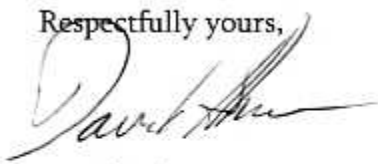
The Council Committee should take into account the effect redistricting will have on historic and existing community and political bonds as well as geographic proximity and contiguity. The neighborhoods of eastern Capitol Hill are works in progress. Neighbors have forged ties across racial, class and economic lines on the way to building safer blocks, better schools and better housing. It hasn't been a perfect effort, but people have worked hard and our community has become stronger for it. These efforts deserve support, particularly from the City Council. What we need least is for the Council to create further divides across our pathways to progress.

The eastern entry points to our ANC are at the natural boundary, the Anacostia. What happens to traffic on C Street, East Capitol, 17th Street, and Benning Road directly affects traffic and safety on the roads in the western part of the Commission. The traffic planning and control, so carefully negotiated, affects those of us to the west and south of the entry points just as much as the eastern SMDs. Moving the Ward boundary means that oversight and control over traffic patterns and traffic volumes will be divided, a practical problem with great potential to adversely affect all parts of ANC 6A and Capitol Hill. The creation of a rebuilt H/Benning streetscape and the addition of the upcoming streetcars are a result of both east and west working together within 6A and partnerships between ANC 6C and 6A across the northern part of Ward 6.

To foster and maintain the diversity of areas within Capitol Hill and its surrounding communities, it is essential that the opportunities and lines for communication, participation, collaboration and mutual education remain open by maintaining the inclusion of Rosedale and Hill East communities with the rest of Ward 6. Our isolated neighbors in Kingman Park rightfully belong to Ward 6 and ANC 6A. To divide these areas, and incongruently absorb them into Ward 7, will bar many of us from the amenities and greater community of our neighborhood that are the most geographically accessible and will ultimately destroy the natural momentum of Ward 6 striving for the "One City" idea.

The Council Committee should acknowledge the natural boundary of the Anacostia. It should respect the ties we have forged between races and between economic standings, not tear them asunder.

Respectfully yours,



David Holmes
Chair