

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Office of the Director

June 11, 2014

Nicholas Alberti
Chair
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013

Dear Commissioner Alberti:

Thank you for your letter of May 21, 2014, requesting that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) reconsider its prior characterization of Reservation 266 as public parking. As noted in your letter, DDOT recently issued an Open Space Preservation and Enhancement Policy (Departmental Order No. 1-2014), which is intended to provide “protection against the loss of public access to pocket and triangle parks and improve the management of all public parks under DDOT’s jurisdiction.” DDOT recognizes, and with this policy clarified, that the various triangle parks under DDOT’s jurisdiction are integral elements of the L’Enfant Plan that should be maintained as parks and preserved as publicly accessible neighborhood amenities for the use and enjoyment of all.

I understand the ANC’s concern that DDOT’s previous classification of Reservation 266 as public parking, in response to the adjacent property owners’ request to landscape and maintain the area, carries with it the implication that the adjacent property owners could have exclusive use of the park to the possible detriment of the surrounding community. First, I want to assure you that this was not the intent of the classification. DDOT is committed to working with the community and the adjacent property owners to modify the current landscaping to improve public access to Reservation 266, while providing the adjacent property owners the opportunity to beautify and maintain the green space immediately adjacent to their home. In addition, DDOT’s new Open Space Preservation and Enhancement Policy ensures that, moving forward, all permit applications for improvements to triangle parks must not “change the real or implied function of the park as a public open space” and also requires that future applications for improvement to triangle parks be sent to the appropriate ANC for its review and comment prior to permit issuance.

Finally, DDOT intends to propose amendments to Title 24 of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) to modify the current DCMR definition of “public parking” so that it specifically excludes U.S. reservations. The proposed amendments will also further formalize the ANC review process.

DDOT believes that these actions will effectively address ANC 6A’s specific concerns with respect to Reservation 266, while also putting regulatory safeguards in place to ensure that future public space applications to make improvements to triangle parks are reviewed by the community and reflect the historic, park, and open space policies presented in the District’s Comprehensive Plan.

Sincerely,



Matthew T. Brown
Acting Director

cc: Barry Kreiswirth
Chief of Staff, DDOT

Alice Kelly
Branch Manager, DDOT