

ANC 6A Transportation & Public Space Committee Meeting Minutes
Capitol Hill Towers (900 G Street NE)
May 16, 2011

- I. Call meeting to order at 7:05pm without a quorum.
- II. Introductions - ANC 6A Chair David Holmes and Commissioner Drew Ronneberg; Committee member Omar Mahmud (Chair); DPW Director William Howland Jr.; and community members Marie-Claire Brown, Phil Toomajian and Randy Brandt.
- III. Community Comment - None
- IV. New Business
 - A. Discussion with Department of Public Works (DPW) Director William Howland Jr. regarding parking enforcement in ANC 6A, particularly along and near H St. NE
 - i. Mr. Mahmud thanked Director Howland for attending the meeting and presented an overview of the parking and public space concerns raised by community members including the need for effective enforcement and preventing parking on sidewalks.
 - ii. Director Howland provided a brief overview of DPW: About 400 employees issue 1.5 million parking tickets per year, generating about \$70 million of revenue for the District per year. DPW receives about 3000 calls per month requesting more parking enforcement, but it receives the highest number of calls per month for bulk trash pickup. Of the parking enforcement calls, most are for enforcement of residential parking permit (RPP) zones. DPW is trying to get more aggressive about RPP enforcement District wide.
 - iii. DPW is trying a couple new technological improvements: 1) Wireless technology: RPP is difficult to enforce because the car has to be observed twice (i.e. the car's tag number has to be put in the enforcement officer's handheld twice). The handheld won't generate a ticket until the entered tag's time has elapsed. However, on occasion a car may be parked during a time that spans two officer shifts, which means the second officer's handheld does not have the tag information from when the car was first observed by the previous officer. Information about tags does not cross over between crews because handhelds don't communicate with each other. With wireless handhelds, information will be shared between officer handhelds. In addition, with wireless handhelds, people who move cars within zones to avoid being caught parking for more than the allowed time within a RPP zone will have information about their tags transferred to all other enforcement officer handhelds working in that zone, meaning this practice will also be limited. DPW is about a year away from the new wireless handhelds. 2) New license plate recognition technology system on cars: This technology allows parking enforcement cars to drive at normal speeds, enabling them to view about 5,000 - 6,000 vehicles per day which means officers can now cover much more territory. However, DPW is still working on the best way to issue tickets for observed RPP violations (i.e.

- have the monitoring car stop or have it report to another enforcement officer to come issue the ticket).
- iv. The perimeter of RPP zones will remain the same, regardless of whether ward boundaries shift. Director Howland does not see need to change the zones as political boundaries change. He also thinks zones should be smaller, according to neighborhood, not as large as whole wards as they are now.
 - v. Mr. Toomajian asked about enforcement after calling 311 given he hasn't seen enforcement for a day or so on occasion and wonders if this is because of gaps in crew coverage. Howland said this concern should improve with new technology but that DPW enforcement should respond within two hours regardless. Better signs also mean more effective enforcement. Director Howland says his department prefers the zone 6 only parking signs given that the officer only has to come out once to issue a ticket upon observing a non-zone 6 car illegally parked. Director Howland will look into better enforcement for the area.
 - vi. Commissioner Ronneberg indicated he has observed greater parking pressure build after 6pm each evening. During the day it's probably minimal. However, he has noticed officers out ticketing aggressively of late. Director Howland said this meeting is well-timed because he is reviewing beat coverage this Thursday. He didn't realize the nightlife had picked up around H Street so he will take this into consideration during the review.
 - vii. Director Howland will detail a supervisor to monitor the valet parking operations on H Street given people have complained about valets parking in the neighborhood.
 - viii. Commissioner Ronneberg pointed out that people are still parking on sidewalks. He gets the sense that officers don't like ticketing people for parking on sidewalks. Director Howland confirmed enforcement officers should be ticketing for these violations and encouraged us to call 311 to request enforcement.
 - ix. Regarding parking in driveways. Although many times a person's driveway leading to a garage or some other off-street parking is on public space, if the car isn't blocking the sidewalk Director Howland indicated DPW isn't going to issue a ticket. Commissioner Ronneberg expressed an interest in enforcement for any parking in driveways. Officially the rule is you can't park in a driveway if it is on public space. Director Howland also indicated parking in alleys is enforced aggressively. Mr. Mahmud asked about getting the sidewalk parking enforcement increased as well. Director Howland confirmed he will.
 - x. DPW will start documenting issued tickets with pictures of illegally parked cars, which will help lower the challenge rate. Aiming for a 1% challenge rate. Director Howland wants parking enforcement effectiveness similar to that of speed cameras (i.e. offenders get a ticket in the mail with a picture of the infraction, making it harder to challenge). DPW will also include a picture of the windshield so there cannot be a challenge based on having the appropriate

placard or pass displayed. The photo will also force officers to look into the windshield when they issue the ticket.

- xi. Commissioner Ronneberg asked whether pay or bonuses are based on generating tickets. DPW once gave \$1000 bonuses based on ticket generation, but does no longer because of budget constraints. Bonuses worked before in Director Howland's opinion so he would like to reinstitute the bonus structure.
- xii. Parking enforcement sign installation is a DDOT issue. However, street sweeping signs are installed by DPW since DDOT decreased its sign crew due to budget constraints.
- xiii. DPW is currently evaluating whether to make street sweeping mandatory within the entire L'Enfant plan area. That would then include our ANC in the mandatory street sweeping area.
- xiv. Mr. Toomajian indicated he is working on a street sweeping petition right now. Director Howland indicated the street sweeping plan is already budgeted and implemented for this year so nothing will be done to implement street sweeping based on the petition this year. However, Director Howland thinks the ANC should still send along the petition once complete so it can be acted on for next year. Director Howland indicated the ANC can send the petition directly to him.
- xv. Mr. Mahmud mentioned that he has heard from residents that parking enforcement has increased recently and wonders if this is a current initiative. Director Howland confirmed this is not a current initiative, but that we will continue to see more enforcement going forward. He wants to get to 2 million issued tickets per year so our area is in the targeted enforcement area for achieving that goal.
- xvi. Commission Chair Holmes asked about enforcement during weekend church parking. Director Howland confirmed that enforcement on Saturdays and Sundays is targeted to certain areas (e.g. around stadiums) given limited resources that day. However, Director Howland agreed to look into doing something like the special detail he has for Adams Morgan for the H Street area as well.
- xvii. Commissioner Ronneberg reported that a business near the NE corner of 12th and H (not sure which one) is ruining the new sidewalks by dragging greasy garbage out to the corner instead of having commercial trash pickup as is required. Director Howland indicated he will look into this. DPW will give the businesses fair warning then start issuing \$150 tickets for not complying, which go up with each violation (\$300, \$600, \$2000). DPW goes through street trash cans to see if there's identifying information with the garbage in order to identify offenders. DPW will start blitzing this corridor. The idea behind the fines is to make it cheaper for these businesses to obtain commercial trash pickup service than to get tickets.
- xviii. 311 should be called to report graffiti and request removal. Friday is the "great graffiti wipeout" at DPW. Director Howland agreed to email Commission Chair Holmes and Mr. Mahmud the next day, Tuesday to let them know how far DPW

is in the graffiti removal backlog. DPW will even go in and do graffiti cleaning if there is no waiver from the homeowner. However, DPW does not clean graffiti from DDOT installations because DDOT doesn't like the way DPW cleans.

- xix. Mr. Mahmud asked about effective community engagement. Director Howland pointed out the Helping Hands program. Community members can call DPW and request Helping Hands supplies for a neighborhood cleanup day. DPW supplies the bags, rakes, mulch etc. At the end of the day, DPW will come by to pick up the collected garbage. Call 202-673-6833 to get directed to the correct person for this program.
- xx. Mr. Mahmud again thanked Director Howland for attending and providing a great deal of helpful information.

B. Consider letter to DDOT and H Street Connection redevelopment team regarding property ingress along 8th St. NE

- i. Mr. Mahmud introduced neighborhood resident, Randy Brandt, who is interested in getting a letter of support for an 8th St. driveway entrance option at the redeveloped H Street Connection site.
- ii. Mr. Brandt would like developers and DDOT to approve "option two" which moves the driveway a little further from the side of his home, which is directly adjacent to the site. He indicated Councilmember Wells has already sent a letter supporting option two.
- iii. ***Given that option two did not seem to have a substantial impact on the site design or traffic flow, Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the ANC send a letter of support similar to that of Councilmember Wells. Commissioner Ronneberg seconded the motion, which passed without objection.***

C. Review of public space permit application for 1125 H St. NE (Khan's BBQ)

- i. Mr. Mahmud informed the committee this business seeks a dining area on the very wide sidewalk area adjacent to its property. Given that this space is specifically intended to be used for this purpose in H Street plan documents and the streetscape redesign, Mr. Mahmud endorses the use.
- ii. Mr. Mahmud showed the application and plan drawings provided by the applicant, which everyone in attendance viewed favorably.
- iii. ***Mr. Mahmud made a motion that the ANC send a letter of support for the application to DDOT. Commission Chair Holmes seconded the motion, which passed without objection.***

V. Old Business

- A. Follow up regarding request to make information related to public space usage requests available on the ANC website (i.e. modeled on the new construction guidance provided by the ANC's Economic Development and Zoning Committee)
 - i. Commissioner Ronneberg agreed to send Mr. Mahmud his committee's guidelines for zoning. Commission Chair Holmes suggested the committee look at the public space guidelines for ANC 6B on Norm Metzger's website.

VI. Additional Community Comment - None

VII. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm