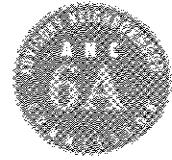


District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
Box 75115  
Washington, DC 20013



October 29, 2007

Ms. Harriet Tregoning  
Director  
Office of Planning  
901 N. Capitol St. NE  
Washington, DC 20002.

Ms. Tregoning:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on October 11, 2007, our Commission voted unanimously (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request the Office of Planning (OP) initiate a process to revise the H Street Design Guidelines.

The Design Guidelines have been a crucial factor in improving the quality of designs for proposed projects on H Street NE, but they are silent on many of the characteristics of the surrounding architecture. Revising the guidelines will better define H Street's architectural context and insure that future developments are compatible with existing buildings. Examples where the Design Guidelines could be improved include:

1. In the 600H BZA case and 200H ZC Case, the community groups requested the architect emphasize vertical elements in their designs because verticality is a crucial component of the architectural vocabulary of H Street NE. We believe the Design Guidelines should be amended to emphasize verticality for new buildings within the Overlay.
2. Although community groups have encouraged applicants to reflect the architectural context of surrounding buildings in their designs, the Guidelines do not explicitly call for this approach.
3. The use of certain materials like stucco and undifferentiated glass paneling are permitted by the Design Guidelines but are not part of the existing architecture context. We believe that OP should consider revising the Guidelines to eliminate facades that utilize stucco and undifferentiated glass.
4. Balconies (interior or exterior) are not part of the architectural fabric of H Street NE and the Design Guidelines do not address them. The 600H project incorporated interior and exterior balconies that some residents considered inappropriate for H Street. We request that OP solicit community feedback to determine if balconies are appropriate for H Street, and if it finds that they are appropriate, determine what standards should be incorporated in the Design Guidelines.

ANC 6A requests the Office of Planning initiate a process that allows input from the affected ANCs, other community groups, developers (e.g. Abdo) and architecture firms (e.g. Torti Gallis, Phillip Esocoff, David Bell) who can help define H Street's architectural context and develop improved Design Guidelines that will allow H Street to continue to develop in a manner that preserves its unique charm. If you have any questions, please contact Terres (Drew) Ronneberg at [ronneberg6a02@gmail.com](mailto:ronneberg6a02@gmail.com) or (202) 431-4305. We would welcome a response to our request by November 30, 2007.

On Behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc. Travis Parker, Office of Planning  
Jeff Davis, Office of Planning