

#12

Re: OGB 07-261, 1680 Wisconsin Avenue, Long and Foster Garages
Letter from owners of 14 neighboring properties requesting that
garage doors be re-installed

September 21, 2007

We the undersigned are the residents that live adjacent to the alley that is located between Reservoir and R Streets and Wisconsin and 34th Street. We share this alley with Long & Foster, the owner of a large 1950's parking garage that fronts on the alley and is almost half its length or 13 bays long. We are requesting that the ANC recommend that Long & Foster, as part of their process of rebuilding this structure, replace the garage doors that existed historically, thereby restoring the residential character, and providing a much needed safety measure for this public way.

This is a very active public alleyway. Most residents use the alley on a daily basis to access parking, put out garbage and recycling and to walk with children or dogs. We also have direct views from the back and side windows to the alley. Long & Foster business activities and lease holders in their building also bring a lot of foot and auto traffic.

We appreciate that Long & Foster has met with representatives of the neighborhood to iron out some of the concerns that we have had for years, concerns about the derelict impression our neighborhood makes. Trash, weeds, and occasionally the homeless, have made their home in these spaces. At night, the unshielded fluorescent in the garages are so bright, they flood our gardens and our rooms with garish light. About a year ago, Long & Foster became aware that the garage walls were subsiding; they cordoned them off, for months, with police yellow tape. The neighborhood has been patient during the closings/blocking of the alley to facilitate reconstruction. This has gone on for over a year and the garages, today, still stand unfinished and unsightly.

Our understanding is that Long & Foster has completed the necessary steps to make the garages structurally sound. They are now seeking a permit to fix the roof and supplement the gutter system to eliminate standing water that is a mosquito breeding ground. This is routine and necessary maintenance and upgrading of their property, and it will benefit the neighborhood. They have also committed to placing shields and motion detectors on the existing fixtures to eliminate light pollution and to installing residential-scale accent lighting on the facade. We appreciate Long & Foster's cooperation with the community on these points.

We believe there is one important additional step that should be taken: re-installing garage doors, to return the garages to their historically correct appearance and function. If garage doors were installed, Long & Foster could open all or some of the garages doors with a click of a button(s) at opening of business and at the end of the business day. Closing the doors at night would both look much better and address the security concerns of the neighborhood.

It is our hope that Long & Foster will recognize that putting back the garage doors is the appropriate thing to do to restore the residential character and the safety of the street and that the ANC will support our request. As realtors, Long & Foster well knows that these improvements will build upon their investment and pay back in good will and financial return for years to come.

Thank you for your attention,

Sam G. & Hillebrand J Kaper 3335 Reservoir Rd
Mark & Julia Cross 3206 R St.
Mirella & Daniel Levine 3304 R. Street, NW.
Julian Roby 3310 R Street NW
Kaye McLean 3337 Reservoir Rd.
John 3337 Reservoir Rd NW.
Anne & George Colby 3341 Reservoir Rd NW

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Thank you for your attention,

Stephani Bothwell James Warner 3331 Reservoir
Carter Stewart
3333 Reservoir Rd NW

Anna Burnquist + Eric Burnquist
3329 Reservoir Rd NW

Kelly Cole + Will Dobson (Kelly Mc Wh R))
3325 Reservoir Rd NW

Katy Roth / Charles Weston
3327 Reservoir Rd NW

Michael Ivy Pascal (man)
3323 Reservoir Rd NW

Washington DC 20007

Holly H. Cicero 3318 R St. NW
RWC 332 R. St. NW

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Shigeko Koshi

3308 R Street