



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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October 4, 2023

Mr. H. Alan Brangman, Chairman, and Members of the Board
Old Georgetown Board
401 F Street NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Brangman and Members of the Board:

On October 2, 2023 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following positions on matters scheduled for consideration by the Old Georgetown Board on October 5, 2023:

With regard to OG 23-348 (HPA 23-555) Curb Lane of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E appreciates the Georgetown Business Improvement District's (BID) action to continue the sidewalk extension and streateries pilot ("pilot"). Previous resolutions, some passed during the height of the pandemic by the ANC, recognized that the pilot has contributed greatly to the vibrancy and economic activity of the commercial corridors. The ANC is today weighing in specifically on the BID's application of the pilot's continuation for another two years.

The pilot has drawn a strong reaction as evidenced by a survey showing solid support and also a widespread petition opposing the pilot's continuation without measurable commitments and goals to improve and change existing operations.

ANC 2E agrees with the sentiment that the pilot is worth continuing and further agrees that short, medium, and long-term improvements must be made. The improvements must address ongoing concerns relating to: aesthetics and quality of materials used, consistency with the historic district, impacts to traffic circulation, consistent year-round usage, maintenance (including sanitation and aesthetics), commercial delivery and trash-collection management, and pedestrian and cyclist safety.

The BID's justification for the longer term is that addressing these concerns – particularly the aesthetic ones – will require longer term planning, financing, and government approval than a single year extension provides. In order to address concerns about the requested permit's length,

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Topher Mathews, District 2 Paul Maysak, District 3
Joe Massaua, District 4 Mimsy Lindner, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Daniel Chao, District 7 John DiPierri, District 8

the BID has set forth a series of promised milestones targeting these areas of concern. The milestones have target dates for significant improvements throughout the term.

Weighing the justifications for the longer term against the concerns over granting such a lengthy extension, ANC 2E concludes that it is comfortable with a two year extension based upon the applicant's proposed milestones. If the permit is granted, the ANC will be meeting regularly with the staff of the BID in order to further the goal of addressing the issues described above and ensuring that the BID meets the promised milestone schedule. Furthermore, the ANC will work with the city to incorporate the recommendations of the ongoing Georgetown Transportation Access and Circulation Study and ensure that the pilot conforms to those recommendations. The ANC is confident that through a cooperative approach we can achieve the goals expressed overwhelmingly by the community: to keep the best parts of the pilot and bring crucial improvements to each area of concern.

ANC 2E therefore supports the BID's application to continue its pilot.

With regard to SMD 2E02 - OG 23-350 (HPA 23-557) 1729 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E welcomes the redevelopment of 1729 Wisconsin Avenue NW. This property has been vacant for nearly ten years. During that time the property has fallen into increasingly poor shape and has become an attractive nuisance to groups of teenagers doing what teenagers do in and around vacant buildings. Restoring the building and introducing a new permanent tenant will go a long way towards improving the current situation.

That said, ANC 2E shares the concerns over the rooftop patio expressed by the neighbors along S Street NW. The ANC has long expressed an aversion to roof decks due to their potential negative impacts to neighbors' peace and privacy. However, a rooftop space may be acceptable in this case if it were entirely oriented towards Wisconsin Avenue NW with sufficient sound and visual barriers to the east. The ANC looks forward to seeing the plans evolve for this project and, most of all, for the current situation to come to an end as soon as possible.

With regard to SMD 2E03 - OG 23-345 (HPA 23-552) 1316 34th Street, NW:

ANC 2E thanks the applicants for sharing the plans and given the fact that there are no objections from the neighbors, the ANC supports the homeowners' efforts to improve their home per the presented plans and stay in the neighborhood.

With regard to SMD 2E03 - OG 23-326 (HPA 23-533) 3265 Prospect Street, NW:

ANC 2E does not support the mural and trusts that the applicants will rescind their application.

With regard to SMD 2E03 - OG 23-325 (HPA 23-532) 3265 Prospect Street, NW:

ANC 2E asks the Old Georgetown Board to review the plans carefully in order to reach the board's own conclusions. The ANC has no objection to the striped awnings.

With regard to SMD 2E05 - OG 23-341 (HPA 23-548) K Street at 29th Street, NW:

The Georgetown Gateways Project was conceived over ten years ago during the Georgetown 2028 community planning process. In response to residents' desire for some sort of "sense of arrival" to Georgetown's historic district, this gateway sign was designed and is finally here. ANC 2E applauds the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) for all its hard work and persistence in getting one step closer to recognizing K Street NW as an important gateway into Georgetown. The ANC supports the application for the "GEORGETOWN" lettering and painted words "WATERFRONT," a sign to be installed so that visitors can be welcomed to Georgetown's K Street NW corridor appropriately.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gwendolyn Lohse". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Gwendolyn Lohse
Chair, ANC 2E