



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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December 4, 2024

Sharon Kershbaum
Director
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20004
Sharon.Kershbaum@dc.gov

RE: The District Department of Transportation Proposed Permanent Streatery Guidelines

Dear Director Kershbaum,

On December 2, 2024 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

Streateries can add vibrancy to our outdoor areas. To do so, the city program must be updated for a non-COVID environment that takes neighborhood character, safety, and public health into consideration. ANC 2E urges the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the Public Space Committee (PSC) to make the following changes to the proposed draft cityside Streatery Guidelines that will be reviewed by PSC on December 5th, 2024:

- Overhead Structures: In Section 4.3, the draft guidelines support use of overhead structures. This option should be removed. ANC 2E strongly opposes use of any overhead structures beyond umbrellas. Washington's historic streetscapes, including that of Georgetown's federally designated historic district, are a national treasure that people from all over the world come to visit. Our city guidelines should be honoring our streetscapes, not obstructing their view. Moreover, visuals of neighboring properties should not be obstructed.
- Maintenance and Enforcement: In Section 5.3, there is a very minimal mention of maintenance and enforcement, which primarily relies upon the applicants own oversight. Based on nearly four years of experience, it is essential the city enforcement be more

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proactive and what will occur if guidelines are not met and how many random inspections per year will occur including in Business Improvement District (BID) managed corridors. Key among expectations should be public health considerations given the rodent issue in many commercial areas, and safety of pedestrians who walk in and around streateries. This program must complement other programs, and thus enforcement needs to occur.

This program must complement how we are spending out other city resources. Our city resources are being devoted to addressing blighted and vacant properties throughout our area and around the city. This DDOT program should not add to the city's streetscape issues, but improve them. We especially urge that the space under any platforms have strict cleaning schedules given rodents, and streateries not be located too close to signaled intersections, crosswalks, bus stops, or driveway/alleys (see Section 3.4). Currently, violations are occurring and no enforcement is being conducted.

- Vacant Streateries: The guidelines were created for active, busy streateries at which people are enjoying socialization, food and the outdoors. Nowhere in the draft guidelines is an overview of how city requirements regarding the removal (and/or upkeep) of vacant streateries. Section 5.3 should be updated to address this issue or a new section should be added. The city should be clear that if a streaterie is not used and is left vacant for more than three months due to a closure, building sale, etc, that the streaterie should be removed. A new tenant can re-apply for the streaterie and have it replaced. Should the streaterie be located within a BID or Main Street permit, the streaterie upkeep must be paid by that BID or Main Street, or removed.
- Testing Modular Options: ANC 2E understands and appreciates why the streateries are modular, meaning moveable. Specifically, many of the streateries (independent and BID/Main Street sponsored) are located on streets that will be undergoing analysis for transportation changes such as loading/unloading needs, bus lanes, bike lanes, parking improvements, greenery space, etc. Section 4.2 of the draft guidelines should note why the modular needs exist. The draft guidelines – in Section 5.4 – should commit DDOT and PSC to update the guidelines and city should new and improved designs be created and approved by DDOT. Lessons learned should be shared given the amount of visible public space this program is using. Currently our historic village has had Jersey barriers surrounding many buildings for years and we are actively engaged in promoting alternative modular designs.
- Independent Applications in Commercial Areas: Some establishments located in commercial areas with BIDs are better maintained than those restaurants on the BID permit. Should an establishment in a BID area wish to apply for an independent permit, the guidelines should permit such. Every establishment is already paying Georgetown Business Improvement District (GBID) a tax, which is used for GBID to meet its

recognized, regulated mission, paying fees for the streateries is optional. It is unclear if the \$20 a sq foot the city will charge versus the \$9 sq ft plus 10% of revenue/sales that GBID charges is more; businesses should have the option to decide for themselves.

- Financial Transparency: Financials related to BID or Main Street use of large public space areas under these guidelines, including fees charged to establishments, should be transparent and annual filings submitted to the city should be available to the public.
- ANC Role: The guidelines should clarify the ANC role in helping to address concerns both with independent streateries and streateries that are under a BID or Main Street permit. This addition can be located in Section 5.3 Enforcement and Maintenance.

ANC 2E looks forward to working with the District Department of Transportation, the Public Space Committee, the Georgetown Business Improvement District, and the Old Georgetown Board on how to ensure the city's streateries guidelines add to our community.

Commissioner Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwendolyn Lohse', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Gwendolyn Lohse
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Chair Garrett, Public Space Committee, District Department of Transportation
Kimberly Vacca, Public Space Activation Coordinator, District Department of Transportation
Courtney Williams City-Wide Permit Manager, District Department of Transportation
H. Alan Brangman, Chair, Old Georgetown Board
Joe Sternlieb, CEO & President, Georgetown Business Improvement District
Brittany Sawyer, Executive Director, Citizens Association of Georgetown
Stephanie Bothwell, Chair of Urban Landscape Committee, Citizens Association of Georgetown