



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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January 8, 2025

Timothy Spriggs
Director
Department of Public Works
899 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002
Timothy.Spriggs@dc.gov

RE: Resolution Regarding Improvement to DPW Leaf Collection Process

Dear Director Spriggs,

On January 6, 2025 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 resolution by a vote of (8-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) exist to bring “government closer to the people and to bring the people closer to government.”

A smooth leaf collection process is essential to keeping our streets and sidewalks safe and ensuring our drainage/sewer systems are not blocked. The Department of Public Works (DPW) efforts to improve the leaf collection process over the past few years has yielded results. This said, based on our community’s experience with the FY 25 First Pass collection (Nov-Dec 2024), ANC 2E urges DPW to make the following improvements to the FY 25 Second Pass (Jan-Feb 2025) and FY26:

1. ***Integrate and prioritize timely pickups of leaves in brown paper bags into the leaf collection process, rather than relying on residents to call 3-1-1.*** Many residents follow city rules to use paper bags and cannot collect their leaves without using the bags because: a) they have to carry the leaves through their attached hometown, or b) piles of unbagged leaves will blow away/ if left on the street or tree boxes unbagged for days/ weeks while waiting for city pick up, thus making sidewalks/roads unsafe, and drainage system blocked. Note: The city instructs residents to place the leaves in paper bags, and many of our constituents were told in Nov/early Dec it would be 3-4 weeks until bag pick-up was available; by then the bags would be broken and leaves scattered. Moreover, some initial city messaging stated that

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Kishan Putta, District 1	Topher Mathews, District 2	Paul Maysak, District 3
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bagged leaves would be picked up. *Let's support those residents who are using recyclable paper bags for leaf collection by picking the bags up in a timely and organized manner!*

2. ***Ensure the leaf vacuum team is capable of and understands to vacuum up all leaves on curb and tree boxes.*** In multiple places, residents were told the vacuum could not reach the tree box due to cars/bikes or that leaves on the curb had to be in tree boxes to be vacuumed, or, leaves taken out of paper bags when vacuum trucks arrived would have to wait until Second Pass. However, city policy said use of both curb and tree box were acceptable, even knowing bikes and cars sit on our sidewalks and roads. *Let's ensure the city's collection team has the tools and information they need to vacuum up those leaves properly collected by residents!*
3. ***Have tools and staff capable of accounting for misses or delays.*** Understandably, some spots, which were ready on time, will be missed or delays will occur with pick-up. Therefore, it is best for all if the DPW process preemptively incorporates some level of on-the-ground staff time to address the misses, and for the public Leaf Tracker website to accurately reflect missed spots or delays. Alternatively, residents do not trust the timeframes given to them by the city and collection staff feel overburdened. *Let's ensure staff and the tracking system reflect on-the-ground reality.*

Our community needs the DPW trucks to come back through Georgetown as soon as possible. ANC 2E has asked to meet with DPW regarding the above requests given the importance of this city service, and DPW's demonstrated commitment to improvement.

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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gwendolyn Lohse" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gwendolyn Lohse
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Brooke Pinto, Councilmember, Ward 2

Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director, Councilmember Brooke Pinto's Office

Tadai Abella, Ward 2 Manager, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services

Robert Butler, Public Affairs Specialist, DPW

Ariel Ardura, Committee Director, Council Committee of Public Works and Operations