



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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September 12, 2025

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

RE: DDOT's Mt. Zion and Female Union Band Society Cemeteries "Drainage Project"

Dear Director Kershbaum,

On September 2, 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:

Mt. Zion and Female Union Band Society Cemeteries, located near the corner of 27th and Q Streets NW, are the oldest Black cemeteries in the District of Columbia, dating back to 1808. The District of Columbia recognized a pressing need to preserve the cemetery from the threat of recurring stormwater flooding after rainstorms and \$1.6 million in funds were approved as part of the FY '23 budget for DDOT to plan and construct a stormwater management project to prevent incidents of mass floods. As well, the restoration of the historic Lyon Mill Road into a trail was also included in this budgeted work.

Unfortunately, although the stormwater infrastructure improvements have been completed in design, this project's construction date has been pushed back at least three times. We understand that DDOT plans to begin its construction phase in the fall of this year.

We are writing to respectfully request the scheduled date for DDOT to begin this shovel ready project so that the local streets (Q, 27th, Mill Road) would no longer direct water to enter these historic cemeteries and further erode this historic treasure.

As the design of the water infrastructure improvements is complete, what would DDOT do next to begin the construction phase and when will adjacent neighbors receive notification of the work to be done?

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1	Topher Mathews, District 2	Paul Maysak, District 3
Peter Sloniewsky, District 4	Mimsy Lindner, District 5	Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Daniel Chao, District 7	Knox Graham, District 8	

ANC 2E also respectfully requests a representative from DDOT to brief ANC 2E and community members at our next ANC meeting scheduled for September 29th at 6:30 pm, where our community members can receive an update and learn more about DDOT's progress towards this project.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse and Daniel Chao are the Commission's representatives 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: Lisa Fager, Executive Director of Mt Zion and Female Union Band Society Cemeteries
Charles Allen, Councilmember
Brooke Pinto, Councilmember
Brian Romanowski, Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Pinto
Christophe Wasserman, Ward 2 Liaison for the District Department of Transportation
Aly Kaba, Director of the Mayor's Office of African Affairs