



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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May 5, 2026

Chairwoman, and Members of the Board
Old Georgetown Board
401 F Street NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairwoman Lanzillotta and Members of the Board:

On May 4, 2026 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by five commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting, the Commission adopted the following positions on matters scheduled for consideration by the Old Georgetown Board on May 7, 2026:

OG 26-213 (HPA 26-249) 1600 Block of 28th Street, Northwest (Square 1284)

This applicant appeared in front of ANC 2E during our October of 2025 monthly meeting but withdrew their application shortly after and has yet to appear in front of the Old Georgetown Board.

ANC 2E's previous resolution expressed numerous objections and concerns relating to the correct assessment of property line, the disruption of the proposed wall to the historic and pristine streetscape, erroneous scale of the proposed retaining wall in relation to the actual footprint, material details, to name a few.

The applicant since October received and reviewed the ANC's and immediate neighbors' comments and found a way to relocate the retaining wall on the southern end of the same block, adjacent to their existing metal box and utility station and also significantly reduce the footprint of their existing utility station. This new proposal has been very well received by residents and our ANC and we thank them as we recognize the drastic improvements in the new proposal. We have been told by the applicant that despite our preference, it would be impossible to meet the federal guidelines without building this retaining wall above ground.

Despite much progress, the ANC wishes to flag for the OGB our remaining concerns and suggestions to improve:

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

The final design should anticipate and reduce long term maintenance and staffing costs that the City will encounter and not attract nuisance. A person should not be able to effortlessly grab onto an edge and climb up and over the structure, since it will immediately grant someone easy access to private property. Nor should anyone easily mark, graffiti, or deface the wall and structures and attach flyers or toss trash onto the specific site and structures.

Because we do not have a sectional accompanying the application, it is difficult to understand where exactly the wall begins and ends and where the landing pad sits in proximity to the wall. The exact location of the proposed wall in proximity to private property along the slope of this block is still unclear and based on the information provided we cannot rule out not only that the wall will not be built on private property, but that the planning and construction phase would not disturb the adjacent private property due to the legal requirements of an existing conservation easement.

We urge the use of a registered landscape architect to incorporate solutions that would use strategically planted vegetation to hide and disguise the retaining wall, the landing pad and metal utility boxes as much as possible. The landscape architect would provide specific solutions for soil retention, planting and maintenance that would be incorporated in a sectional, which has not been provided despite our repeated asks. If iron fencing must be used, it must be consistent with nearby properties (e.g., Oak Hill Cemetery and other residences). We ask the applicant to consider ways to conceal the wall to the maximum extent allowed.

Significant progress has been made since a few months ago and we are confident that the applicant intends to and will continue to make improvements. ANC 2E looks forward to continuing our direct engagement with the applicant and neighbors to help finalize a project that meets the standard of the neighborhood and the Old Georgetown Board.

Commissioners Topher Mathews (2E02@anc.dc.gov) and Daniel Chao (2E07@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Topher Mathews', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Topher Mathews