



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

3265 S Street, NW • Washington, DC 20007

(202) 724-7098 • anc2e@dc.gov

February 8, 2022

Director Ernest Chrappah
Director
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
1100 4th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
Ernest.Chrappah@dc.gov

Mr. David Maloney
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Planning
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite 650 East
Washington, DC 20024
david.maloney@dc.gov

Mr. Matthew Marcou
Associate Director, Public Space Regulation Division
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20004
matthew.marcou@dc.gov

RE: Lack of Enforcement of Signage Regulations in Georgetown

Dear Director Chrappah, Mr. Maloney, and Mr. Marcou,

On January 31, 2022 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

At its regularly scheduled public meeting held on October 4, 2021, the members of ANC 2E expressed their frustration with the proliferation of illegal neon signs in storefronts and windows within the Georgetown Historic District and called upon the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and the Historic Preservation Office (HPO) to vigorously enforce the regulations and guidelines that govern signage in Georgetown (Exhibit A). In the four months that have passed since that resolution was adopted no discernible enforcement activity has been undertaken by the responsible agencies. During the same period:

1. the number of illegal freestanding “A-frame” signs cluttering the sidewalks and adjacent public space in Georgetown has increased, and
2. numerous signs attached to street poles in violation of DC regulations have remained in place. Neither neon signs nor signs on street poles that do not comply

COMMISSIONERS:

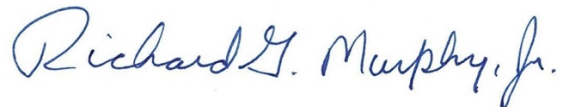
Kishan Putta, District 1 Jenny Mitchell, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7

with long established rules are legal or appropriate in our community, and the free-standing signs on Georgetown's historic sidewalks and adjacent public space are particularly hazardous for pedestrians in general and individuals with mobility challenges in particular.

ANC 2E hereby reaffirms, as forcefully as possible, its request that the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, the Public Space Regulation Division of the District Department of Transportation, and the Historic Preservation Office commence vigorous enforcement of all of the regulations and guidelines that apply to signs in the Georgetown Historic District.

Commissioner Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
Joe Sternlieb, CEO and President, Georgetown BID
Rachel Shank, Executive Director, Georgetown Main Street

Exhibit A

**ANC 2E's October 4, 2021 Resolution
Regarding Neon Lights in Windows in
the Georgetown Historic District**



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October 11, 2021

Mr. Ernest Chrappah
Director
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
1100 4th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
Ernest.Chrappah@dc.gov

Mr. David Maloney
State Historic Preservation Officer
Historic Preservation Office
1100 4th Street SW, Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024
david.maloney@dc.gov

RE: Neon Lights in Windows in the Georgetown Historic District

Dear Director Chrappah and Mr. Maloney,

On October 4, 2021 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E has been frustrated by the proliferation of neon lights in windows of businesses within the Georgetown Historic District. Per Historic Preservation Office (HPO) sign guidelines as well as Old Georgetown Board (OGB) design guidelines for commercial signage, neon signs are not appropriate in the historic district. ANC 2E calls upon the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and HPO to vigorously enforce these guidelines immediately.

Commissioners Lisa Palmer (2E05@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Jenny Mitchell, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

CC: Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts
Joe Sternlieb, CEO and President, Georgetown BID
Rachel Shank, Executive Director, Georgetown Main Street