



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale
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June 1, 2022

Mr. H. Alan Brangman, Chairman, and Members of the Board
Old Georgetown Board
401 F Street NW, Suite 312
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Chairman Brangman and Members of the Board:

On May 31, 2022 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 June 2, 2022:

With regard to SMD 2E08 - OG 22-189 (HPA 22-320) 3700 O Street, NW:

ANC 2E supports the concept design for two new Georgetown University residential buildings that will replace Henle Village in order to accommodate more students on campus.

With regard to SMD 2E02 - OG 22-127 (HPA 22-220) 1669-1671 Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E is adamantly opposed to the current proposal at 1669-1671 Wisconsin Avenue NW. The structure and design of the project is out of scale and scope for Georgetown. The structure is approximately three times the size of existing properties. The project obstructs views from many residents on Reservoir Road NW and obstructs natural light for 1667 Wisconsin Avenue NW.

With regard to SMD 2E03 - OG 22-182 (HPA 22-313) 1524 33rd Street, NW:

ANC 2E notes that this is a very significant project that would substantially alter the look and feel of the 3300 block of Volta Place NW by introducing a large two-unit structure to the streetscape. The ANC encourages the members of the Old Georgetown Board and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts to carefully consider the impact that the construction of such a large project would have on the character of the surrounding historic neighborhood.

With regard to SMD 2E05 - OG 22-186 (HPA 22-317) 1023 31st Street, NW:

ANC 2E echoes the aesthetic concerns shared by the Citizens Association of Georgetown. Furthermore, the ANC notes that the 1000 block of 31st Street NW is notoriously difficult from a

COMMISSIONERS:

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transportation perspective. There are multiple conflicting uses of both the roadway and the curbside due to the heavy commercial use combined with residential use. Furthermore, the 1000 block of 31st Street NW is frequently used as a cut through from K Street to M Street NW, and vice versa, when Wisconsin Avenue NW is backed up. As a result, the block is frequently dead stopped with traffic, forcing large delivery and dump trucks to back up or down the street in order to allow for cars to pass.

This information is relevant to this Old Georgetown Board application because ANC 2E is highly concerned about the traffic impacts of a hotel with no off-street ability to load and unload guests, goods, or employees. Blocking a portion of the curb lane for such use is not tenable; the ANC sees the impact of this attempt for a solution to these traffic impacts just up the block where the Rosewood Hotel has similar conditions and the loading and unloading at that hotel is a significant contributor to the traffic issues on this block. It is difficult for the ANC to see how another hotel on the block with no off-street loading and unloading would not cause serious poor livability implications for the neighborhood.

With regard to SMD 2E07 - OG 22-185 (HPA 22-316) 1665 Avon Place, NW:

ANC 2E is generally supportive of the concept to add two new houses and retain the contributing house. However, based on neighbor concerns, the ANC requests that the Old Georgetown Board pays careful attention to the height of the front additions and the length of the rear additions. The ANC is very supportive of the reduction in size of the brick wall in the rear of the houses from twelve feet to seven feet. The ANC thanks the Citizens Association of Georgetown, the architect Christian Zapatka, and the neighbors for collaborating and encourages the continued conversation.

With regard to OG 22-188 (HPA 22-319) Curb Lane of M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, NW:

ANC 2E supported this pilot due to the COVID health emergency. Since June 2020, the ANC has issued multiple resolutions and letters to city agencies and the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) stating that the ANC's support for the pilot was given in response to a permit requested under a temporary emergency response measure.

ANC 2E continues to believe, and hereby reiterates, that the aesthetics of the sidewalk widening are unappealing and inappropriate in a federally designated historic district. The cement barriers and plastic decking are non-contributing to the historic look and create an eye sore for residents and visitors alike.

ANC 2E urges OGB to serve as Georgetown's aesthetic shepherd. The widened sidewalk pilot detracts from the historic nature of Georgetown and cheapens the look and feel of our village. The ANC continues to repeat our 2021 request made to the Georgetown BID, OGB, and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) that widened sidewalks only be used for dining; safe, barricaded platforms along M Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW have allowed for dining during the pandemic.

ANC 2E does acknowledge that there is a lack of guidelines for streateries located in Georgetown, which is a federally designated historic district. Streateries are a separate project with a separate application and permit process. The lack of guidelines for streateries has been adding to the inappropriate aesthetic nature of the widened sidewalk pilot. The ANC understands that the city is drafting guidelines for permanent streateries. The ANC also understands that the Georgetown BID intends to keep its commitment to work on the aesthetics of both its widened sidewalks and its streateries.

ANC 2E has no knowledge of the city or the Georgetown BID's efforts at this time. The ANC looks forward to reviewing what is created by the city and the Georgetown BID. The ANC has learned a lot from this pilot and very much looks forward to working with OGB, the Georgetown BID, and DDOT to develop new concepts that support the ability to dine outside in Georgetown.

Under current conditions, it is ANC 2E's expectation that the widened sidewalk pilot will end in December 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LP', written over a faint horizontal line.

Lisa Palmer
Vice Chair, ANC 2E