



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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May 4, 2021

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Deputy Mayor Lucinda Babers
Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite C-06
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lucinda.babers@dc.gov

RE: The District Department of Transportation's Change in Policy Concerning Projects in the Old Georgetown Historic District

Dear Mayor Bowser and Deputy Mayor Babers,

On May 3, 2021 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

The members of ANC 2E are dismayed and disappointed by the decision taken by the leadership of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to abruptly and unilaterally end DDOT's longstanding practice of cooperating with ANC 2E, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), and the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) when making decisions that affect the appearance of the federally protected Old Georgetown Historic District.

Over the course of the last 70 years, OGB has regularly reviewed DDOT's work in Old Georgetown when that work involves changes to the existing historic fabric. Recent examples of such review include: the restoration of pavement and trolley rails on O Street and P Street NW in west Georgetown, the restoration of the Key Bridge, green infrastructure installations in streets and alleys, bus shelter installations, and tree box protections.

Notwithstanding this longstanding practice, on March 23, 2021, DDOT delivered a memorandum to Thomas Luebke, Secretary of CFA and OGB, and Rick Murphy, Chair of ANC 2E, announcing DDOT's decision to use Porous Flexible Pavement (PFP), a flexible construction material composed of recycled vehicle tires and aggregate, to repair brick sidewalks damaged by root expansion in the historic district. In response to

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

inquiries from ANC 2E, DDOT confirmed that it was not seeking input concerning its decision from either ANC 2E or OGB.

Seven days later, at its regularly scheduled public meeting, ANC 2E voted unanimously to ask DDOT to engage in dialogue with interested stakeholders before proceeding with its plan. Although DDOT representatives have since met separately, but informally, with members of ANC 2E and CFA and OGB staff, DDOT has not changed its timetable, and has steadfastly refused to engage in a meaningful discussion of its decision, much less to submit the decision, which will have a significant impact on the appearance of Georgetown, to OGB for review and approval. DDOT has flatly denied requests from both ANC 2E and OGB to briefly delay PFP installation and has formally notified the three ANC commissioners in whose districts PFP will be used that installation will begin as soon as Wednesday, May 5, 2021.

With the above as background, ANC 2E respectfully urges Mayor Muriel Bowser and Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure Lucinda Babers to direct DDOT to:

- 1) return to its historic policy of consulting with CFA and OGB, the federal agency charged with responsibility for preserving the appearance of the Old Georgetown Historic District, when making decisions, like the decision to patch sidewalks with PFP, that affect the appearance of Georgetown, and
- 2) delay implementation of its plan to install PFP until there has been an opportunity for a meaningful discussion of how best to maintain the safety, accessibility, and appearance of sidewalks in the federally protected historic district with CFA, OGB, ANC 2E, and the community.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E