



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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October 11, 2022

Mr. Delano Hunter
Director
Department of Parks and Recreation
1275 First Street NE, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
delano.hunter@dc.gov

Mr. Keith Anderson
Director
Department of General Services
2000 14th Street NW, 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20009
Keith.Anderson@dc.gov

RE: Requested Study of Pickle Ball Feasibility

Dear Director Hunter and Director Anderson,

On October 3, 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:

According to a 2022 report from the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), there are over 4.8 million pickleball players, or “picklers” in the United States. Pickleball, often described as a combination of tennis, ping pong, and badminton, grew nearly 40% between 2019 and 2021, making it America’s fastest-growing sport.

According to Scott Parker, DC Pickleball Ambassador for USA Pickleball, DC had about 120 picklers in October 2019 and the current number stands at 600 and counting.

When it comes to pickleball and where to play, the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is working hard to add courts around the city. However, places to play, especially in locations where pickleball lines have been painted onto existing tennis courts or where pickleball-specific courts exist, are in very high demand and with pickleball popularity increasing daily the city should begin to take action to increase the number of courts available.

ANC 2E suggests the following **short-term** goals:

- 1) Assess all current tennis courts to determine if pickleball lines can be added.
- 2) Assess all current gymnasiums to determine if pickleball lines can be added.
- 3) Assess all current basketball courts to determine if pickleball lines can be added.

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

- 4) Assess all current capital projects to determine if pickleball courts can be added.

ANC 2E requests that the above assessments be made public in a short report available on DPR's website.

ANC 2E suggests the following **long-term** goals:

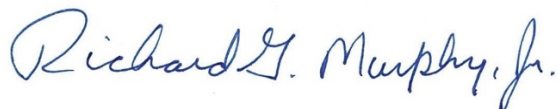
- 1) Undertake a large-scale *Pickleball Study* to investigate various aspects of indoor and outdoor pickleball facilities in Washington, DC. Identify locations and preferred designs and engage stakeholders to determine how to expand pickleball play in our city.
- 2) Hire a pickleball pro at DPR to help oversee the expansion of the sport.
- 3) Begin to investigate a "Pickleplex" similar to Pickleballerz in Chantilly, VA.

The New York Times recently ran a story on pickleball in which they wrote, "while 50% of people quit exercising six months after starting, research shows that picklers keep coming back to the court again and again, primarily because the game is so social. Pickleball can also improve your well-being: According to another study of picklers age 50 and older, those who were more serious about the sport tended to be more satisfied with their lives."

There is no question that there will be scrambling to accommodate pickleball's popularity and a short-term band-aid approach to finding pickleball courts is necessary. However, DPR and the Department of General Services (DGS) should begin to take a wholistic approach on how to accommodate this fast-growing sport. ANC 2E looks forward to partnering with DPR and DGS to bring more pickleball to our village and to our city.

Commissioners Elizabeth Miller (2E07@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