



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

March 8, 2023

Mr. Timothy Spriggs
Acting Director
Department of Public Works
2000 14th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009
timothy.spriggs@dc.gov

RE: Leaf Collection

Dear Director Spriggs,

On February 27, 2023 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E is reaching out to express concern about the timing, communication, and execution of the DC's leaf collection program.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) exist to bring "government closer to the people and to bring the people closer to government." To that end, ANC 2E works hard to communicate DC Government policy and programs to our neighbors via community listservs, newsletters, and media.

Last fall, ANC 2E used all outlets available to make our constituents aware of DC's leaf collection program. The ANC posted to our local listservs, newsletters, and media requesting that residents rake leaves into tree boxes in late November. As you are likely aware, the Department of Public Works (DPW) was scheduled to remove the accumulated leaves here in Georgetown and Burleith between November 28th and December 3rd. However, DPW staff did not begin collecting our piles of leaves until late December, weeks behind schedule. This delay is a repeat of 2020 and 2021.

It was extremely frustrating for our residents to rush to have leaves neatly raked into tree boxes only to wait for weeks for them to be collected with no updates from your agency. Furthermore, the deteriorating situation became dangerous at a certain point when leaves became wet and froze in clumps, causing dangerous conditions for pedestrians. As you

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Topher Mathews, District 2 Paul Maysak, District 3
Joe Massaua, District 4 Mimsy Lindner, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 John DiPierri, District 8

may or may not be aware, Georgetown has very old infrastructure and older and narrower pipes can become clogged from uncollected leaves.

Further, many of our neighbors bagged their leaves into paper bags, as required by DC, and called 3-1-1 for pick up only to have the paper bags sit for weeks and ultimately break down with leaves scattering the sidewalks, roads, and alleys.

ANC 2E requests the following of DPW:

- A final 2023 leaf collection in Georgetown and Burleith; leaves are everywhere as you will see in the attached photos (Attachment A) and the city has a responsibility to its residents to execute on this basic city service,
- An entirely new communications and collection plan for fall 2023 based on experience to date; recommendations include:
 - Announce the order of zones to be collected and then tweet, email, and post as each zone is finished and collection in another zone is about to begin versus announcing specific dates and zones at the start of the season only to have them missed and confusion to arise,
 - Ensure the leaf collection tracker system is fully functional and accurate or remove it from the DPW site entirely, and
 - Perform regular community pick ups of leaves in brown paper bags rather than relying on residents to call 3-1-1.

ANC 2E has confidence that progress can be made next fall. DC's leaf collection program is certainly broken, but the ANC sees this problem as an opportunity to innovate and implement a new system that works for all residents of the District of Columbia.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) and Elizabeth Miller (2E07@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Elizabeth Miller
Chair, ANC 2E

Attachment A

Photos of Current Leaves in ANC 2E

