



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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January 12, 2022

Mr. Matthew Marcou  
Chair, Public Space Committee  
District Department of Transportation  
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20004  
[PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov](mailto:PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov)

**RE: Public Space Application by Keshet Israel Congregation of Georgetown for the Installation of Bollards at 2801 N Street NW (DDOT #377476)**

Dear Chair Marcou,

On January 6, 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 September 2021 public meeting, ANC 2E voted unanimously to support Keshet Israel's application to the Public Space Committee to install bollards in the public space adjacent to their property at 2801 N Street NW. This application had already been supported by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), which oversees all construction in Georgetown that is in public view, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and ANC 2E in the summer of 2021.

In November 2021, the Public Space Committee informed Keshet Israel that it should consider alternatives to the bollards that the committee would find acceptable, specifically public benches or bicycle racks. Keshet Israel's application to the committee has been placed on hold until Keshet Israel accepts one of the committee's proposed alternatives. Because of security concerns, Keshet Israel does not support having public bike racks or benches a few feet away from its building.

ANC 2E understands and appreciates that one of city's public space goals is to not have bollards used throughout DC; however, Keshet Israel's application is unique. Anti-Semitism, including in Washington, DC, remains at historic highs. Supporting the safety of those in and around this building is a very valid concern. ANC 2E reiterates its support for Keshet Israel's initial Public Space Committee application regarding the installation

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

of bollards. Kesher Israel is a nationally important religious institution that has been a part of the Georgetown community for nearly 100 years. Kesher Israel is at-risk given both the synagogue's location, on a corner lot feet away from public streets and inches off public sidewalks, and the national and international role played by the congregation and its members.

ANC 2E does not support alternatives to bollards such as a bench or a bicycle rack. The security needs of this synagogue must be paramount and bollards offer a reasonable and unobtrusive solution to a documented security need. ANC 2E notes further that Kesher Israel has reported to the Public Space Committee that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) extended a grant to the synagogue for the installation of the bollards. ANC 2E understands that this grant was given due to the potential security risk posed by the location of the building. Further delay on this matter imposes an unnecessary risk on the synagogue, its members, and the surrounding Georgetown community.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse ([2E06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E06@anc.dc.gov)) and Rick Murphy ([2E03@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E03@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Murphy  
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Mayor Muriel Bowser  
John Falcicchio, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development  
Lucinda Babers, Deputy Mayor for Operations and Infrastructure  
Christopher Rodriguez, Director, HSEMA  
Everett Lott, Director, DDOT  
Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2  
Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts  
Tara Sakraida Parker, President, Citizens Association of Georgetown  
Rabbi Hyim Shafner, Kesher Israel  
Doron Ezickson, Vice President, ADL Mid-Atlantic/Midwest Division