



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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December 6, 2022

Mr. Elliott Garrett  
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 for the Placement of Transformer Statues in Planters at 3614 Prospect Street NW (DDOT #406963)**

Dear Chair Garrett,

On November 29, 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 resolution by a vote of (5-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E notes that the applicant for the public space application for 3614 Prospect Street NW did not attend tonight's ANC meeting even though they were made aware of our review of this application. Nonetheless, the ANC takes the same position regarding the public space application, requesting the use of public space for sculptures, as we did in our March 1, 2021 resolution, which is that this application has a procedural deficiency and thus the requested permit cannot be granted at this time. As the ANC stated in the 2021 resolution, all items that are viewable in public space must be reviewed by the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), who will determine if and how an applicant's plans abide by the standards of the historic district. After the ANC issued this resolution, the applicant did indeed apply to OGB; such application was received by OGB on April 16, 2021. At that time, the OGB issued the following guidance:

“The Commission regrets that work commenced without permit. No objection to issuance of permit for the temporary installation of two sculptures depicting “Transformers” characters on existing brick planters in the public right-of-way, per materials received 16 April 2021, PROVIDED the sculptures are installed no longer than six months from the submission date.”

#### 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

ANC 2E does not believe that the applicant returned for a Public Space Committee hearing after receiving OGB feedback. Per the Transportation Online Permitting System (TOPS), it appears that at least six violations were issued and the status of the 2021 application is still listed as “revise and resubmit.” Nonetheless, the ANC is reviewing this application today as part of the public space application recently submitted by the applicant. Once again, because OGB’s previous support for this installation was conditional through October 2021 only, the ANC believes that the applicant must return to OGB prior to the Public Space Committee considering that this is a new public space application.

As for the contents of the application itself, ANC 2E notes that other residents in the historic district use the public space for things like planters and potentially even art installations, and the ANC does not typically even see applications for such use of public space, particularly when they are not impeding pedestrians’ ability to pass through public space. Likewise, this proposed installation would not interfere with pedestrian passage on the sidewalk. For consistency’s sake, the ANC will not comment on the subject matter of the application here either, regardless of our opinions about how these installations fit or do not fit within the context of the historic district. The ANC asserts that, unless there is something here that is more than meets the eye, any discussion of how these statues fit within the historic district is best left to OGB, who, as a matter of proper procedure, should review this application prior to a public space review.

As such, ANC 2E does not support the granting of a public space permit at this time and asks for the applicant to go through the appropriate steps such that OGB can review this application and provide guidance to the appropriate permitting agencies prior to any public space review.

Commissioners Lisa Palmer ([2E05@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2E05@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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Murphy  
Chair, ANC 2E