



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

November 8, 2021

Director Ernest Chrappah
Director
Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
1100 4th Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
Ernest.Chrappah@dc.gov

Mr. Joe Sternlieb
CEO and President
Georgetown Business Improvement District
1000 Potomac St. NW, Suite 122
Washington, DC 20007
jsternlieb@georgetowndc.com

RE: Hours of Operation for George's King of Falafel and Cheesesteak at 1205 28th Street NW

Dear Director Chrappah and Mr. Sternlieb,

On November 1, 2021 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 (4-0-1) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

George's King of Falafel and Cheesesteak is a family-run business that has operated in Georgetown for over 40 years. Its food is enjoyed by many and the owners work hard to maintain their building, including decorating for the holidays, private rodent control, and recent repainting. The customer base of George's has grown over the last several years, especially take-out services during COVID.

The business is located on a mixed-use block that is surrounded by several residential-only streets and the building faces a large condominium. Before and during COVID, the owners adjusted the hours of operation at their discretion given that there is not a transparent city process. Currently, George's is open until 3:00 am or 4:00 am depending on the day. There are no other establishments in the specific block or the surrounding blocks that are open that late. Because George's does not hold a liquor license, the community does not have any input into its hours of operation. By comparison, the overwhelming majority of eating and drinking establishments in Georgetown are closed by 11:00 pm on weekdays and 2:00 am on weekends.

In recent years, George's has become a late-night congregation spot through its in-person, take-out, and delivery services. The direct consequence is that the surrounding community's quality of life has significantly decreased; there has been an adverse impact

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

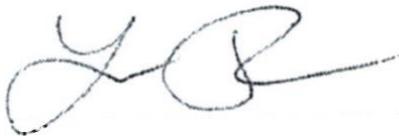
on the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood. For example, customers eat on the steps of residential homes at 3:00 am and car radios play loud music at 2:30 am. Trash from George's, as acknowledged by the owners, is found on surrounding streets. Additionally, two armed robberies have occurred on the block in the last year, one of which resulted in a shooting.

ANC 2E previously issued a resolution to the city to [enforce traffic and parking requirements](#), especially for third party delivery services, and partnered with the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) to remove the streatory for George's given that the streatory was further adding to the reduction in quality of life. Moreover, residents and the single member district Commissioner met with George's owners multiple times to share the harmful consequences of late night hours on residents, asking them to take proactive actions to remedy the situation.

ANC 2E urges the city and the Georgetown BID to work with George's to have it operate at reduced hours for a period of time – specifically, closing by 1:30 am on weekends and by 12:00 am on weekdays. During this period, George's can focus on proactive steps to address the quality of life issues caused by the busy operations. Using private security, developing a public complaint tracking system, increasing trash collection in the area, and improving delivery and take-out service processes are among the operational actions that could improve community relations between George's and the surrounding residents. George's has stated its intention to work on such actions. After such a period, George's can work with the community on extending its hours of operation and ensuring that the peace, order, and quiet of the neighborhood are upheld.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) and Lisa Palmer (2E05@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Palmer
Vice Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2
Solana Vander Nat, Director, Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture
Anna Noakes, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services
Duncan Bedlion, Commander, Second District, Metropolitan Police Department
Souheil Ben Mansour, George's King of Falafel and Cheesesteak

Attachment A

**ANC 2E's November 1, 2021 Resolution
Requesting that the City Develops a
Transparent Process for Restaurants
Without Alcoholic Beverage Licenses on
Mixed Use Streets that Want to be Open
Past Midnight**



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November 8, 2021

Councilmember Brooke Pinto
Councilmember, Ward 2
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004
bpinto@dccouncil.us

RE: Requesting that the City Develops a Transparent Process for Restaurants Without Alcoholic Beverage Licenses on Mixed Use Streets that Want to be Open Past Midnight

Dear Councilmember Pinto,

On November 1, 2021 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:

The city lacks a transparent process for approving the hours of operation for restaurants that do not have alcoholic beverage licenses yet want to stay open past midnight. ANC 2E became aware of this lack of transparency while trying to address issues at three restaurants on different mixed-use blocks in Georgetown whose hours of operation went well beyond midnight. All three restaurants have caused an adverse impact on the peace, order, and quiet of our neighborhood. In the last two months, two of them were shut down – one permanently and the other by city order due to negative impact on the community.

ANC 2E urges Councilmember Pinto, in collaboration with ANCs, business improvement districts (BIDs), and citizens associations, to work with city agencies to establish a transparent process for approving hours of operations for restaurants that:

1. are located on mixed-used blocks and/or within a specified distance to residential homes,
2. do not hold alcoholic beverage licenses, and
3. want to be open past midnight.

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The process should also encompass any significant changes in hours. ANC 2E's neighborhood should easily be able to understand this process and be a partner in the process if appropriate, and there should be accountability when peace, order, and quiet are compromised. When the city has such a process it will help support a healthier resident-commercial area relationship.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) and Lisa Palmer (2E05@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'LP', written over a faint dotted line.

Lisa Palmer
Vice Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Ernest Chrappah, Director, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
Solana Vander Nat, Director, Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture
Anna Noakes, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services
Joe Sternlieb, CEO and President, Georgetown BID
Duncan Bedlion, Commander, Second District, Metropolitan Police Department
Tara Sakraida Parker, President, Citizens Association of Georgetown