



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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April 1, 2021

Mr. Everett Lott
Interim Director
District Department of Transportation
250 M Street SE
Washington, DC 20003
Everett.Lott@dc.gov

RE: Possible Change in the District Department of Transportation's Approach to Maintenance of Brick Sidewalks in Georgetown

Dear Director Lott,

On March 30, 2021 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by seven commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

On March 23, 2021 ANC 2E received a memorandum from District Department of Transportation (DDOT) Interim Director Everett Lott dated March 18, 2021. The memorandum, which was addressed to both the ANC and the Old Georgetown Board (OGB), announced DDOT's decision, taken without any input from the ANC or OGB, to replace sections of existing brick sidewalks at 12 locations in the Georgetown Historic District with porous flexible pavement (PFP), a highly porous flexible construction material composed of recycled vehicle tires and aggregate. DDOT's justification for this unilateral decision, which appears to be intended to put an end to a longstanding tradition of cooperation among DDOT, OGB, and ANC 2E with respect to DDOT projects that affect the appearance of the historic district, is that the use of PFP "will allow DDOT to meet applicable [Americans with Disabilities Act] requirements along sidewalks affected by root expansion." Interestingly, DDOT does not appear to claim that the use of PFP is the **only** possible solution for problems caused by root expansion under the brick sidewalks in Georgetown.

ANC 2E understands how important it is to make sidewalks in Georgetown accessible and safe for all residents and visitors to our community. The ANC is, however, disturbed by the change in attitude that DDOT's approach to the issue appears to declare. DDOT has announced an important decision, one that would, if implemented, significantly

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Jenny Mitchell, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
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impact the appearance of the historic district created by Congress over 70 years ago, without seeking any input from the ANC, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) and the Old Georgetown Board, or members of the public. ANC 2E advises DDOT that the unilateral approach to making decisions that affect our community that DDOT appears to have adopted is both inadvisable and inappropriate and urges DDOT to reconsider its decision to replace substantial sections of brick sidewalks in Georgetown with PFP and to engage in dialogue with interested stakeholders before proceeding.

Commissioner Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Richard G. Murphy, Jr." in a cursive script.

Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2