



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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October 7, 2020

Mr. Earl Eutsler
Associate Director, Urban Forestry Division
District Department of Transportation
55 M Street SE, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20003
earl.eutsler@dc.gov

RE: A Ginkgo Pilot Project

Dear Mr. Eutsler,

On September 29, 2020 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:

Currently ginkgo trees are the only trees in the District of Columbia for which the Urban Forestry Division (UFD) of the Department of Transportation (DDOT) offers springtime spraying to halt fruit development and a property owner replacement petition process (“Female Ginkgo Tree Removal Policy,” given that only the female trees bear the contentious fruit). The replacement petition process was developed by UFD to address the safety and quality of life (stink and property damage) issues raised by property owners who have ginkgo trees in the public tree boxes outside their homes. ANCs have been given the role of supporting or not supporting these petitions should the petition have ample support from those on the specific block.

There are several blocks in Georgetown on which multiple ginkgo trees provide a mature tree canopy as well as fall foliage viewing. In late 2019, property owners on two different blocks in Georgetown began to pursue their right to petition to replace the female ginkgo trees on their blocks. Trees for Georgetown (TFG), a nonprofit affiliated with the Citizens Association of Georgetown (CAG), shared its interest with the relevant ANC 2E Commissioners to be introduced to the property owners on these blocks so that TFG could propose a pilot clean-up program that aimed to address the concerns of the property owners. To date, TFG has primarily been focused on planting new trees, so a clean-up pilot to preserve existing trees is a new effort for TFG.

COMMISSIONERS:

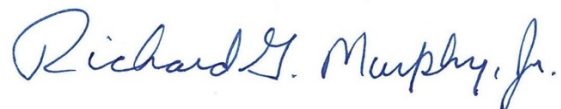
Kishan Putta, District 1 Joe Gibbons, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

After dialog among the various parties, a pilot clean-up program will move forward during this fall season. TFG will fund this pilot program in two locations on the east side of Georgetown: on 27th Street between O Street and Dumbarton Street NW and on Avon Place between R Street and Dent Place NW. The ginkgo berries will be cleaned up on these blocks by a firm hired by TFG; the focus of the clean-up will be in front of the homes given safety and quality of life issues (versus public park land). The clean-up will occur two times per day, five days a week throughout the fruiting season. ANC 2E thus requests that the Urban Forestry Division:

- Pays close attention to the results of the TFG pilot program; a site-visit would be welcome.
- Works with TFG to understand the cost and effort of the pilot program.
- Attends a future ANC 2E meeting during which pilot program evaluation will be discussed.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (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