



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

September 8, 2021

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

RE: Proposed Extension of the Georgetown BID's Widened Sidewalk Project Beyond December 31st, 2021

Dear Mr. Sternlieb,

On August 30, 2021 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:

In May and June of 2020, ANC 2E adopted resolutions in support of a proposal by the Georgetown Business Improvement District (BID) to implement a temporary pilot project intended to provide support during the COVID pandemic for businesses in the Georgetown neighborhood located on both M Street and Wisconsin Avenue NW. The concept proposed by the BID involved installation of platforms in the curb lanes of the two streets that would, among other things, facilitate social distancing by effectively widening Georgetown's sidewalks.

In order to proceed with the project, the BID applied for and obtained a permit allowing installation of the platforms in public space. ANC 2E's understanding is that the BID's public space permit will expire on December 31, 2021 and that the BID intends to apply for an extension. ANC 2E opposes extension of the permit in its current form.

The installation of the platforms was always intended to be an experiment. In the view of ANC 2E, the experiment has been a partial failure and a partial success. Platforms used for dining have served to help restore the vibrancy of Georgetown's dining and entertainment scene. On the other hand, platforms adjacent to retail establishments are more often than not vacant. While sitting vacant, the public space occupied by the platforms cannot be used for needed customer parking or commercial deliveries.

COMMISSIONERS:

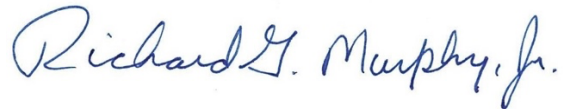
Kishan Putta, District 1 Jenny Mitchell, District 2 Rick Murphy, District 3
Anna Landre, District 4 Lisa Palmer, District 5 Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6
Elizabeth Miller, District 7 Matias Burdman, District 8

Moreover, the platforms cause other secondary negative impacts such as micro-mobility safety issues and disruption of traffic flow through Georgetown's commercial areas. In ANC 2E's opinion, it is not in the interest of the Georgetown community to exchange parking spaces that were always full for empty platforms that are seldom used by pedestrians.

For the above reasons, ANC 2E would oppose an application by the Georgetown BID to extend the public space permit that facilitated installation of the sidewalk widening platforms in its current form. ANC 2E would, however, be in favor of the continuing use of some of the platforms to support dining in our community subject to acceptable aesthetic and traffic management guidelines.

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
Matthew Marcou, Associate Director, Public Space Regulation Division, DDOT