



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

May 2, 2019

Mr. Matthew Marcou
Associate Director, Public Space Regulation Administration
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20004
matthew.marcou@dc.gov

RE: The International Monetary Fund’s Ongoing Street Closure of the 1900 Block of H Street NW

Dear Associate Director Marcou,

At its regular meeting on April 17, 2019, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“**ANC 2A**” or “**Commission**”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**7-0-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Harnett and seconded by Commissioner Kennedy, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the entire roadway and south sidewalk on the 1900 block of H Street NW have been closed since 2013 due to an International Monetary Fund (IMF) renovation project of its main headquarters building (HQ1),

WHEREAS, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) did not notify ANC 2A about the street closure in 2013 until less than one week before it was scheduled to take effect, or of the application by the IMF for a public space permit,

WHEREAS, the timeline for this project by the IMF and DDOT was set at three years (Attachment 1), but the street closure has held this block hostage from the public for more than six years,

WHEREAS, the Commission received assurances by IMF officials in 2013 that the block would be returned to the public within “three years,” (Attachment 2) but with the extended closure, the unacceptable possibility that the block will be permanently closed has become a significant concern among ANC 2A residents,

WHEREAS, following six years of no communication or updates by the IMF or its contractor(s) on the status of this project, Commissioner Harnett contacted the IMF and was told by officials in September of 2018 that the project would take an additional twelve months to complete,

WHEREAS, since September of 2018, and following a subsequent meeting in March of 2019, IMF officials have rejected requests to brief the public and the Commission on the status of this project,



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WHEREAS, it is unacceptable and deeply troubling to see a private entity take control of public space for its own purposes, without public input or updates, for more than twice the length of the original project timeline originally communicated,

WHEREAS, the lack of notice by DDOT in 2013 regarding the impending closure of this public space left no time for public engagement before the project began, and its subsequent renewals of the IMF’s public space permits have been done without any community engagement whatsoever, displaying a troubling lack of sensitivity to the neighborhood’s interests, and

WHEREAS, a permit holder doing work in public space must restore it to its original condition at the conclusion of work, including any necessary re-paving, re-painting, re-installation of streetlights and parking meters, and signal adjustments.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests the expeditious re-opening of the roadway and south sidewalk on the 1900 block of H Street NW after the IMF’s HQ1 reconstruction is completed in December of 2019 and that the IMF’s public space permit (DDOT #PA10558652-R2) not be renewed beyond December of 2019.

Commissioners James Harnett (2A08@anc.dc.gov) and William Kennedy Smith (2A04@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

William Kennedy Smith, MD
Chairperson

CC: Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, District of Columbia
Congressman Elijah Cummings, Chair, House Committee on Oversight and Reform
Brant Miller, Program Analyst, DDOT
Peter Kunzel, Deputy Division Chief, Public Affairs Division, IMF
Keith Clark, Advisor, IMF
Tom Pienaar, HQ1 Task Force, IMF
Andrew Sleeth, Project Executive, Grunley Construction Company, Inc.
Chris Turner, Grunley Construction Company, Inc.

Attachment 1

**Article in The Foggy Bottom Current
Published June 12, 2013**

IMF work to shut H St. block for three years

By **ELIZABETH WIENER**
Current Staff Writer

The 1900 block of H Street NW will be closed to traffic for at least three years to accommodate a major renovation of the International Monetary Fund's original headquarters building.

Barricades are already up, with detour signs directing cars south on one-way 19th Street, west on G Street, and back north on 20th Street to Pennsylvania Avenue. Though the block will be closed to cars, the sidewalk on the north side of the block will remain open, the D.C. Department of Transportation announced last week.

Dumpsters now line the north

facade of the big Brutalist IMF "Headquarters 1," which was built in the 1950s. The transportation agency says the closure is "a necessary precaution to ensure public safety during this project," which is expected to continue until late 2016.

IMF spokesperson Jennifer Beckman said Friday that virtually all mechanical systems — air conditioning, boilers, pipe work, water pumps, hot water heaters, lighting and building controls, and "miles of ductwork" — must be repaired or replaced. "All interior systems are in danger of failing," she said.

The exterior of the building won't be altered, and IMF's newer Headquarters 2 building on the block to the north will not be affect-

ed. But Beckman said employees will be relocated floor by floor as work is done to "swing space" in the newer building. Officials created the swing space by temporarily leasing offices in a building north of Pennsylvania Avenue, she said.

Beckman said the prolonged closure is dictated by the extensive amount of work to be done.

Patrick Kennedy, a Foggy Bottom advisory neighborhood commissioner who was briefed on the project last Friday, said he doesn't anticipate major traffic impacts from the block closure. That block, he wrote in an email, "is rather lightly used, and is nowhere close to any residential properties. I

See **IMF**/Page 16

Ward 2's Evans formally launches mayoral bid

Current Staff Report

Ward 2 D.C. Council member Jack Evans has become the third candidate to announce a bid for the mayor's seat.

Evans, 59, launched his campaign at the corner of 14th and Q streets NW on Saturday morning. He joins his council colleagues Muriel Bowser of Ward 4 and Tommy Wells of Ward 6 in formally seeking the Democratic nomination in next year's April 1 primary.

Evans, the city's longest-serving council member, told about 100 supporters Saturday that he wants to "transform our city into a model of what urban living can and should be."

He repeatedly used the phrase "rich tapestry" to describe the District, emphasizing its multiculturalism, distinct neighborhoods and diversity of ages, sexual orientations and interests.

"I see a growing diversity — Latino, Asian, Ethiopian and many other residents, who bring culture and traditions to our city," Evans said, also pointing to senior

citizens as a "fundamental part of anything that we do going forward."

On education, he said he plans to improve the city's public and charter school systems "in full cooperation with parents, teachers and administrators" and to "institute a school-to-career pathway that focuses appropriate attention on the industries vital to the economy of the District."

Evans also spoke of the importance of supporting small businesses, promoting government ethics and transparency, maintaining a balanced budget "without waste and frivolity," and fighting for the cause of D.C. statehood.

This marks the second mayoral run for Evans, who first joined the D.C. Council in 1991 and ran against Anthony Williams for mayor in the 1998 primary. On the council, Evans has long steered the Finance and Revenue Committee. He has also held outside jobs with law firms including Patton Boggs.

In addition to the three announced candidates, at-large Council member David Catania, an independent, is rumored to be considering a run in the November election. Current Mayor Vincent Gray, a Democrat, has not yet announced whether he will seek a second term.



Evans

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Attachment 2

**Minutes from ANC 2A's Meeting on
July 17, 2013**



**Foggy Bottom & West End
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A**
(www.anc2a.org)

Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 17, 2013 7:30 pm St. Mary's Court
725 24th Street NW, Washington, DC

Call to Order

Chair Florence Harmon (06) called the meeting to order at 7:34 pm. Commissioners Patrick Kennedy (01), Rebecca Coder (02), Armando Irizarry (04), Graham Galka (05), Jackson Carnes (07), and Peter Sacco (08) were present.

Chair Harmon made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Kennedy seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

General Agenda

Safety Report

No one was present to give the safety report.

Public Comments

Chair Harmon announced that GW had decided to increase the amount of ground floor retail space on the Square 77 site from 600 to approximately 1,000 square feet.

Chair Harmon also announced that DC's Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) was developing a 10-year master plan called Play DC. She said that local residents should go on to the Play DC website to answer a survey about the status of recreation facilities in the Foggy Bottom and West End neighborhoods.

Barbara Kahlow, a local resident, was concerned that GW was temporarily shutting down 24th Street by GW's School of Public Health construction project. Ms. Kahlow, along with Dina Modianot-Fox, another local resident, stated that they would like to see ANC 2A pass a resolution to call on GW to stop closing down 24th Street until the Washington Circle resurfacing project is finished.

Regulatory Agenda

DDOT- Update on New Hampshire Avenue Project

Ian Swain from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) was present to give an update on the New Hampshire Avenue Project. Mr. Swain announced that a public stakeholders meeting for the project

would be held the next day. Mr. Swain also announced that he has walked through the Duke Ellington Park site with the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District to explain minor changes that will occur on the park site, including a slight reduction in the amount of green space.

One local resident asked Mr. Swain if it would be possible to install an electrical outlet in Duke Ellington Park to be used during periodic events, such as the annual Duke Ellington Birthday Concert. Mr. Swain said that he would talk to PEPCO to see if an outlet could be installed.

Mr. Swain announced that WMATA has asked local residents if they would like a concrete bus pad to be installed at the New Hampshire Avenue bus stop near Washington Circle. Mr. Swain said that WMATA is proposing to remove the bus stop at 23rd and L Street, and also add an additional stop in the area because bus routes are being re-routed due to the new Washington Circle configuration.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if DDOT had been working with GW to coordinate the construction dates for the stretch of New Hampshire Avenue outside of GW's School of Public Health construction site. Mr. Swain said that DDOT was in the process of working with GW on coordination.

Multiple neighbors also raised concerns over the out-of-place concrete island designs at New Hampshire Avenue and 24th Street. Mr. Swain said that he would look into why the islands were designed the way they were.

IMF Headquarters Project Update

Representatives from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were present to talk about the IMF's current renovation project, which has temporarily closed the section of H Street between 19th and 20th Streets. Marjorie Henriquez, public information officer for the IMF, explained that the IMF's Main Headquarters building (HQ1) was in need of a major renovation this year. DDOT had already approved a street closure for the section of H Street between 19th and 20th, which would act as a staging area for the internal construction project. Ms. Henriquez said that the sidewalk on the north side of the closed section of H Street would remain open to pedestrians; however the street would be closed for three years while the renovations were carried out.

Ms. Henriquez explained that the facade and windows of the building would remain the same, and that the building would be renovated on a floor-by-floor basis. She also said that all trees and bushes on the sides of the building would be replaced once the renovations were complete.

Commissioner Kennedy raised concerns over the possibility that the project would lead to a permanent closure of the affected stretch of H Street. Ms. Henriquez said that this would not be happening.

Historic Preservation Review Board presentation

Gretchen Pfaehler, Chair of the Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB), was present to give an overview of the board.

Ms. Pfaehler said that HPRB has the last say on historic landmark development in the District of Columbia. She said that HPRB does design reviews for projects that are near historic districts and buildings, offering comments as they relate to historic preservation laws, and that HPRB also reviews federal projects in DC.

Ms. Pfaehler said that HPRB is now full with eight members on the board, including a nice mix of preservation architects, activists, and community members.

Ms. Pfaehler said that her goals for HPRB this year include working to unify historic preservation and sustainability, being more transparent and clear on what DC's historic preservation standards are, strengthening partnerships and communication with community groups, and working to balance smart growth with preservation.

Barbara Kahlow, a local resident, said that she wants to see HPRB give more notice to the ANCs when projects are initiated in a certain neighborhood.

Officer from the Washington Human Society

Monica Digiandomenico, a humane law enforcement officer from the Washington Humane Society, was present to talk about the organization.

Ms. Digiandomenico said that the Washington Humane Society is there to help with the care and wellbeing of animals in the District of Columbia. The society also serves as an educational resource for people who are looking for help with the care of their animal.

Ms. Digiandomenico said the Humane Society enforces DC laws regarding animal cruelty. She also said the Washington Humane Society does not fall under the Humane Society of the United States, which has their headquarters nearby on L Street.

Cardoza High School Education Forum Co-Sponsor

Stephanie Maltz, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for 2B03 from Dupont Circle, was present to talk about a new education initiative that local ANCs, neighbors, and education leaders were working on. Ms. Maltz talked about the informal Cardozo High School Education Forum group and asked for ANC 2A to be part of it.

Ms. Maltz explained how ANC 2B, ANC 2F, the Dupont Circle Citizens Association, and the Logan Circle Citizens Association have been hosting informal public education meetings for a few months now, and that many of the participants want to become more of a formal group. Ms. Maltz said that local residents want to see their neighborhood schools succeed, which justifies having the group.

Ms. Maltz presented an idea of having the group work with Councilmember Jack Evans to have him come out and inspect six Ward 2 schools a few weeks before school starts to show community support for education.

Ms. Maltz said that ANC 2B should be voting on the issue at their August meeting. Chair Harmon said that ANC 2A could consider passing a similar version of ANC 2B's resolution at ANC 2A's September meeting.

Multiple local parents and Commissioners present at the meeting expressed interest in having Chis Sondreal, a member of the PTA at the School Without Walls at Francis Stevens, serve as the ANC 2A representative to the education forum group.

Commissioner Irizarry made a motion to have ANC 2A participate in the informal Ward 2 Education Committee as described by Ms. Maltz. Commissioner Sacco seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to designate Chis Sondreal as one of ANC 2A's point persons for the informal Ward 2 Education Committee. Commissioner Kennedy accepted a friendly amendment that no one would be excluded from participating in the group's meetings. Commissioner Sacco seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

Administrative Agenda

Adoption of Minutes

Commissioner Kennedy made a motion to adopt the May and June minutes. Commissioner Coder seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

Third Quarter Financial Report

Commissioner Galka made a motion to approve the third quarter financial report. Commissioner Irizarry seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed. (VOTES: 7-0)

Bylaws Committee

Commissioner Kennedy said that the Bylaws Committee has gone through the first five sections of the bylaws, and that next committee meeting will be on Monday, July 22, 2013.

Chair Harmon adjourned the meeting at 10:24 pm.