February 22, 2018

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Executive Office of the Mayor
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
District of Columbia 20004

Re: “Clean Route Initiative” for the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon, Saturday, March 10, 2018

Dear Mayor Bowser:

On February 15, 2018, at a duly noticed, monthly meeting of ANC 6C, with a quorum of six out of six commissioners and the public present, the above-mentioned matter came before ANC 6C.

ANC 6C has been informed that the Metropolitan Police Department, along with the Mayor’s Special Events Task Force Group, will strictly enforce a “Clean Route Initiative” for the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon and Half Marathon, by which all parked cars will be banned from the entire race route, including along residential permit parking blocks where parked cars have been allowed in the past. While we understand the importance of protecting public safety, we believe this new policy of banning all parked cars from the entire route has not been thought-through and is unworkable. If all parked cars are going to be removed to protect against vehicle-borne attacks, then every street, alley, driveway and garage entrance that intersects the two routes requires significant physical barriers such as a Jersey-barrier or District vehicle, rather than traffic control officers on foot.

The Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon and Half Marathon routes include approximately 19 blocks within our ANC area alone. In NoMa and Capitol Hill, finding an open parking space is already difficult. Banning all parked cars along the residential sections of the two routes will be certain to cause considerable disruption and inconvenience in the lead-up to the weekend of the March 10th event as there will not be enough additional available on-street parking places in the District to accommodate the number of cars that will have to be moved. We urge that different approaches for effective risk management other than a “Clean Route Initiative” be considered and adopted to protect the safety of event participants and area residents, if additional measures are necessary.
ANC 6C is also concerned that the policy to strictly enforce a “Clean Route Initiative” for marathons and other races has only recently been made known to the sponsors of these events and, to a limited degree, the public. The policy is not documented or included in the 2018 edition of the MSETG Special Events Planning Guide. ANC 6C has been informed that the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon sponsor became aware of the policy in January. ANC 6C was not aware of the policy when it voted in November 2017 to support the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon with conditions.

If a decision is made to implement this policy with respect to the Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon and Half Marathon, we urge you to mobilize immediately the member agencies of your Special Events Task Force Group to minimize the impact it will have on people living near the marathon and half marathon routes, to include vigorously making the public aware of the policy through multiple channels and arranging to the maximum extent possible free off-street parking for residential parking permit holders in the vicinity of their homes (e.g., DCPS parking lots, congressional parking lots).

In addition, ANC 6C requests you ensure the MPD adheres to any regulations regarding the adoption and publishing of this policy of a complete ban on parked cars along the route of these events. The public should be given the opportunity to understand the parameters of the new policy and to offer public comment.

The commissioners voted 5:1:0 on this matter.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of ANC 6C.

cc: Chief Peter Newsham, MPD
Dr. Christopher Rodriquez, HSEMA
Councilmember Charles Allen

Members of the DC Council

On behalf of ANC 6C,

Karen J. Wirt
ANC 6C chair