February 22, 2018

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

Re: Capitol Hill Classic – Sunday, May 20, 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 strongly supports the Capitol Hill Classic, the annual fundraiser for the Capitol Hill Cluster School, a District of Columbia public school. This will be the 40th annual Classic, which includes a 10k, 5k and kid fun run. The Classic raises significant funds for the school and is well-managed event. The sponsors have worked closely and cooperatively with the community and the many churches along the route. The Classic draws approximately 3000 runners, the majority from the neighborhood.

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 Capitol Hill Classic, 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 Classic routes requires significant physical barriers such as a Jersey-barrier or District vehicle, rather than traffic control officers on foot.

The Capitol Hill Classic routes include approximately 33 blocks on Capitol Hill. On Capitol Hill, finding an open parking space is already difficult. Banning all parked cars along the Capitol Hill Classic routes will be certain to cause considerable disruption and inconvenience in the lead-up to the Sunday, May 20th, event as there will not be enough additional available on-street parking places in the neighborhood to accommodate the
number of cars that will have to be moved. In addition, the policy will impose significant new costs on the Capitol Hill Classic.

We urge you and the member agencies of the Mayor’s Special Events Task Force Group to reconsider whether the “Clean Route Initiative” is appropriate for a community-based event of this size. Different approaches for effective risk management other than a “Clean Route Initiative” should be considered and adopted to protect the safety of event participants as well as those living and attending church nearby, if additional measures are necessary.

If a decision is made to implement this policy with respect to the Capitol Hill Classic, we urge you to mobilize the member agencies of your Special Events Task Force Group to minimize the impact the policy will have on people living and worshipping near the Classic 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). Arrangements should be made in this case and others so that the additional costs of implementing the policy are not imposed on non-profit, community-based sponsors raising funds for public schools.

The commissioners voted 6:0:0 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 Wirt
ANC 6C chair