February 22, 2019

Matthew Marcou  
Chair, Public Space Committee  
District Department of Transportation  
55 M Street, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Re: Public Space Application #323991 (668 E St. NE)

Dear Mr. Marcou:

On February 13, 2019, at a duly noticed, regularly scheduled monthly meeting of ANC 6C, with a quorum of 6 out of 6 commissioners and the public present, the Commission voted 4-2 to oppose this public space application.

The applicant seeks permission to repave and retroactively permit a vehicle parking pad in the public space east of the applicant’s property (i.e., on the 7th St. side). For multiple reasons, we do not believe that the requested relief is warranted.

First, although the applicant attempts to characterize the area in question as a “driveway,” it is not. A true driveway would provide passage from the street across the public space to a legal parking space within the lot boundaries. Here, however, no such passage is possible. A wood fence with a narrow pedestrian gate prevents access; moreover, an elevated deck in the rear yard and stairs leading down to grade would block vehicular access even if a suitable gate existed.

It is possible that access to a legal parking space in the rear yard existed in the past, prior to the construction of the rear deck and stairs. The elimination of that access, however, voided the allowable purpose of the former driveway, and parking on that paved area violates 18 DCMR § 2405.3(a). The fact that the area has been used for illegal parking for many years does not justify continuation of that practice, nor does it warrant approval of the application before the Committee.

We oppose the application for a second, related reason. Authorizing these types of parking pads in public space legitimizes the conversion of at least one potential curbside parking space—which would be available to any member of the public—into a purely private benefit to a single household. ANC 6C considers that trade-off to be against the public interest.
Thank you for giving great weight to the views of ANC 6C.

Sincerely,

Karen Wirt
Chair, ANC 6C