



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

November 29, 2015

Councilmember Mary Cheh
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
mcheh@dccouncil.us

RE: Proposal by the Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative to install and maintain clean, safe public restrooms in downtown DC

Dear Councilmember Cheh,

At its regular meeting on November 18, 2015, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With four of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, which was introduced by Commissioner Zhurbinskiy and seconded by Commissioner Schrefer, by a vote of (4-0-0):

WHEREAS, many individuals need access to clean, safe, available public restrooms, including tourists, families with young children, women who are pregnant, the elderly, individuals with bowel incontinence and people without housing;

WHEREAS, a study conducted by the People for Fairness Coalition (PFC) revealed that there are very few public restrooms in downtown Washington, DC, some establishments do not allow people to use restrooms unless they first purchase something, and in most downtown neighborhoods there are no restrooms available late at night or early in the morning;

WHEREAS, most capital cities in Europe and Asia have clean, safe public restrooms that are easily accessible at any time of night or day, while this is not the case in our Nation’s Capital;

WHEREAS, a number of large cities in the U.S. have begun to experiment with a variety of restroom options, including self-cleaning restrooms, restrooms with attendants, and the Portland, Oregon Loo, a 24-hour sustainable public restroom, while in London there is a government program that provides incentives to private establishments if they put up signs indicating their restroom is open to all;

WHEREAS, if a person cannot find a restroom in DC and has no other option than to relieve themselves in a public space, the penalty is a ticket of up to \$500 or a jail term up to 90 days;



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NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A asks the DC government to explore and identify options for installing and maintaining clean, safe public restrooms available 24/7 in needed areas of downtown DC.

Commissioners Eve Zhurbinskiy (2A08@anc.dc.gov) and Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson

CC: Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2
Marcy Bernbaum, Downtown DC Public Restroom Initiative
Chairman Phil Mendelson
Councilmember Vincent Orange, At-Large
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large
Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large
Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1
Councilmember Brandon Todd, Ward 4
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5
Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6
Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Ward 7
Councilmember LaRuby May, Ward 8