

# **Access to Restrooms in Downtown Washington DC That are Clean, Safe, & Available 24/7**

Prepared by Members of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFC)  
Downtown DC Public Restroom Committee <sup>1</sup>

## **SUMMARY**

*Between December, 2014 and February, 2015 members of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFC) Downtown Washington DC Public Restroom Committee visited 85 establishments in five areas in Downtown Washington, DC in order to find out whether pedestrians in these areas have adequate access to restrooms that are clean, safe, and available at any time of the day or night. They also did an internet search in an effort to identify restrooms in downtown DC that are open to the public 24/7.*

*The findings from this inventory suggest that **downtown Washington DC has a significant problem when it comes to having restrooms that are clean, safe, and available any time of day or night to anyone needing to use a restroom.***

- *If you are in downtown DC during the day or evening, are in a neighborhood you don't know well, and you urgently have to go, you can't count on quickly finding an establishment that will let you use their restroom without purchasing something. Managers of establishments can decide whether to make their restrooms to the public or limit their use to patrons; and they are increasingly putting locks on their restrooms to limit their use to patrons. If you are not well dressed or groomed, or carrying several bags it is more likely that the establishment will opt not to let you use their restroom.*
- *If you are in downtown DC late at night or early in the morning and urgently have to go you have a serious problem. There are only eight clean, safe restrooms in/near downtown DC that are available to the public 24/7 and you probably wouldn't know where they are. If you do, you would have to walk between a half-mile and 2 ½ miles to get to the restroom. Since 6 are privately owned, the owners have the option of limiting access to patrons.*
- *In either case, you may find that you either have to hold it in (which for women can lead to Urinary Tract Infections) or that you have no choice but to urinate or defecate outside.*
- *Urinating/defecating outside:*
  - *Is an affront to human dignity*
  - *It can get you a fine of up to \$500 or a jail term of up to 90 days if you are caught doing so within view of a policeman.*
  - *And, it presents a health hazard.*

*Cities in Europe and Asia have public restrooms throughout their downtown areas. Several cities in the U.S. have or are installing public restrooms that are clean, safe, and available 24/7. Shouldn't our Nation's Capital do so as well?*

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<sup>1</sup> Members of the PFC Downtown Washington DC Public Restroom Committee include George Olivar, Jennifer McLaughlin, John McDermott, and Janet Sharp. Marcia Bernbaum serves as mentor and advisor to the Restroom Committee with the

## WHAT WE DID

People for Fairness Coalition (PFC) was founded to ensure that DC residents experiencing housing instability have access to affordable housing through advocacy, outreach, and peer mentoring. In December 2014 and February 2015 members of PFC's Downtown DC Public Restroom Committee visited 85 establishments in five areas in Downtown Washington, DC in order to find out whether pedestrians in these areas have adequate access to restrooms that are clean, safe, and available. We also visited restrooms in/near downtown DC that are open 24/7.

PFC's Restroom Committee selected the five areas based on two criteria: (a) presence of sizable concentrations of individuals experiencing housing instability; and (b) heavy foot traffic among: tourists, shoppers, people walking through or coming through by bicycle, individuals who are restroom challenged. In each area we visited a sample of food and coffee chains and franchises. We also visited a sample of private restaurants and other private establishments.

1. We started by designing a checklist ( <i>attached</i> )	<p><i>Topics addressed in the checklist:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Restroom open to public vs. for patrons only</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Hours of operation</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Cleanliness (toilets, sink area)</i></li> <li>➤ <i>ADA accessible</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Safe</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Hooks &amp; baby changers</i></li> </ul>
2. We selected five areas in downtown DC where there is a high presence of individuals without housing and high level of pedestrian activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Gallery Place 7<sup>th</sup> St corridor H to D. Sts, H St. from 8<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> St</i></li> <li>➤ <i>K St. Corridor from 17<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> St.,</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Georgetown: M. St. corridor from 33<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> Sts.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Dupont Circle: Connecticut Ave. corridor from N to R Sts., 19<sup>th</sup> St. and New Hampshire Ave from Dupont Circle to N St.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Columbia Heights: 14<sup>th</sup> St Corridor from Irving to Monroe Sts., along Irving St. from 15<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> Sts.</i></li> </ul>
3. We piloted, and then adjusted, the checklist	<p><i>As a result of the pilot we reformatted the checklist to make it easier to fill in. We also added a few features (presence of hooks in stalls, presence of baby changers).</i></p>
4. We administered the checklist to 85 establishments in these areas that had restrooms.	<p><i>This represents approximately half of the establishments with restrooms in these five areas</i></p>
5. We coded and tabulated the data we collected in order to get a quick review of results.	
6. We then revisited the five areas on a Friday evening between 9 pm and 12:30 am.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>We observed the number of people on the street</i></li> <li>➤ <i>We revisited a handful of high end restaurants that let us in during the day to see if they would let us in at night.</i></li> </ul>
7. We contacted the headquarters of nine restaurant chains/franchises that permitted to see if they had restroom policies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Our objective was to find out if there was a corporate policy permitting entry to the public or whether it was up to each restaurant manager to decide</i></li> </ul>
8. We called other locations of chains that let us use their restrooms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>We wanted to find out if these other locations also permitted people to use restrooms if they weren't patrons.</i></li> </ul>
9. We visited Metro stations to find out if they provided restroom access to non customers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>We went to five metro stations, in the four areas we visited that had metro stops, plus Metro Center.</i></li> </ul>
10. We did an internet search to identify restrooms in/near downtown DC that are open 24/7.	<p><i>We identified and visited:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>Two restrooms on the Mall that are open 24/7.</i></li> <li>➤ <i>Three restrooms in Grocery Stores, three in Gas Stations, and one of four 7-11s – all open 24/7.</i></li> </ul>
11. We completed the data analysis and prepared this report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <i>The draft report was shared with PFC membership for review, comment, and approval before being distributed.</i></li> </ul>

## **WHO COMES TO THESE FIVE AREAS AND WHY**

*As can be seen below, people come to the five areas we selected for many reasons: to work, shop, dine, have coffee, visit historic sites and museums, go to the movies and special events, go to bars, just hang out. Some walk, jog, or bike through these areas. Four areas are easily accessed via metro.*

	<b>ATTRACTIONS</b>	<b>WHO COMES</b>
<b><i>Gallery Place</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gallery Regal Place (14) Movie Theater</li> <li>• Verizon Center events (seats 20,000)</li> <li>• National Portrait Gallery</li> <li>• Martin Luther library</li> <li>• Shops</li> <li>• Coffee shops</li> <li>• Food chains/ franchises</li> <li>• Fine dining (lunch &amp; dinner)</li> <li>• Bars open until 2:00 – 3:00 am</li> <li>• Metro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourists</li> <li>• Movie goers</li> <li>• Museum goers</li> <li>• Verizon center attendees</li> <li>• People visiting the library</li> <li>• Shoppers</li> <li>• Diners</li> <li>• Bars goers</li> <li>• Walkers, joggers/bicycle riders</li> <li>• People who are experiencing housing instability.</li> </ul>
<b><i>K St. Corridor</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Historic parks (Franklin, Farragut, McPherson)</li> <li>• Many office buildings</li> <li>• Chains/franchises catering to office workers</li> <li>• Coffee shops</li> <li>• Limited fine dining (lunch &amp; dinner)</li> <li>• Metro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourists</li> <li>• People coming to work</li> <li>• Diners (breakfast, lunch, dinner)</li> <li>• Bar goers</li> <li>• Individuals arriving on Metro</li> <li>• Walkers, joggers, bicycle riders</li> <li>• People who are experiencing housing instability.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Dupont Circle</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic Dupont Circle and surrounding areas</li> <li>• Many office buildings</li> <li>• Chains/franchises catering to office workers (breakfast, lunch, dinner)</li> <li>• Fine dining (lunch &amp; dinner)</li> <li>• Coffee shops</li> <li>• Bars open until 2:00 – 3:00 am</li> <li>• Metro</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourists</li> <li>• People coming to work</li> <li>• Shoppers</li> <li>• Diners (breakfast, lunch, dinner)</li> <li>• Bar goers</li> <li>• Walkers, joggers, bicycle riders</li> <li>• People who are experiencing housing instability</li> </ul>
<b><i>Georgetown</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Historic Georgetown and surrounding areas</li> <li>• Shops</li> <li>• Coffee shops</li> <li>• A few food chains/franchises</li> <li>• Broad range of dining options, lunch &amp; dinner)</li> <li>• One bar</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tourists</li> <li>• Shoppers</li> <li>• Diners (lunch &amp; dinner)</li> <li>• Walkers, joggers, bicycle riders</li> <li>• People who are experiencing housing instability</li> </ul>
<b><i>Columbia Heights</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Columbia Height Shopping Mall</li> <li>• Primarily food chains/ franchises</li> <li>• Coffee shops</li> <li>• Bars</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shoppers</li> <li>• Diners (lunch &amp; dinner)</li> <li>• Walkers, joggers, bicycle riders</li> <li>• Individuals who are housing unstable</li> </ul>

## **WHAT WE LEARNED**

**1. In three of the five areas that we visited (Gallery Place, K Street Corridor, Dupont Circle) half of the establishments let us use their restrooms; in Georgetown most did; and in Columbia Heights very few did.**

	<i>Gallery Place</i>	<i>K Street Corridor</i>	<i>Dupont Circle</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>Columbia Heights</i>
<i>Restaurants visited</i>	20	18	14	19	14
<i>Percent that let us use their restrooms</i>	52%	44%	50%	89%	20%

**2. In one area most of the establishments that we visited were private restaurants, in two areas they were primarily chains and franchises, in the other two the establishments we visited were a mixture of both.**

	<i>Gallery Place</i>	<i>K Street Corridor</i>	<i>Dupont Circle</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>Columbia Heights</i>
<i>Chains &amp; franchises</i>	10	15	7	6	9
<i>Private Restaurants</i>	9	1	9	13	0

**3. Most of the restrooms that we visited were clean and safe**

	<i>Gallery Place</i>	<i>K Street Corridor</i>	<i>Dupont Circle</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>Columbia Heights</i>
<i>Restrooms that were clean</i>	72%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<i>Restrooms that were safe</i>	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**4. There was a wide variation among the areas we visited in terms of restrooms with hooks on stalls; with the exception of one area, very few restrooms had baby changers.**

	<i>Gallery Place</i>	<i>K Street Corridor</i>	<i>Dupont Circle</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>Columbia Heights</i>
<i>Hooks on toilet stalls</i>	25%	45%	90%	65%	100%
<i>Baby changer in bathroom</i>	25%	12%	30%	12%	80%

**5. The majority of the private restaurants (74%) permitted us to use their restrooms; whereas a little less than half of the food & coffee chains/franchises (49%) did.**

*In red: food and coffee chains and franchises*

*In blue: private restaurants*

*In black: non-eating establishments*

	<b>Gallery Place</b>	<b>K Street Corridor</b>	<b>Dupont Circle</b>	<b>Georgetown</b>	<b>Columbia Heights</b>
<b>Restroom(s) Open to the Public</b>	Starbucks Au Bon Pain Nando's Peri Peri Dunkin Donuts  Legal Seafoods Clydes Carmine's Oyamel Jaleo District Chophouse  MLK Library	Starbucks Starbucks Subway McDonalds Corner Bakery Cosi Dunkin Donuts  McCormick & Schmidt  OSH Hilton Hotel	Starbucks Starbucks Le Pain Quotidian Sweet Greens Shop House Pizzeria Paradiso  James Hoban Irish Grille Madhatter Grille Kramers Books  Books a Million	HaagenDaz Chipotle Le Pain Quotidian Shop House Johnny Rocket Pizzeria Paradiso  Thunder Burger Bodega Sapporo Pier Moby Dick Bistro Francais Miss Saigon Don Lobos Mexican Grill Su-Thai Taj of India Good Stuff Eatery Clydes	Five Guys Z Burger Chinese  Target
<b>Restroom(s) for Patrons Only</b>	McDonald's Potbelly Quiznos Subs Quiznos Subs Fuddruckers Shophouse  Zengo Ping Pong Dim Sum	Starbucks Starbucks Five Guys Potbelly Pret a Manger Pret a Manger Pizza Fuel McDonalds	Subway Panera Cosi  Otello Osteria Dig Delicatessen Luna Grill DuPont Circle Restaurant	Café Tu o Tu Capriott's	Starbucks Potbelly Panera IHOP Pollo Campero Chipotle  Best Buy Bed, Bath, & Beyond

**6. Two areas have establishments with restrooms open to the public that are accessible from 5:00 - 5:30 am until midnight - 2 am. However,**

- If you are in Georgetown or Columbia Heights before 10 am you will have a hard time finding an establishment with a restroom.
- If you are on the K St. Corridor after 7 pm there are very few establishments with restrooms.

*Chains or franchises*

*Private restaurants*

*Other*

	<i>Gallery Place</i>	<i>K St. Corridor</i>	<i>Georgetown</i>	<i>Dupont Circle</i>	<i>Columbia Heights</i>
<b>OPENING</b>					
<b>Early (5-7 am)</b>	Starbucks: 5:30 Au Bon Pain: 5:00 Dunkin Donuts: 6 :00	McDonalds:5:30 Starbucks: 5;30 Starbucks:5:30 Dunkin Donuts:5:30 Corner Bakery:7:00 Subway:7:00 Cosi :8:00	<i>None</i>	Starbucks, 5:00 Starbucks, 6:00 Le Pain Quotidian, 7:00 Kramers Books, 7:30	<i>None</i>
<b>Later in the morning (10-11:30 am)</b>	Nando's Peri Peri, 11:00 Clyde's, 11:00 District Chophouse, 11:00 Carmine's, 11:30 Oyamel, 11:30 Jaleo, 11:30	OSH McCormick & Schmidt	Thunder Burger: 10:00 Bodega: 10:00 Sapporo Pier: 11:00 Moby Dick:11:00 Bistro Francais:11:00 Haagen Daz: 12:00	Sweet Greens, 11:00 Books a Million, 11:00 James Hoban Irish Grill,: 11:00 Madhatter Grille, 11:00 Chop House, 11:30 Pizzeria Paradiso, 11:30	Target: 10:00 Z Burger, 11:00 Five Guys: 11:00
<b>CLOSING</b>					
<b>Early (4 - 7 pm)</b>	Au Bon Pain: 7:00	Corner Bakery: 4:00 Cosi:6:00 Starbucks:6:00 Starbucks:7:00	<i>None</i>	Starbucks, 8:00	<i>None</i>
<b>Close late (10 pm - 2 am)</b>	Dunkin Donuts, 10:00 Carmine's, 10:00 Legal Seafood, 11:00 Jaleo, 11:00 District Chophouse, 11:00 Oyamel, 12:00 am Clydes 2:00 am	Subway:10:00 McDonalds: 11:00 McCormick & Schmidt	Moby Dick:10:00 Bistro Francais:11:00 Sapporo Pier: 11:00 Thunder Burger: 11:30 Bodega: 12:00 Haagen Daz: 1:00am	Sweet Greens, 10:00 Books a Million, 10:00 Chop House, 10:00 Pizzeria Paradiso, 10:00 Starbucks, 11:00 James Hoban Irish Grille; 11:00 Madhatter Grille, 11:00 Kramers Books, 1:00am	Target, 10:00 Z Burger: 10:00 Five Guys: 10:00

**7. If you are in downtown Washington DC and you have to urgently go, don't assume that your favorite food/coffee chain or franchise will let you use their restroom.**

- Of the 15 coffee/food chains and franchises that we visited only two, Le Pain Quotidian and Johnny Rockets (each with three locations in downtown DC) make their restrooms available to the public.<sup>2</sup>
- Eleven, the overwhelming majority (Dunkin Donuts, Five Guys, McDonald's, Subway, Pizzeria Paradiso, Au Bon Pain, Corner Bakery, Pizzeria Paradiso, Shop House, Cosi, and Sweet Greens) have some downtown DC locations where they open their restrooms to the public and other locations where they do not.
- And to make things even more complicated, the fact that a specific location let you use their restroom on one visit doesn't mean that they will let you use their restroom when you return.
- We found this to be the case when revisited a Starbucks and a Corner Bakery; while each let us use their restrooms, when we did the inventory at the time we returned both had locks on their restroom doors.<sup>3</sup>

<p><b><i>Chains/Franchises You CAN count on to be open to the public at different locations (at least up to when we visited them)</i></b></p>	<p><b><i>Chains/Franchises You CANNOT count on to be open to the public at different locations</i></b></p>
<p>Le Pain Quotidian <sup>4</sup> Johnny Rocket <sup>5</sup></p>	<p>Au Bon Pain Corner Bakery Cosi Dunkin Donuts Five Guys McDonald's Pizzeria Padadiso Shop House Starbucks Subway Sweet Green</p>

<sup>2</sup> Nando's Peri Peri and ZBurger each have only one location in downtown DC

<sup>3</sup> The manager of Z-Burger informed us that he is about to put a combination on the Z-Burger in Columbia Heights.

<sup>4</sup> Le Pain Quotidian has three locations on downtown DC: (1) 800 17<sup>th</sup> St., N.W.; (2) 979 F St., N.W.; (3) 2001 P St., N.W.

<sup>5</sup> Johnny Rockets also has three locations in downtown DC: (1) 3131 M. St., N.W.; (2) 2000 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, (3) Union Station Food Court.

**8. If you choose to go into a private restaurant you also can't count on them letting you use their restroom.**

- We were pleasantly surprised when 24 of the private restaurants we visited permitted us to use their restrooms; only 9 did not.
- However, we are less than confident they would let us use their restrooms if we were not well dressed or groomed, and/or carried a number of bags with us.

	<b><i>Gallery Place</i></b>	<b><i>K Street Corridor</i></b>	<b><i>Dupont Circle</i></b>	<b><i>Georgetown</i></b>	<b><i>Columbia Heights</i></b>
<b><i>Restroom(s) Open to the Public</i></b>	Legal Seafoods Clydes Carmine's Oyamel Jaleo District Chophouse	McCormick & Schmidt	Pizzeria Paradiso James Hoban Irish Grille Madhatter Grille Kramers Books	Thunder Burger Bodega Sapporo Pier Moby Dick Bistro Francais Pizzeria Paradiso Miss Saigon Don Lobos Mexican Grill Su-Thai Taj of India Good Stuff Eatery Clydes	
<b><i>Restroom(s) for Patrons Only</i></b>	Shophouse Zengo Ping Pong Dim Sum		Otello Osteria Dig Delicatessen Luna Grill DuPont Circle Restaurant	Café Tu o Tu Capriott's Sandwich Shop	



**9. Metro’s policy that clearly states that restrooms are available for “limited use by customers” was not posted at all of the four Metro stations that we visited. The four Station Managers we interviewed were familiar with the policy but had different interpretations.**

Metro has a clear restroom policy that is to be posted in a visible place at its stops. It states:

*“Most stations have at least one restroom which the Station Manager shall make available for limited use by customers. The circumstances under which the restrooms will be made available are:*

- A. *An emergency situation*
- B. *For small children*
- C. *For customers who are elderly or physically disabled”*

- This policy was posted in only 2 of the 4 stations that we visited.
- While all four Station Managers were familiar with the policy, as can be seen below, none was able to state the full policy correctly and none mentioned that one of the “limited uses” was for “an emergency situation”
- Three volunteered that outside of the “limited circumstances” listed above that they would provide broader access, but at their “discretion”: one of the three was clear that he wouldn’t let “grubby people” use the customer restroom at his Metro station.
- The fourth indicated that she would let anyone in to the customer restroom, no matter what they looked liked.
- Only one station (Columbia Heights) had a sign at the Station Manager’s Kiosk that said “Customer Restroom Available”

<b>METRO STOP FOR AREA WE VISITED</b>	<b>WHAT WE SAW/WERE TOLD BY THE STATION MASTER WE SPOKE TO</b>
<b>Dupont Circle</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Station Manager did not mention that restrooms are for limited use by customers.</li> <li>▪ Instead he said he uses discretion on who she/he lets in</li> </ul>
<b>Farragut Square (K St. Corridor)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Station Manager indicated that priority was given to pregnant women, children, and the elderly</li> <li>▪ Station master also indicated that he uses his discretion and won’t let “grubby” people in</li> </ul>
<b>Gallery Place</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Metro restroom policy posted in visible place</u></li> <li>▪ Station Manager indicated that priority was given to children and the elderly</li> <li>▪ Station Manager indicated that he uses his discretion on who he lets use the restroom.</li> </ul>
<b>Columbia Heights</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <u>Metro restroom policy posted in visible place</u></li> <li>▪ Station Manager indicated that priority was given to children and the elderly</li> <li>▪ Station Manager indicated that he uses his discretion on who he lets use the restroom.</li> <li>▪ <u>Sign at station master kiosk that says “Restrooms are for customers only”</u></li> </ul>

**10. If you urgently have to go late at night or early in the morning you are going to have a VERY hard time finding a restroom close by that is open 24/7.**

After an extensive internet search and several telephone calls we found 2 government owned buildings and 6 in private establishments in or near downtown Washington DC that have restrooms open to the public 24/7 that are clean and safe. We also visited three gasoline stations that are open 24/7 (two near Georgetown and one in Foggy Bottom. None were clean and none were safe.

- With the exception of the Giant Supermarket, which is located in Columbia Heights, none of the other restrooms are a convenient walking distance from the remaining four areas we visited, of concern especially if you have to go urgently.
- The Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials are between a 1.5 and 2.0 walk from the closest of the five areas that we visited.
- None of the establishments with restrooms have signs indicating that their restrooms they are open to the public 24/7.

<b>AREA VISITED</b>	<b>CLOSEST RESTROOM OPEN 24/7</b>
<b><i>Columbia Heights</i></b>	<u>Giant Food Store</u> (1428 Park Rd) in Columbia Heights
<b><i>Gallery Place</i></b>	<u>Safeway</u> (490 L St NW) a .5 mile walk, <u>Union Station</u> (500 North Capital St, NE), a 1 mile walk.
<b><i>Georgetown</i></b>	<u>Safeway</u> (1816 Wisconsin Ave NW), a .9 mile walk, <u>GWU Hospital Emergency Room</u> , an .8 mile walk.
<b><i>K Street Corridor</i></b>	<u>7-11</u> (504 19 <sup>th</sup> St. NW), a .9 mile walk.
<b><i>Dupont Circle</i></b>	<u>7-11</u> (504 19 <sup>th</sup> St. NW), a .9 mile walk.

## 11. What we know about the population with housing instability in each of the five areas we visited

One of the criteria we used to select the five areas where we collected information on restrooms was that each area have an appreciable number of people with housing instability who sleep on the street and/or gather during the day.

The information below provides an overview of what we know about individuals with housing instability that frequent the five areas we visited:

<b>AREA</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>
<b><i>Gallery Place</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large numbers congregate in front of the MLK Library early in the morning and early in the evening when they are picked up and dropped off from shelters.</li> <li>• Many spend a good portion of their day in the Martin Luther King library.</li> <li>• Several hang around during the day along 7<sup>th</sup> St in front of the Verizon Center.</li> <li>• <b>Lacking information about how many</b></li> </ul>
<b><i>K St. Corridor</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High concentration of homeless during the day and at night, both along the K Street Corridor, into the three parks (Farragut, McPherson, Franklin) and into New York Ave. and environs.</li> <li>• Homeless Census carried out during the day and night during the summer of 2013 found ___ and over 200 sleeping on the street at night.</li> <li>• Pathways to Housing is contracted by the Downtown BID to provide outreach to the homeless.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Dupont Circle</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Between 50 and 60, mostly 55 and older, sleep in around/Dupont Circle; 15 in Dupont Circle. They sleep there even during hypothermia nights.</li> <li>• There is a difference between those who hang out around Dupont Circle during the day and at night.</li> <li>• Pathways to Housing is contracted by the Golden Triangle BID to provide outreach to the homeless.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Georgetown</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately 60 individuals without housing live in/around Georgetown.</li> <li>• They sleep in a variety of areas; with the highest concentration under the White Hurst Freeway.</li> <li>• Georgetown Ministries provides restrooms, showers, food, and outreach to the homeless fro 8 am – 4 pm daily.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Columbia Heights</i></b>	Need information

## OUR CONCLUSIONS

Before sharing our conclusions it is important to point out that the primary objective of this study (in research parlance it would be called a “Rapid Appraisal”) was to identify, selecting a sample of establishments in five areas of downtown DC, whether or not access to restrooms that are clean, safe, and open 24/7 is a problem. To do this we visited approximately half of the establishments with restrooms in the areas that we selected. Our intention was never to visit all facilities with restrooms in the five downtown areas we selected, much less do a census of restrooms in downtown DC. Should the decision be made to carry out a census, we could be happy to support such an effort.

1. If you are in an area of Downtown DC that you have never been in or seldom visit and you have to use the restroom urgently:
  - *It is very likely that you will have to visit various establishments until you find one that will let you use their restroom without purchasing something.*
2. If you are a tourist visiting an area of Downtown DC for the first time and you have to use a restroom urgently during the day or early evening:
  - *You most certainly will have to visit various establishments until you find one that will let you use its restroom without making a purchase.*
3. If you are walking in downtown DC late at night or early in the morning and urgently have to go
  - *Chances are you will not find a restroom that is open 24/7.*
  - *If you happen to be in Gallery Place, Georgetown, the Dupont Circle area, or along the K St. Corridor, you will have to walk between a half mile and a mile to find a restroom that is open 24/7, and you probably don't know that the restroom exists.*
  - *If you sleep on the streets, have come out of a bar and urgently have to go, and/or you are restroom challenged you will have no choice but to urinate or defecate outside.*
4. Don't count on being able to use the restroom at a specific food or coffee chain/franchise at a given location based on your positive experience at another location:
  - *Managers of specific locations are permitted to decide whether to limit restroom use to patrons.*
  - *A manager that permits the public to use their restroom today may decide to put a lock on the door tomorrow limiting access to patrons only.*
5. Don't count either on being able to use a restroom at a private restaurant:
  - *As with individual locations of food/coffee franchises and chains, it is up to the manager to decide whether to let you in.*
  - *The manager may decide whether or not to let you use the restroom based on how well you are dressed, whether you are carrying several bags as is often the case with people without housing.*
6. A public library, if there is one nearby, would be a good bet since they are obligated to make their restrooms open to anyone who comes into the library.
  - *However, chances are slim that you will find one nearby given there are only two libraries in downtown DC. One is located near Gallery Place the other in Foggy Bottom which is a distance from the other areas..*
  - *None of other four locations that we visited have public libraries nearby.*

**Downtown Washington DC**  
**Public Restroom Initiative Restroom Checklist (Updated 1/19/2015)**

**Your name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of establishment:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Street address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of stalls/toilets:**

Women's \_\_\_\_\_ Men's \_\_\_\_\_ Unisex \_\_\_\_\_

**Attendant present (Y,N):** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADA accessible (Y/N):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Condition (Y,N):**

- Toilet area clean with toilet paper \_\_\_\_\_
- Sink area clean with soap \_\_\_\_\_
- Hook for hanging items in stall \_\_\_\_\_
- Baby changer \_\_\_\_\_

**Observations (specify):** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Hours: (select one)**

Open 24/7: \_\_\_\_\_

Opening and closing hours: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Limitations to entry (check one):**

- None \_\_\_\_\_
- Must show ID \_\_\_\_\_
- Requires key/combo for entry: \_\_\_\_\_
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

**Safety: (select one)**

- Appears safe \_\_\_\_\_
- Concerns with safety (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**How you were treated when attempting to enter restroom** (options: treat well, if not indicate how you were treated): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Other comments:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_