

**Testimony of Nick DelleDonne, Commissioner for ANC 2B04
Hearing on Bill 22-0223 held by the
Committee on Transportation and Environment
January 10, 2018**

Good day. I am ANC Commissioner Nick DelleDonne SMD 2B04. I am here to add my testimony to the need for public restrooms in downtown DC (B22-0223) for the convenience of residents and tourists. I am one of nine commissioners in the Dupont Circle ANC2b which passed a resolution unanimously in favor of the concept expressed in the bill before us today. The rest of my remarks are drawn from my own experience as a resident of Dupont Circle.

When I moved to Dupont Circle in 1992, you could not hear a baby cry. It was a haven for gay men and women, as young married couples would exit the city for the suburbs as soon the wife got pregnant, seeking a better school district for their children. That has changed. Because of changes in our school system, particularly Ross Elementary School, we have become accustomed to a phalanx of baby carriages of very description up and down 17th Street and in the shops and in the parks of Dupont Circle.

These parents need public restrooms for their young children. Toddlers and young children have small bladders. When they have to go, they have to go urgently. It is a convenience that will help them enjoy one of the jewels of living in the city, outdoor life in our livable/walkable urban campus. They cannot always leave their children at home when they go to the grocery store or the cleaners or run errands. No. They are compelled to take them along. They need the convenience of public restrooms to avoid the inevitable accidents children will have.

Defecation and urination are not pleasant topics of discussion but they are necessary human functions we require daily for our health. As city agents and leaders, we need to address the need and provide for them.

There was an incident recently reported widely in the media where a man was denied the use of the public restroom in the Metro and after much pleading with Metro agents, found himself without an alternative but to urinate on himself.

We have many residents and tourists who rely on our public transit systems every day and who need access to restrooms when nature calls. So do people who walk around the city, pedestrians of every description, tourists, handicapped,

elderly, shoppers. People emerging from bars and night clubs late at night. Alcohol is a diuretic. And dare I say it, the homeless. They are here among us.

You and I, who have a home to go to, can awake in the middle of the night with stomach flu and go to the bathroom. We have the convenience of a home with a private facility.

I attended a public meeting for the renovation of Stead Park which this committee provided funding for a few months ago. I stood up as a representative in the community and called attention to the need for public restrooms open 24/7 for the homeless and others.

After the meeting a young mother came up to me and thanked me with a big smile for bringing up the subject at a public meeting. She told me she visits the Park daily with her young daughter and she said she finds human feces behind the wall where the ball is kicked. The parks and their facilities are closed and locked at 9 pm. It is an image I will always remember.

Thank you. I am happy to answer questions.

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