



A Thank You from ANC 6A

In this issue of the Hill Rag, ANC 6A is recognizing those liquor licensees who have signed a Voluntary Agreement (VA) with the ANC.

The significance of signing the ANC 6A Voluntary Agreement is that it is an indication that the licensee cares about the community. These are the responsible license holders who appear before our Alcohol Beverage Licensing Committee (ABL) before they apply for their license and make their plans known to the community. They also are the long-time operators who come to face community comment as their licenses are renewed. They listen to community concerns and respond to those by voluntarily agreeing to enforceable conditions relating to noise, hours of service, maintenance of facilities, outdoor lighting etc.

ANC 6A appreciates these license holders. They include grocers and owners of liquor stores, restaurants and bars. Therefore, we are launching a recognition program through local media and the distribution of stickers that indicate each is "Working With My Community." We hope you will look for this sticker in the windows of those merchants who have signed a VA, or look at our ad recognizing them in this edition.

Their willingness to work with the ANC by listening to community concerns and voluntarily agreeing to enforceable conditions within their license improves our neighborhoods.

Mary Beatty,
Chair, ANC 6A ABL
Committee, mbbeatty@aol.com

Don't Tear Down Hine

It is with dismay that we understand that the Hine Junior High is going to be closed this year and that the Restoration Society, in an astonishingly short-sighted decision, is leading the movement to have it razed.

Closing the school will accomplish what some on Capitol Hill have been working towards for many years--the complete gentrification of our neighborhood. This will nearly eliminate the last bas-

thelastword

tion of diversity on Capitol Hill, and the end of the multicultural mix that brought many of us to Capitol Hill in the first place.

We think that some serious thought ought to go into these decisions, on what the long-term implications are for this (quiet) ethnic cleansing of our neighborhood.

In an awesome display of unfathomably short-term thinking, the Restoration Society has also recommended the demolition of practically the last remaining example of what is known as the Brutal School of architecture, on Capitol Hill.

They apparently did not think of what this may mean 50 or 100 years from now. The building may not be to their liking or they may even consider it not to fit into our current neighborhood and their homogenized view of it, but it is a prime example of what happened architecturally in Washington during the 1960's and 1970's, and is an inextricable part of our history here. We can already imagine the dismay of future architectural historians at the loss of this building (and a display in the CVS windows on Seventh and Penn. on the anniversary of its destruction). But we have learned not to expect more from them.

The community and our purported leaders do not seem to be thinking these decisions through. Their vision is blinded by the pursuit of the almighty dollar, and has overtaken clear thinking.

Karl and Carrol Kindel,
Ckindel@aol.com

[Editors note: The decision to close Hine Junior High was made by DCPS as part of its effort to consolidate schools and redirect the cost of keeping unneeded schools open into enhanced school programming.]

The Hill Helped My Son

This week, on Monday, April 14th, at 4:00 pm, my 13 year old son was "jumped" by two young men (a bit older than he is) on PA Ave, SE between 10th and 11th streets



Capitol Hill's Biggest, Best Yard Sale has a new venue.... **St. Peter's Interparish School Annual Yard Sale**

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the district **BEAT**

by Mark Segraves

every month in the *Hill Rag*.
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while walking home from the metro. He was punched in the jaw, knocked to the ground, his cell phone (which, ironically he carries to call us in case of emergencies) and his MP-3 player were stolen. Busy time of day, but no cars were driving by at the time. One might think this would make my family, who has lived on The Hill for 20 years, feel differently about our neighborhood. In fact, the opposite is true. Here are some of the reasons why:

1. Carol Green, who came upon my son on the ground, took him to Frager's Hardware, called the police and waited with him until they (and I) arrived.
2. The staff of Frager's who let my son use their phone to call me, gave my son some ice for his face and reassured me in my on-going frantic calls as I drove across town from Columbia Heights.
3. Dozens of members of the Hill East list serve, who have sent encouraging messages to my family (and to each other as well.)
4. My friend and neighbor, Lisa Bergman, who first suggested I put a posting about the attack on the list serve, so people could have the information and keep themselves safe.

I hope to hear at some point, from the police- nobody has contacted me about the incident yet. The official classification of the crime (written out on the officer's card) is "Robbery Force: Violence."

Over the past week, several people have referred to what happened to my son as "bullying." While bullying is a dangerous thing which should never be tolerated, the two young men who attacked my son are (although young) criminals, not bullies. My son was the victim of a crime. I am going to assume the police will treat the act as such.

J Lewton,
sailsedc@yahoo.com

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Treat Violent Juveniles as Adults

On July 13, 2007 at 1:00am, I was mugged at gunpoint by three men, only one block from my house at 5th and G St. NE. I was walking home from work that night only because my truck had been stolen out of the Giant super market parking lot earlier that week.

That night the police caught one of the three guys who held me up - the gunman. I testified against him before the Grand Jury in November of last year and he was indicted on two felonies: robbery and carrying a weapon during a violent crime. Since then, I have been working with attorneys at the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the gunmen plead guilty to armed robbery which carries a minimum of 5 years.

In the course of speaking with the DOJ, I learned about a law called the DC Youth Act or also known as the Youth Rehabilitations Act. My understanding of this provision is that if the man who violently attacked me accepts the plea offer, behaves himself in prison, and does not violate parole, then because he was 17 year old when he committed this crime, the charge will be taken off his public permanent record.

In further learning about this provisions I have been told that if a juvenile commits a crime (except murder) and enters a plea of guilty or a verdict of guilty is entered before his/her 22 birthday then this provision can be considered by the judge.

I believe that society has the right to know that his young man has committed a violent crime and been convicted of a felony. While I understand the arguments in favor of clearing the records of juvenile offenders, the 17 year old man who robbed me was clearly adult enough know that violently attacking people on the street for \$68 is illegal, wrong and immoral.

Because of this violent physical attack on me, I have suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, I have to see a therapist and my life and of those around me have been permanently changed. Unfortunately in 3-5 years I don't get to just forget about what happened to me. Please do not get me wrong. I fully support educational programs, after school programs, youth development programs and most of all I wish we could get a trade and/or skill teaching branch at UDC. We need to give these youth the chance to learn a skill or trade if college isn't a viable option. However, excusing them from society after committing a violent crime is not a solution.

I encourage each of you to call your DC Council Member (www.dc.gov) and ask that this law be amended by exempting violent crimes and reducing the age from 22 to 18. The public has a right to know that these criminals at some point had a complete disregard for human life.

Chandler Goule,
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Enhanced RPP Stinks

What is the rationale behind placing in effect the "Enhanced RPP" restrictions on a seven day a week, 365 days a year basis? As far as I can tell,

the Nationals aren't playing there 365 days a year. I understand that the Nationals only play 81 home games. By simple arithmetic, that leaves 284 days without baseball games.

For the sake of discussion, let's say that a resident has a cocktail/dinner party or better yet an election returns party. For those unfortunate folks that don't live in the enhanced RPP, they will have to come in and leave within 2 hours even on election night. Excuse me, but I don't think that there will ball games there in November.

I'm surprised there hasn't been an uproar from Barracks Row. The street is finally an area of which we can be proud. It also attracts many out of the neighborhood patrons. If they don't get in and out in 2 hours an extra \$30 is added to their tab courtesy of the District. That is solid economic development?

Today I have a plumber making repairs on a rental property in the enhanced RPP. Guess what? Almost impossible to find a legal parking space! Another plumber working across the street got a \$30 ticket. I guess that is another cost imposition for doing business in the District. Let's run every tradesman out of the area.

Let's say a resident has several weekend guests. What about them? Only one visitor parking pass. The examples could go on and on. What was wrong with the system used around RFK? Didn't generate enough income I suppose.

Now for the best part. The predatory towing. On games nights in my corner of the enhanced RPP, the tow trucks are snatching cars everywhere. The laughable part is that on the 700 block of Seventh St., SE, there is an older model Cadillac with 4 flat tires and dead tags. It has been there for at least 2 months. It is still there as of this morning.

The system is flawed. The system is predatory. The system is a backdoor tax on visitors and residents alike.

At the same time, provisions are made to give churches in the area multiple parking passes so they can drive in from the suburbs and clog our streets. If Metro and Metrobus are the best options for Nat's fans, then why not the suburban churchgoers? I think I know the answer to that one, but we are not allowed to discuss it openly without being branded. If you on the council can pander to suburbanites, why can't you take care of your constituents in a reasonable manner? We vote and pay taxes, they don't.

As for the new parking meter machines, be prepared. From my personal experience with them in other cities, fasten your seat belt. This thing needs to be changed.

Jim Simpson,
JSimpson@cbmove.com

To Tommy Wells: Enhanced RPP on Pennsylvania Bad Idea

I live in Ward 6 and I am extremely disappointed in what I have heard is your support for the change of parking rules on the Pa. Avenue, SE corridor (hereinafter PASEC).

Under the guise of restricting parking around

the Nationals baseball stadium, you have allowed outside interests to trump the interests of Ward 6 residents, business owners, and members of local organizations such as Legion Post 8.

First, I doubt if one person in a thousand would park in PASEC and walk to the stadium through the questionable neighborhoods that exist between there and the stadium.

Second, free parking has been available in PASEC after 6:30 pm on weekdays and on Saturdays and Sundays since I moved here in 1978. No one gave us any clear and specific notice that this radical change was going to take place in our neighborhood, so there was no opportunity to voice our objections. No one I have spoken to, individuals, owners of restaurants, or members of my Legion Post #8, is in favor of this change!

Third, when the change was made, instead of being honest about the changes and posting them clearly, all the city did was put up signs which did not explicitly state that paid parking was going to be radically expanded, but only that the machines were to be used in the future. The new hours are NOT announced on the parking signs. One sign announces the loading zone hours but has no indication that 30 years of parking rules are now out the window and no indication that someone must pay outside the stated hours.

Imagine you put in a new Stop sign and instead of the regular size and shape - you made it a triangle that was 1/10 the size - Would this be fair? No, and that's why the new parking signs are not fair.

Finally, you took out all the parking meters, which we have used for bike racks, without replacing them with some sort of bike rack.

When you change the rules that have been in effect for over 30 years, you need to hold public hearings in the Ward and after an informed decision is made, you need to post the changes clearly so we can comply. In summary, a terrible decision was made without explicit notice and community input; and it was implanted poorly without proper posting of the changes.

Hugh O Stevenson,
12th Street, SE,
joebobhugh@verizon.net

Taking Issue with April's Market Watch

In response to the report in the April 2008 Market Watch column on Market Five Gallery's finances, the projected revenues from the North Hall, envisioned by EMCAC, must be a figment of someone's lively imagination.

We would love to see ideas from anyone in the community for enhancing income production by the North Hall. Any income producing management option will be lucky to break even without the ability to host art openings, political fund-raisers, and other activities requiring food and drink service; and without affordable options to heat and cool the space, and without outside financial and community input. Even the South Hall merchants did bow to reality when they accepted financial support from both the greater Washington, DC community and from the District of Columbia

government after the 2007 fire.

It is nothing short of miraculous for us to have functioned for over 30 years with no heat, no running water, no cooling in summer (our longest season), no bathrooms. We have no paid accounting firm. We have a volunteer public relations consultant, a part-time on-site manager/booking/out-reach staff person, paid security staff. We are discouraged from using the Market trash facilities to which we have a right, by representatives of the current management. We pay for our own trash pickup. Our website is maintained by volunteers as is our mailing list. To deny us the ability to serve our constituency by denying those who wish to contract to use the space the option to serve food and drink; or by using other stratagems to restrict our ability to produce even enough income to meet our overhead (electricity, telephone, Internet connection, rent, maintenance), is to deny the will of the community.

Eastern Market is a museum of sorts. As mentioned in the report by People for Public Spaces (a report paid for by EMCAC), maintaining such a public market in the contemporary economic world is an uphill struggle, needing the support and cooperation of all involved, including the community.

Furthermore, the mandated purpose of the North Hall, under whatever management, is to serve the community as an arts, performance and community use space. Therefore prices must be kept at a minimum for use of the space in order to make it affordable to anyone. Using the space for for-profit income to support the South Hall businesses, is not part of the mission of the North Hall.

We would like to see the operators of Eastern Market Ventures, the non-profit management firm that manages some Eastern Market activities, open their books and agree to an interview, as we have done.

Cynthia S. Warren,
Member, Board of Directors,
Market 5 Gallery,
warrengeo@yahoo.com ■



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“Farewell, Master, yet not farewell.
Where I go, ye too shall dwell.
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After Death by Edwin Arnold

