Community Forum

Commissioner Reports: Commissioner Trimble spoke of noise problems with construction around Thomas House. She said that the construction crews were working past 10 pm at night. Kramer suggested that she contact DDOT about the problem, as late night construction was not part of their approved traffic plan. Commissioner Funk spoke again of the scaffolding around Claridge Towers. It was supposed to be down months ago. Kramer said that the façade has been under repair for years. She has contacted Jack Evans’ office to try to remedy the situation. Kramer also spoke of ongoing negotiations with the 13th Street Quality Market. Although the owner signed an agreement with the ANC, he is not abiding by it. He may think it is not yet in effect. Commissioner Hinterlong said that he thinks he has finally reached a voluntary agreement with Capital Supermarket. He needs to speak with their attorney next week and hopes to bring the agreement to the next meeting. Kramer says that this is a triumph of negotiation and patience. Sherri Kimbel invited everyone to the LCCA Meeting on October 13 for a “Meet the ANC Candidates” night.

Lt. Smith introduced Sgt. Emmerman who works closely with him. Crime statistics: there has been a spike in robberies. There is a “bicycle thief” who robs people and makes his getaway on a bike. He rides a black or blue mountain bike, and is a black man in his 30’s. Theft from autos is tough to catch, but there have been some results. Smith asked that people who call to report crimes please leave their names. It is important to follow up. Smith is going on sick leave October 30. Emmerman will be running the PSA. He can be reached at 673-6923. http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/ is a website for Public Service complaints.

Sandra Gonzalez, who heads the Charter School at the National City Christian Church, introduced herself. They have classes for pre-school to 5th Grade. Ed Horvath asked if the Commission had heard anything about a Charter School in the 1200 block of 9th Street. Richard Neidich said that the Convention Center is planning a pub and the neighbors fear that having a school so nearby would negate any chance of a liquor license. Kramer asked Sean Metcalf of Councilmember Jack Evans’ office to investigate whether there are any pending building permits and whether they have been to HRPB and/or applied for a Certificate of Occupancy. Metcalf said he would get back to the Commission prior to the next meeting. Horvath said that it appears the school plans to open next Fall.

At 7:30, Kramer called for a brief break.
Approval of Agenda

Kramer added the Prostate Cancer 5K run on October 30 to the agenda. Funk asked to add a discussion of the Claridge Towers scaffolding. He wants to send a letter. Kramer said that she has sent an email. Funk said that an email was not enough, as it is a blight on the community and is not being corrected. Brandon moved approval of the amended agenda; Hinterlong seconded.
VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Approval of Minutes

Brandon moved approval of the September minutes. Hinterlong seconded.
VOTE: Approved 5-0.

New Business

Logan Grill t/a Merkado, 1445 P Street NW
David Winer is opening this restaurant down the street from Logan Tavern, which he also owns. Kramer presented the Voluntary Agreement for this restaurant, which is the same as the one for Logan Tavern. They hope to open March 1. Funk moved approval of the VA, Brandon seconded.
VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Vegas Lounge, 1415 P Street, license renewal
Kramer asked if there was any objection to the renewal of the license. Brandon asked if there were any changes to the license. Kramer said that there were none. Funk moved that the ANC take no action on the renewal, Hinterlong seconded.
VOTE: Approved 5-0.

Special Event Runs/Walks
1. The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill 5K Walk, Saturday, November 6, 2004 is using the “Jingle Bell” race course.
2. A walk for Prostate Cancer is scheduled for October 30th. They want permission to close Pennsylvania Avenue between 13 and 14th, and will erect a tent which will remain until the rental company comes back to take it down.
Kramer asked why so many non-profits try to raise funds by closing streets in the District of Columbia. Freedman, who is managing both of these races, said that runs/walks became popular 15 years ago. Freedman said that they have tried to move them into Virginia or Maryland but they have been turned down. He said that Special Operations Police protect the course, not neighborhood police.
Hinterlong moved to approve these races, Funk seconded.
VOTE: Approved 5-0.

3. Fannie Mae Help for Homeless Walk, Saturday November 20, 2004. It begins at 7 am and ends at 11 am. Kramer asked for a motion to approve by acclamation. It was unanimous.
Old Business

Embassy Suites, 1000 K Street, Public Space Permit for Outdoor Seating
Thomas Carroll of Holland & Knight asked for support to open a sidewalk café at the Embassy Suites at 1000 K Street. It is scheduled to open September 2005. The café will be on the south side of K Street. Kramer asked for a motion of approval by acclamation. Funk moved, Hinterlong seconded, no one objected.

Claridge Towers
Funk said that the DC Government has been working on renovations to this building for at least 5 years, and the scaffolding blocking the sidewalks around the building has been up for at least that long. It is public housing. He feels that he has been lied to, and led on. Kramer asked for a report from Sean Metcalf on Evans office’s actions on this issue. He said he would look into the matter and report back to the ANC. Funk moved that the ANC write to Jack Evans’ office asking for expedition of the completion of the project. Brandon seconded.
VOTE: Approved 5-0, Funk to write letter. It was suggested that he copy the Inspector General

Treasurer’s Report

Hinterlong moved acceptance of the following expenditures:

- 701.84 Sherri Kimbel, September wages
- 32.00 DC Treasurer, Sept. withholding
- 708.09 US Treasurer, 3rd Quarter withholding
- 44.77 DC DOES, 3rd Quarter unemployment taxes

With a recent quarterly allotment payment, this leaves a balance of $19,188.72 in the account when these checks have cleared. Brandon seconded.

VOTE: Approved 5-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.