

# ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B

Government of the District of Columbia

Columbia Heights / LeDroit Park / Shaw / University Heights

1 April 2004, True Reformer Building, 1200 U Street NW

Attending: Commissioners Guyot, Spalding, Thomas, Glover, Skinner, Esters, Wright

Absent: Commissioners Hammonds, Butler, Houston, Wilson

Quorum was achieved at approximately 7:20 and the meeting was convened. In the Secretary's report Commissioner Spalding reported that the "Building Futures" conference held at the True Reformer Building in mid March went well, that BZA Case 17138 regarding 1325 Fairmont did not appear to surmount hurdles of the Board, that the TCP for Garnet Patterson School would close the sidewalk on U Street from Vermont to 10<sup>th</sup> for up to six months, that there is an amendment to recently passed TCP for "The Bailey", and that he had printed guidelines to be distributed with grant applications in the future. Secretary reminded everyone that minutes and agendas are posted at [www.ustreet.com/csna](http://www.ustreet.com/csna), and moved minutes of the March meeting, which was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0). Treasurer Glover reported that in the past month checks for secretarial expenses (#1530 for \$79.66), a void for check number 1531, and an approved grant check (#1532 for \$1,210.00) was made to Mosque #4, which leaves a current balance of \$100,199.75 and the Treasurer's report was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0). Treasurer presented the quarterly report for the period January 1, 2004 through March 31, 2004, and reflects allotments of \$13,984.00 and disbursements of \$226.21 in office supplies, grants of \$1,210.00, bank charges of \$2.00, and \$25.00 for ANC Security Fund payment, which again leaves a current balance of \$100,199.75, and the quarterly report was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0). Treasurer requested reimbursing Secretary for supplies (postage, ink, paper) in the amount of \$134.11, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (6-0-0).

There were no community events or announcements.

June Drumming gave an introduction to the CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) and the training that is available to DC citizens in disaster preparedness, fire suppression, emergency medical operations, search and rescue techniques, and response to terror attacks. Ms.

Drumming provided handouts with contact information, and asked all citizens to get this free training. Ms. Drumming is responsible for Wards 1 & 2, and can be reached at [june.drumming@dc.gov](mailto:june.drumming@dc.gov) or by calling 202-671-2338. Commissioner Wright added that he has just finished the training, and recommended that everyone else take part in this training.

Mr. Steven Jumper, Director of Public Affairs at Washington Gas Company addressed the January gas outage in our neighborhoods and the current status of the repairs and improvements. Members of Washington Gas' Field Operations unit were also in attendance to answer any questions. Mr. Jumper reviewed the history of the January loss of service caused by the infiltration of water into the low pressure gas system lines. During the response to the outage Washington Gas pumped out approximately 20,000 gallons of water which had overwhelmed the drip valves designed to hold between five and thirty gallons of water. Washington Gas coordinated their response with the DCEMA and with local officials. Mr. Jumper singled out the early and regular presence of Commissioner Skinner who provided important ground level identification of people and households facing particular difficulty with the outage. Mr. Jumper also stated that Washington Gas did not reach out to the ANC and its Commissioners as well as it will in future incidents. The Gas Company is also looking to upgrade their communications to facilitate more outbound messages informing customers and community leaders about the status of outages. Mr. Jumper said that they did find working with local list serves, especially the CSNA list, to have been enormously helpful, and will work to include these resources in future outreach programs. Washington Gas will be replacing the low pressure lines in the southern section of the outage with high pressure lines, which are less susceptible to water infiltration. The southern section of the outage has been identified as critical because it is low lying geographically, and water difficulties will be more common where the water collects. Mr. Jumper provided contact information for the Public Affairs branch of Washington Gas Co.

Public Space application for new driveway at 1505 Harvard Street was introduced by Commissioner Spalding. This is in Commissioner Wilson's SMD, but we had not been able to get the Commissioner to return phone calls, and therefore, there's no input from the Commissioner available. Commissioner Spalding stated that he also tried to get someone from SOCO to review the situation, but no one from the neighborhood association had responded or was present. The Commission looked at the design, but lacking any actual knowledge of the site many questions could not be answered. Commissioner Esters asked whether it was a single family house or an apartment building, and how much curb space would be lost. Commissioner Skinner moved approval of the application, and Commissioner Guyot seconded, and the motion failed on a vote of (2-2-2).

In DDOT Public Space Department applications for pay telephone service all applications were opposed. 1855 7<sup>th</sup> St. was opposed by SMD Commissioner Guyot on the basis of known drug activity and already available service, and opposition was adopted unanimously (6-0-0). 1101 V

St. & 2112 11<sup>th</sup> St. were opposed by SMD Commissioner Spalding citing the fact that both were in new construction zones inside proposed TCP's, and opposition was adopted unanimously (7-0-0). 1921 14<sup>th</sup> St. was opposed by SMD Commissioner Spalding citing opposition from nearby residential owners on the basis of troublesome loitering, and opposition was adopted unanimously (7-0-0). 2833 11<sup>th</sup> St. was opposed by SMD Commissioner Skinner citing ongoing drug activities, and opposition was adopted unanimously (7-0-0). 2820 Georgia Ave. was opposed by SMD Commissioner Skinner citing both violence and drug activities, and opposition was adopted unanimously (7-0-0). 2746 14<sup>th</sup> St. is located in SMD Commissioner Wilson's area, however, Commissioner Guyot stated that he knows the location and cited ongoing drug and criminal activity, and opposition was adopted unanimously (7-0-0). 807 V St. was opposed by SMD Commissioner Wright citing violence and loitering in the immediate vicinity, and opposition was adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

In Board of Condemnation of Insanitary Buildings cases, Case No. 04-77 at 1335 Fairmont St. (Rear) SMD Commissioner Glover stated that he had spoken with the South Columbia Heights Neighborhood Association, but that he had found no voiced opposition to the condemnation. Support for the condemnation was moved and seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0). In BCIB Case No. 04-103 at 2015 Vermont Avenue SMD Commissioner Spalding indicated that this is a boarded up two story inside row house, and in checking the OTR records it appears to be a languishing heir ship problem that the city wants to move on. Support of the condemnation was moved and seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0). In BCIB Case No. 04-128 at 326 T St. SMD Commissioner Guyot indicated that this is the home of Mary Church Terrell a noted civil rights activist, and it is owned by Howard University. Commissioner Guyot related a conversation with BCIB's Hubert Johnson who stated that they were initiating the action to compel Howard University to do something with the property. This property and the proposed actions have been the focus of many hours of debate in the LeDroit Park Civic Association meetings, and community sentiment is opposed to this method of dealing with this property. Commissioner Guyot moved opposition to the condemnation, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Commissioner Spalding addressed the status of BZA 17099 of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Masonic Lodge, and reported that an agreement between the Mason's, Westminster Neighborhood Assoc. and ANC1B had been reached. The agreement spells out the terms of development of the surface parking lot with a schedule of targets and enforcement mechanisms. It will be necessary for ANC1B to continue participating through the next three years of planning, and it is incumbent on ANC1B to designate someone to act on behalf of the Commission and Commissioner Spalding volunteered to do so. Designation of Commissioner Spalding to work with this development was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Commissioner Spalding indicated that there was an amendment to the TCP for “The Bailey” passed by ANC1B last month. Robertson Development has managed to get the owners of the empty lot next to the church to allow them to use the lot during the construction period. This will keep equipment and activity off the streets and alleys, and requires that the fencing enclosure of the sidewalk on 10<sup>th</sup> St. be extended to the south to allow access to the lot. Support for the proposed amendment to the TCP for “The Bailey” was moved, seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

ABC application No. 35534 at 1919 9<sup>th</sup> St. was presented by SMD Commissioner Guyot. Commissioner Guyot stated that he has seen the facility, that it has been placarded, and asked the applicant if he had run this type of business before. Applicant responded yes. Commissioner Guyot asked if the previous experience was in Washington, and applicant stated that he had worked at a restaurant in Dallas. Commissioner Spalding asked what license was being applied for, and applicant responded C. Commissioner Spalding indicated that there was a large range of licenses in the ‘C’ class and wanted the specific license applied for, and applicant handed a copy of his application to Commissioner Guyot who stated that it read CN. Commissioner Spalding interpreted that as an application for a nightclub license. Commissioner Guyot asked if the applicant had spoken with neighboring business, and if applicant was ready to join in an association with them. Applicant responded yes. Commissioner Guyot requested that applicant work with Ms. Delaney of ABRA to assure that applicant was fully informed about the training of employees, and I want you to understand this because I’m going to be very concerned about this. I don’t want you put into a trap situation, because the general mood now is that if you’re on U Street and you’re black you’re targeted. That’s a matter of fact and I want you to be prepared for it. I would expect that we can expect a clean clear operation, and the understanding is that you’ll abide by all the ABC Board regulations. Commissioner Guyot moved support of the application and it was seconded. Commissioner Spalding asked applicant about the building that they would be occupying, and applicant responded that it was two stories. Commissioner Spalding asked if they would be using the whole building, and applicant responded that they would be using the top floor. Commissioner Spalding asked applicant the occupancy allowance, and applicant responded 50, 120, 350. Commissioner Spalding asked for clarification adding that that information should also be on the application, and applicant responded that it was 350. Commissioner Spalding asked about the past use of the building and whether soundproofing was already in place, or whether applicant needed to add soundproofing since there will be extensive residential development during the next few years in the immediate vicinity of the building. Applicant responded that it’s a big strong commercial brick building, and had been used previously for a similar activity. Commissioner Spalding asked if the previous tenants had installed sound proofing, and applicant stated that the type of music they had in mind so you had thick brick on the back side. Commissioner Spalding asked Commissioner Guyot if this was an application for a temporary stipulated license or a full license request, and Commissioner Guyot responded that it was a full license request. Chair called the question and began the vote; however, Commissioner Spalding asked the chair if the community members present had been given a chance to speak to the application. Chair indicated that she had not, and Commissioner Guyot requested that the vote should stand, and Commissioner Spalding asked that his vote be

recorded as an abstention. Motion to support new CN license for a nightclub at 1919 9<sup>th</sup> St. was adopted on a vote of (6-0-1)

Commissioner Spalding initiated a review of the current status of “Between Friends” nightclub. Following the murder this past month at the club ABRA held a hearing to discuss the license. Commissioner Spalding indicated that he did not know if the ruling had been finalized, however, the result appears to be to allow the club to reopen with a long list of restrictions regarding security, types of music, and leasing to other people. Commissioner Guyot stated that the decision is clear and final and included in a copy of a March 25 letter from ABRA that he had distributed. Commissioner Guyot stated that the incident occurred at an event called ‘Dance for Peace’ that the owners had put on to deal with the pressures of violence amongst our young people. There were fifteen or twenty people on security that night. The ABC Board to its credit listened to extensive testimony lasting an entire day, and then there was a 4-1 vote to reopen the establishment on April 10<sup>th</sup> along with the conditions. A community member stated that this past Saturday night was the first quiet Saturday night in some time due to the temporary closure of the club. Commissioner Guyot responded that how can the residents know which club is responsible when there are so many licenses in the same area. I understand that there will be constant attack on all black owned liquor licenses on U Street; I understand that and I accept it. Thank God for the ABRA Board, there was one policeman in my life who received public acclamation by people standing and clapping was Officer Gunther. My concern in this is that we have what we have and thank God for ABRA; they have been fair in enforcing the liquor licenses. It’s interesting that the reason for the delay to April 10<sup>th</sup> is that the police asked that the club be closed. Commissioner Glover asked about the restriction on the type of music played, and Commissioner Guyot stated that he was part of that deal that the club was afraid that if they contested the hearing and lose, and I think they would have, or should they go with the regulations that stated no go-go music. This was not a popular position but it was part of the agreement that will run with the liquor license. This position will be challenged by others, but in this case it was the decision that the club thought it had to take. Commissioner Skinner stated that he is outraged by the terms requiring that a club cannot play a certain genre of music. It’s really like what happened to jazz, and its like we take things out of context, when jazz was popular it wasn’t the same love as today, it was one of those underground things. It seems that something that is such a part of DC, and I note the Councilmember’s reference to a culture of violence, this has to be either racism or ignorance. I think for somebody to somehow think that we’re naïve enough to think that playing go-go makes people kill folks, this is a false conclusion. This gives us a false sense of security, that if we don’t have go-go in the room that people won’t get stabbed. This is an unfair attack on black people who’re the ones who play the go-go music. If I went to Idaho and they were playing hillbilly or country western music and somebody gets in a fight or shoots somebody I’m not going to say that it’s the country western music that made him shoot him. If we’re going to be serious about enhancing the quality of life, and securing the safety of our young people then we can’t allow hysteria, racism, or ignorance to be our guide and say things like a club can’t have live or recorded go-go music. Commissioner Jim Graham led this fight; he attempted to recruit Phil Spalding and the president of the Cardozo Shaw Neighborhood Association to intervene in this case, despite the fact that this was a hearing that was simply dealing with the question of removing the license or restoring the license. Now

the concern for me is that at the same time that Jim Graham would move to intervene, which was denied thank God by the Board, he was also negotiating with Ms. Walker and her attorney. So here we had a situation where there was an attempt to nullify negotiations. So let's be clear, I wish to God that we could look at these on the merits, do them case by case, but if we don't do that than we'll just do it illegally. Commissioner Glover asked if anyone had any information that would lead to the proposition that go-go music leads to violence. A constituent who lives on 12<sup>th</sup> Street near the club stated that he was offended at being branded racist because he was concerned about the noise and the quality of life in his own neighborhood. I don't care what kind of music anyone wants to play, just please keep it in the building. I'm asking that at three o'clock every morning people wouldn't pee in my windows. The police are not responding to the issues that are hurting the quality of life for residents, the clubs are not the problem it's the behavior of those who attend and leave the clubs. I like to sleep, I work and need my sleep, and we should not be held hostages in our neighborhoods. Community member Lou Nayman agreed with Commissioner Skinner that banning go-go music was foolishness. The neighbors problems is with the owners who fail to operate respectful premises. Mr. Nayman asked that the Commission exercise a certain amount of discipline in regard to inflammatory and racist comments. To throw such loaded and divisive rhetoric in the context of a Commission like this only inflames the angers. I'd ask that the Commission enforce a certain amount of decorum on its members so that we don't have loose and inflammatory charges thrown around. Chairperson Thomas responded that she wished that she had some control over what comes out of some people's mouths, and that she would like all of the participants to treat each other with respect, but that appears to be asking for something that's not realistic. I can only speak for myself; I can't control what others choose to say. Commissioner Guyot stated that he agreed with the community member about the quality of life issues, however, it is that the absence of police services simply adds to the racial polarization. Let's look at that club, the police didn't respond, but they were willing and able to testify to close it down. If we deal with the question of police security of neighborhoods, then I think we'll go a long way towards calming the racial polarization that I see rising. I'm a public official and I've been recognized by this city as a recipient of the "Living the Dream" of Martin Luther King award, I'm an integrationist by practice, by promulgation, and by belief, but I believe that I have a responsibility to call it like I see it. I'm glad you said what you said about quality of life issues, but what we must understand is that when we don't have police services we look for other victims. We have come close to criminalizing liquor licenses and it frightens me. Would anyone close that restaurant over there if someone was killed there if they didn't have a liquor license? Dealing with the question of racism is not easy, but we've never really done that. Commissioner Skinner stated that if you're a racist, then everything I stated about racists applies to you, and if you're ignorant you're ignorant, if you're none of the two then you're none of the two. If you're offended and you talk about racist to me I'm not offended because I'm not a racist. I think I know what racism is. If you go into some of these areas where there are homosexuals, and there are people who don't like gay people, and who beat gay folks up. And if a gay person said to me that that was a homophobic remark, and I'm going to give him the benefit that he might have a sensibility to that issue, and at least not be so bold as to tell a homosexual what homophobia is. This is a difficult issue to deal with, and I know that this neighborhood has got racists in it, so I'm not crazy. We should decide to deal with this in a real way, but to go on and look at these issues and blame clubs for poor policing is not right. For people who have been living here for decades have been crying for better policing and now that we've got more affluent people moving in

we're seeing changes. Now I could say that its demographic changes and I think it is, but the same comments were made ten years ago when the neighborhood was all black these concerns were just as important, and now the response time is a half an hour instead of an hour, and it still isn't good enough. When I look around this room I look like a person who could get shot tonight. So, if anyone should be concerned with getting shot, and it's not attributable to the clubs and the go-go, it's me. My roommate was killed in January and he looked like me. He was a victim and he's gone. So I don't think that this is somehow trying to play the race card, but its saying let's not allow false solutions to put a band aid over something, because another young brother could get killed tomorrow. Now if they start killing older white males it might become a crisis and they'll have the National Guard out, but as long as it looks like Jo Jo or Ray Ray then it's just a part of how it is. I want a future and I want a future for anyone who looks like me. We have an issue that's related to race in this city, and where there's a majority of whites there's lower crime, better police response. Look in Adams Morgan there's nightlife there, but there's a cop everywhere and it's diverse. But if you look at where there are black clubs, you get police after there's gunshot, asking them to lay down. Now you got all the cops in the world, you go to Georgetown you can't help but be told to move by a cop. But if I'm on U Street it's not till I get shot that I get told to move back. We need a class to really speak honestly about how this is. It's just like if I move into Dupont Circle or someplace where there's a predominance of homosexuals, I might not notice a thing. I might move in and miss the homosexuals, and not understand something. And they might correct me, and I'd not be offended and 'my bad' I didn't know this was XYZ, and I'm going to be respectful. But the tendency on this side is that we don't get the same respect. All I'm trying to say is that love the fact that we've got a lot of rich white folks moving into this neighborhood, and I love the fact that we've got a lot of wealthy black folks moving into this neighborhood, but I just want us to be able to work together based on reality not stereotyping on solving this problem. We all have something to add to the solution, but we all have to avoid using our stereotypes, and we all have to be good listeners. But if we allow politics or racial and social economic drivers that have nothing to do with the problems to motivate us we'll never solve the problem, we'll just push the problems further out and let PG County deal with the problems. I just hope we can all keep an open mind on these problems. A community member asked if this was not a noise issue, and Chairperson Thomas responded that in her residential neighborhood that is near some clubs it is a noise issue. Commissioner Skinner agreed that there is an issue of noise in the residential neighborhoods when the clubs let out, but how can we revitalize the entertainment and maintain the needs of the residents. It shouldn't be an issue about what kind of music is played in the clubs, but we should care about the businesses. If the businesses can't make money and they have to go out of business, then that might not be good either. New people coming in with new ideas are a good thing, but we need to have a dialogue that allows us to be open to things. What we need to avoid is saying shut things down, which might not be the answer. Scott Pomeroy added that the 14<sup>th</sup> and U Main Streets Initiative has been working with community members and the Responsible Hospitality Institute to address the quality of life issues embodied in tonight's debate. There are always going to be issues when entertainment districts are so closely bounded by residential districts, but there are other cities dealing with similar problems, and solutions that we can adapt to our own neighborhoods. Commissioner Guyot stated that Capt. Groomes came to our ANC meeting and said 'look we don't do it this way in Georgetown, we don't have police dealing with traffic control in Georgetown, and we have traffic people dealing with traffic.' And when I repeated this to the ABC Board, they said I must be mistaken, and I responded that I was quoting

Capt. Groomes. Now why can't we understand the difference of what comes out of the Police Department. Capt. Groomes in testifying before the ABC Board on the Between Friends case said 'we have problems with that Coach and IV'. This was not on the agenda. Officer Rember said 'I've worked this area for seventeen years, and Coach and IV has cleaned up its act substantially', and the Chair of the ABC Board said 'that's correct.' So please, when we try to move down this path let's understand that there's some truths that reside inside the Police Department that are not constant. If a police officer of that rank can say in our ANC meeting, we don't do it like that in Georgetown, but if you do it here it's a problem. And it's a problem with those bad dastardly people who own those liquor licenses, and I can't intellectually accept that.

The Commission next reviewed the closing of "House of Secrets" an illegal after hours club that had been operating at 507 T Street. Commissioner Guyot stated that House of Secrets was a legend that actually existed in black night life for over fifty years. The residents, black and white, of T Street got together and organized support from Jim Graham, Carol Schwartz and the police. These forces put pressure on the investigative arm of the ABC Board to find out what was really happening. Mr. Ralph Woodson was arrested for possession of marijuana, distributing alcohol to minors, and the distribution of alcohol without a license. It is a crowning victory that I thought I'd never live to see. Commissioner Guyot publicly lauded Commander McCoy for his participation in resolving this problem.

Grant application of DC Taekwondo was raised from tabling at our March meeting. Treasurer Glover stated that Ms. DuBissette had not gotten back in touch with him to present an updated request. Motion was made to table, and it was seconded and adopted (6-1-0).

Scott Pomeroy presented a grant request from the 14<sup>th</sup> and U Main Streets Initiative for funding a portion of the JAMONU promotion in April. This is a month of celebration of jazz done in conjunction with the Smithsonian Institute's now three year old celebration of April as jazz appreciation month. This is the first year that the Smithsonian is pushing the celebration out into the communities associated with the history of jazz, and the month will include lectures, demonstrations, performances and in our case reviving an Easter Stroll. The month will conclude with a free concert featuring DC jazz talent at the Lincoln Theatre. The grant request is for \$3,000 to cover the overhead of the Lincoln Theatre for the final concert. The overall cost of the month long promotion is \$25,000, most of which is being provided by DC Lottery, City First Bank and the Washington Blade. A number of the 'tickets' to the show will be reserved for local senior citizens. Commissioner Skinner asked about the actual commitments from the sponsors, and Mr. Pomeroy stated that DC Lottery was providing both \$5,000 in cash and providing most of the advertising promotional costs, City First Bank is providing \$750, and the Blade is providing free advertising in their publication. Commissioner Skinner said that he was distressed to see Industrial Bank left out of the process, and Mr. Pomeroy responded that Mr. Banks of Industrial Bank was the volunteer chairman of this promotion. Commissioner Skinner asked

why Coach and IV had been left out of the participants yet again, and Mr. Pomeroy responded that Mr. Banks had a volunteer force with forms going out approaching all of the businesses, and if indeed Coach and IV had not been approached that they would be tomorrow. When we first approached the 350 businesses on the corridor, we did not have the commitment of DC Lottery and the extensive advertising, so we are going back to the businesses to continue to try to involve as many as possible in this promotion. Mr. Pomeroy said that the list of participating businesses is diverse, but it also shows some anomalies like the lack of participation from Twins whose business is promoting jazz. Treasurer Glover questioned the fact that the grant appeared to be supporting entertainment, and that is not an allowable item for the ANC's in grant making. Mr. Pomeroy stated that the entire focus of the Smithsonian's promotion is to educate people to the history of jazz. Commissioner Skinner voiced irritation that other worthy programs who came to the Commission with errors in their applications were forced to come back the next month until they got it right, and tonight we're changing this application so that we can accommodate it. Commissioner Guyot expressed concern that the Commission was moving towards supporting another Lincoln Theatre deal, when in the past we have run into serious trouble in supporting events at the theatre. Commissioner Glover reviewed the situation in 1999 when a \$7,500 grant to distribute tickets to deserving youth to attend events at the Lincoln Theatre was disallowed. Commissioner Guyot stated that he was not troubled in paying \$6,000 in order to give a \$3,000 grant, but that some of his constituents might not be happy about it. Mr. Pomeroy stated that he could provide other portions of the \$25,000 budget that might be better defined as educational components; however, he was attempting to locate items with fixed amounts that would be amenable to the ANC's process of funding. Commissioner Wright asked if the event was designed for all of Ward 1, and Mr. Pomeroy responded that all of the activities would occur inside ANC1B's boundaries, but that the events would be open to anyone who wanted to participate. Commissioner Wright asked about the participation of local churches in the Easter Stroll, and Mr. Pomeroy indicated that Rev. Sandra Butler-Truesdale had contacted over one hundred local churches and asked for their participation. Commissioner Guyot moved support based on the bona fide application submitted to the Treasurer meets his approval, and it was seconded. Commissioner Skinner commented that previous applications that had not involved entertainment difficulties and that other grant applicants had been forced to come to consecutive meetings to meet the strictures of our grant giving guidelines. The summer program on violence had to be changed to a fall program on violence because the Commission had to have the request in a form that was acceptable. In this case we've negotiated in the meeting, but we need to be fair in this process and help other people approaching us with grants and not jeopardize either our fiduciary responsibilities or the programs applied for. Treasurer Glover reminded the Commission that he had worked with the African American Holiday Association to refashion their grant at the meeting. Treasurer Glover also indicated that he had had to go to Union Station on his own time to get the check to the summer violence prevention program. Chairperson Thomas reminded Commissioner Skinner that the Commission had gone to great effort to get his grant for the black history lecture tickets refashioned and accepted. Treasurer Glover stated that any intimation that he is playing favorites in the processing of the grant requests is insulting. Commissioner Skinner apologized to Treasurer Glover for any remarks were directed towards his efforts as Treasurer. Commissioner Guyot asked that we use this debate as a guideline for trying to deal with grant requests equitably. Support was moved and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Commissioner Guyot offered a resolution calling for support of reopening the investigation of the Emmett Till murder. We now know that there were ten people involved in the killing of Emmett Till including five blacks and five whites. Essentially the language of the resolution calls on the Justice Department to investigate the murder of Emmett Till, calls on the Dept. of Justice to investigate the acquittal of J. W. Milam and Roy Bryant, and calls on the Dept. of Justice to report to Congress on the findings of the investigation. Commissioner Guyot asked the Commission to pass this resolution on to the Council, and to ask the Council to pass it and report on to Congress. Motion was moved, seconded and approved (6-0-1).

Commissioner Guyot offered a resolution in opposition to the proposed zoning changes incorporated in the Office of Planning's Georgia Avenue Corridor Plan. Mr. Stephen Mordfin was present from the Office of Planning to give an overview. Mr. Mordfin stated that this is a planning process that has been underway for some time, and has involved a number of community groups and leaders. Mr. Mordfin explained that the current zoning along Georgia Avenue did not seem to be supplying either the needed commercial or residential density to be a success. That by changing some of the current zoning the city could encourage more residential development, and that by clustering the commercial zones they could foster more appropriate commercial activity. Mr. Mordfin stressed that these proposed zoning changes are still in the process of being defined and reviewed by community stakeholders, and would probably change before a final version at Office of Planning was established. The current C3 zoning surrounding the metro station would be kept, but portions of the C2 zoning along the avenue would be changed to R5 in order to encourage denser residential development. The remaining commercial zoning along the avenue would be clustered to encourage denser commercial development. Commissioner Guyot asked who had supported this plan, and Mr. Mordfin responded that they had held meetings in the community with a number of community groups, but that there had been no votes at any of these meetings. Commissioner Esters asked about questions from current business owners on the avenue, and Mr. Mordfin responded that there were a number of questions about what would happen if the property a business owned was rezoned as residential. The property would become a nonconforming use, which would restrict expansion and also the eventual sale of the property. Commissioner Esters asked about a business that ceased operating and then wanted to return, and Mr. Mordfin responded that there was a period of three years in which to resume the business. Commissioner Skinner stated that this would place a number of restrictions on owners of properties currently zoned commercial. This is aimed at making it difficult for the small businesses like corner stores, and forcing the commercial development into areas promoting big box businesses. This is designed to make Georgia Ave. resemble Connecticut Ave., but there are cultural differences that have made Georgia Ave. the way it is. This rezoning is aimed at reducing small business, and not allowing the market to determine the type of businesses along the corridor. Commissioner Skinner indicated that he was in touch with a number of small commercial property owners along the avenue, and they were all opposed to the current rezoning proposal. Mr. Tony Norman of the Pleasant Plains Civic Association stated that his organization has voted unanimously in opposition to the current plan for revitalization offered by the Office of Planning. The opposition is based on the negative effect on current and

future small businesses along the avenue. The restrictions that would occur as part of the rezoning would change the opportunities for small businesses in the neighborhood. Mr. Norman stated that PPCA was not opposed to the renovation of Georgia Avenue, but the current proposals are not in the best interests of the community. The Office of Planning should be seeking incentives for both commercial and residential development, and not placing restrictions on the development of businesses along the avenue. Commissioner Guyot moved that ANC1B oppose the current redevelopment plan for the Georgia Avenue Corridor as proposed by the Office of Planning based on our perception of the stifling of small business opportunities through rezoning of the current C2 zone along Georgia Avenue, and the motion was seconded and adopted on a vote of (6-0-1).

Commissioner Guyot moved support of a resolution passed by the ANC Assembly calling on the Council to restore the budget of the DC Public Library to levels that ensure operations conforming to normal business operating hours. Commissioner Esters asked if the resolution was calling for shortening the current operating hours, and Commissioner Guyot responded that it was to maintain the current operating hours. Commissioner Spalding requested that the fourth paragraph concerns ANC offices, meetings and business be deleted, and Commissioner Guyot accepted the amendment to his resolution. Motion was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Commissioner Guyot offered a resolution supporting the funding of apprenticeships and training at the Office of Employment Services. The resolution asks that funding for the apprenticeship programs is maintained. Scott Pomeroy asked if the oversight was also included to make sure that the apprenticeships were going to the areas that need them, and Commissioner Guyot accepted this advice to be added as a friendly amendment to the resolution. Commissioner Guyot stated that when a representative of DOE came to the ANC Assembly he admitted that illiterate candidates were not allowed into the apprenticeship programs and this is in a city that is 37% functionally illiterate. We want to support the funding while at the same time pointing out the limitations of the current apprenticeship programs, and this should be addressed to the members of the City Council. Secretary Spalding asked Commissioner Guyot to provide language on which to base the letter, and he agreed. Resolution was moved, seconded and supported (6-0-1).

Commissioner Skinner proposed supporting the purchase of a banner celebrating the Cardozo High School City Basketball Champions. This is a neighborhood in need of champions, and here we have our own neighborhood high school winning the city championship. This should be celebrated, and providing a banner for the school would cost about \$575.00. Mr. Simon of the Office of ANC's indicated that the banner must include ANC1B's name, and we have to maintain ownership of the banner even though it will be hung in Cardozo HS. Commissioner Spalding added that the spring edition of the local DC branch of the AIA showed designs for a

new Cardozo gymnasium to be erected on 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Motion to purchase the banner was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Commissioner Skinner presented a resolution calling on DHCD to relieve the Georgia Avenue façade improvements participants of the 20% matching funds requirement, and to utilize the Lower Georgia Avenue Business Corridor Association in an advisory role for the remaining façade improvement projects. Commissioner Skinner described the buy in of the local businesses on Georgia Ave. in the program back in 2001, and the lack of progress or completion in the program. Commissioner Skinner indicated that his business was one of the participants in this programs, and that he would recuse himself from the vote on this resolution drafted by the participants. Motion was moved by Commissioner Guyot, and it was seconded and adopted on a vote of (6-0-0).

Commissioner Guyot proposed support of Councilmember Mendelson's amendment to 15-133 covering the sale and conversion act. This is a remedy to the 95-5 rules allowing owners of apartment buildings to transfer 95% of the property while disenfranchising the rights of tenants to purchase the property. Commissioner Guyot moved that ANC1B support Councilmember Mendelson's amendment, and that the Council does all in their powers to facilitate the use of Section 8 for mortgage purposes. Scott Pomeroy asked that the motion include any action that removes the 95-5 transfer allowances, and not just Councilmember Mendelson's amendment, and Commissioner Guyot agreed to include as a friendly amendment, and it was seconded and adopted unanimously (7-0-0).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 10PM.