



February 10, 2021

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ANC 6B Resolution on The Negative Impact of Fencing Around the U.S. Capitol on Local Transportation

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Whereas, the U.S. Capitol Police, in coordination with the District of Columbia, the DC National Guard, the U.S. Secret Service, and other federal and state agencies have established an extensive perimeter around the U.S. Capitol Building, including the entire U.S. Capitol Grounds, between E St SW to the south and Louisiana Ave to the north.

Whereas, on acting Capitol Police Chief Yogananda Pittman has publicly advocated for permanent fencing around the U.S. Capitol as of January 28, 2021.

Whereas, the bike/pedestrian paths on U.S. Capitol Grounds currently within the secure perimeter serve as a critical corridor to connect the SE/SW and NE/NW quadrants of the city for cyclists and pedestrians.

Whereas, fencing currently blocks all access along Constitution Ave and Independence Ave, interrupting buses routes along these streets and displacing bus traffic into residential neighborhoods.

Whereas, bus detours around the security fencing are negatively impacting the commutes of essential workers across DC, thus increasing potential COVID exposure time for bus passengers.

Whereas, the U.S. Capitol Grounds serve as important green and civic spaces for the residents of the District of Columbia.

Be it Resolved, the 6B Advisory Neighborhood Commission requests that the DC Office of the Mayor and the DC Council strongly oppose permanent fencing, and work with the U.S. Capitol Police to ensure that bicycle and pedestrian access through the Capitol Grounds is eventually restored. When access is restored, sufficient space must be provided to allow both pedestrians and cyclists to move safely.

The 6B Advisory Neighborhood Commission requests that Independence and Constitution Avenues are opened as soon as possible to restore buses to their normal routes.

Until access through the Capitol Grounds is restored, the 6B Advisory Neighborhood Commission requests that an alternate bicycle route is established between D St NE and D St SE that connects the eastern and western parts of DC. This could include temporary or permanent bike lanes on Independence Ave and/or Constitution Ave, in accordance with the MoveDC Bike Element.

While the temporary fencing remains in place, the 6B Advisory Neighborhood Commission requests that bicycle and pedestrian detours around the secure perimeter are bicycle and handicap friendly, and fencing does not cover ADA curb ramps.

If new permanent security measures are put into place, the 6B Advisory Neighborhood Commission requests that the DC Office of the Mayor and the DC Council work with federal authorities to ensure these new security measures are integrated with the landscape as much as possible and do not restrict access to public parks, green space, and walking paths that were accessible prior to January 6th, 2021.

ADOPTED by vote at its regularly scheduled, properly noticed meeting on February 9, 2021, with a quorum of 10 Commissioners present, and by a vote of 10 YES, 0 NO, and 0 ABSTENSION.

Sincerely,



Brian Ready
Chair, ANC 6B