



**Re: Watkins Alley (1300 block btw E St SE & G St SE)**

Dear Interim Director Kershbaum,

*At a properly noticed general meeting on October 10, 2023, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted unanimously, based on the unanimous recommendation of its Transportation Committee, to submit the following request to the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT).*

We are writing to thank your representative, Abraham Diallo, for attending our October 4, 2023 Transportation Committee meeting and agreeing to discuss with DDOT employees how to make the best and safest use of Watkins Alley, which is the cross-shaped alley connecting the 1300 block of E St SE to the 1300 block of G St & Pennsylvania Ave SE. Watkins Alley houses one of DDOT's longstanding field operation offices, officially located at "1338 Rear G St SE." More recently, this alley has become home to the ~300 residents of the Lockwood rental apartments, and the ~100 residents of the Watkins Alley townhomes. These new residents have had a positive relationship with their DDOT neighbors, but need DDOT's further help in improving traffic safety in the alley.

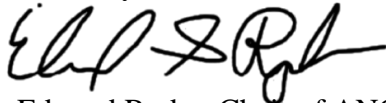
A few people claiming to be DDOT employees have been parking directly underneath "no parking anytime" signs, rather than in the several DDOT-only spaces in the alley, or the numerous general-use spaces on the streets surrounding the alley. (Repeated calls to 311 seem to have inconsistent results, a matter that our ANC is raising separately with DPW Parking Enforcement.) These unlawfully parked cars with DDOT placards seem to be giving others, such as delivery drivers and out-of-town visitors, cover to also park in the alley unlawfully. In the short term, we are hopeful that Mr. Diallo can work with his fellow DDOT employees to find parking solutions for the field operation employees.

However, the ANC also requests that DDOT consider long-term safety improvements in Watkins Alley. With the 400 new permanent residents living along Watkins Alley, we expect that the increase in foot traffic and car traffic in the alley will be permanent as well. This new density has caused two problems that we think DDOT can help solve. First, cars often (unlawfully) park flush against the Watkins Alley townhomes. Because there is no space between the townhomes and the street, residents often look out their kitchen windows to cars so close they could touch

them. This is an uncomfortable way for the residents to live, and judging by the scrape marks on the townhomes, it is also causing people to damage their cars. Second, cars (unlawfully) parked at bottlenecks or at the internal 4-way intersection on the alley are a safety hazard. Residents report numerous near-collisions, not only of cars almost hitting residents, but cars almost hitting DDOT employees or the clients of the nearby homeless services building.

We urge DDOT to review and adopt whatever long-term safety improvements its staff feel are warranted. Possible solutions include a 3-foot buffer (such as a sidewalk or bollards) to prevent cars from getting too close to home windows, and/or stop signs at the internal 4-way intersection. Thank you again for the work DDOT has already done to help our alley residents, and we look forward to your review and response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Ryder', written in a cursive style.

Edward Ryder, Chair of ANC 6B