



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

September 22, 2014

Gretchen Pfaehler, AIA
Chairperson
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board
1100 4th Street, S.W.
Suite E650
Washington, DC 20024
historicpreservation@dc.gov

RE: Proposed designation of the “George Washington/Old West End” Historic District (**Case No. 14-12**)

Dear Chair Pfaehler,

At its regular meeting on September 17, 2014, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (**“ANC 2A” or “Commission”**) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (4-1-0):

WHEREAS the D.C. Historic Preservation Office (**“HPO”**) has submitted an application to designate approximately twelve full or partial city blocks east of 23rd Street in Foggy Bottom as a historic district, tentatively named the “George Washington/Old West End Historic District” or “George Washington/West End Historic District;”

WHEREAS HPO has relied upon the cooperation and scholarship of The George Washington University (**“GWU” or “University”**), the predominant property owner in the designated area, in submitting this application;

WHEREAS GWU agreed to provide scholarly assistance towards the creation of a historic district as a community amenity under the 2007 Foggy Bottom Campus Plan (**“Campus Plan”**);

WHEREAS ANC 2A fully supports the creation of a historic district in the area proposed, given the need to preserve the rich history of the area in question and the development pressures that have already resulted in the demolition of many historically-significant buildings in the area;

WHEREAS the Commission believes that it is important that both the substantive and semantic elements of the application reflect a true reading of history, one that is respectful to both the heritage of the University and the legacy of the residential community that has long predated GWU in the area;



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WHEREAS concerns have been raised by many community members regarding the accuracy of references to “West End” in the title of the historic district, as well as the potential for confusion between the proposed historic district and the current, better-known neighborhood named “West End” – bounded roughly by Pennsylvania Avenue on the south, 20th Street on the east, N Street on the north, and Rock Creek on the west;

WHEREAS the community has engaged in a lengthy, multi-month conversation about an alternative name for the proposed historic district, and considered many such names;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A broadly endorses the creation of a historic district along the lines outlined in the application under review, and suggests that it be named the “George Washington University/East Foggy Bottom Historic District;”

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission respectfully requests that in approving the creation of a historic district in this area, that HPRB not include “West End” or any derivative thereof in the district’s adopted name;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A suggests that HPO staff re-evaluate the sources that were used to substantiate the “West End” name, in light of the concerns raised by community members about them.

Commissioner Patrick Kennedy (Patrick.Kennedy@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson

cc: Kim Williams, HPO

ⁱ Commissioners Florence Harmon and Armando Irizarry recused themselves from voting on this matter.