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## **NOVEMBER 15 KCA MEETING TO FEATURE DISCUSSION OF NIGHT-LIFE PROBLEMS. GUESTS: MPD OFFICIALS, INCLUDING 3<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT COMMANDER LARRY McCOY AND ABRA DIRECTOR MARIA DELANEY**

Have you noticed more late-night disturbance lately as bars and restaurants shut down for the night? I have on Kalorama, and neighbors on Biltmore, Belmont and Wyoming have told me that it's worse than ever. Neighbors on Mintwood Place, where there is a list-serve set up, expressed similar concerns recently in a week-long discussion that eventually included MPD Assistant Chief Pat Burke, Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) Director Maria Delaney and Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham.

During that week, as neighbors chimed in, I decided to make this the subject of the November 15<sup>th</sup> KCA meeting. ABRA Director Delaney has confirmed her attendance as has MPD 3<sup>rd</sup> District Commander Larry McCoy. MPD Chief Cathy Lanier and Assistant Chief Pat Burke have been invited but were unconfirmed as we went to press.

Into this mix comes an incident from early Sunday morning, November 4<sup>th</sup> at about 1:45 am, where Mintwood neighbor Eddie Becker, walking on 18<sup>th</sup> Street, came upon a bloodied, hysterical woman claiming that a man had raped her. When Eddie suggested to the 5 male officers on the scene that perhaps a female officer should be called to help with the incident, he was told not to interfere. Eddie did find a female officer, made her aware of the situation, which according to Eddie, she helped defuse. But as Eddie entered a carry-out afterward, he was followed by two of the original 5 officers, who, Eddie claims, handcuffed him behind his back and pressed his face up against a plate glass window and repeated that he shouldn't interfere. After about 10 minutes, Eddie was released.

This incident helps illustrate the effects of what happens on 18<sup>th</sup> Street and, to a lesser extent, parts of Columbia Road, on a regular basis. Residents are potentially endangered just by walking on the sidewalk and being responsible citizens.

Please come to the meeting and voice your concerns and experiences directly to the City officials who can best help us improve the situation. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

- *Denis James*

## **DC PUBLIC LIBRARY SEEKS KING ARTIFACTS**

The DC Public Library (DCPL) has put out a "Call For Exhibit Materials" for a future exhibit, "King in Washington" to open at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library in January, 2009. The exhibit will focus on Dr. King's connection to Washington, DC, covering the period of his first national address at the Prayer Pilgrimage for Freedom rally in 1957, to the riots following his assassination in 1968.

The Washingtoniana Division is seeking the loan or donation of such artifacts as: photos of community, political, school or church events associated with Dr. King's visits to Washington; memorabilia, such as newspaper clippings, church bulletins, flyers, home movies, slides, posters, advertisements, letters, documents,

buttons/stickers, and protest signage; and items from neighborhood churches, and the March on Washington.

If you have items that you would like to be considered for inclusion in the exhibit, please contact Mark Greek at: [mark.greek@dc.gov](mailto:mark.greek@dc.gov) or at (202) 727-1213, or by mailing to: King In Washington Call, DC Public Library, Room 307, 901 G St., NW, Washington, DC 20001.

*- from Ginnie Cooper, Chief Librarian*

## **FREE GOSPEL CHOIR CONCERT AT ST. AUGUSTINE**

The St. Augustine Gospel Choir will celebrate 30 years of singing spirit-filled and inspirational music with 'O Give Thanks', a free concert on Sunday, November 18th, at 5 PM at St. Augustine Catholic Church (15th and V Streets NW). All are invited!

The St. Augustine Gospel Choir has played an historic role in introducing and promoting Gospel music within the Catholic Church. The Choir has recorded a number of CDs and has performed at the White House, before the Pope at the Vatican, and in a number of countries throughout the world. Samuel Edison Cromwell, a noted composer, arranger and director, has led the Choir since 1998.

There will be a reception following the concert. We hope you will join us! If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

*- William Ferrogiaro (202) 375-3144*

## **MINUTES OF KCA MEETING, OCTOBER 18, 2007**

President Denis James called the meeting to order at 7:05. The minutes of the September meeting were approved.

### **Community Announcements**

**Marianne Josem**, who volunteers at the Biltmore Triangle Garden, made a plea for volunteers. Her contact information is: [mariann924@aol.com](mailto:mariann924@aol.com)

**Matt Forman** announced that the Fund for Kalorama Park would hold its fall clean-up day on Saturday Oct. 20, and that volunteers with tools were needed.

**Frank Smith** of Goodwill Baptist Church said that the Hispanic congregation has moved out and the church has space to rent. Call him at 202-667-2667. **Pastor Josh Wilson** can be reached at the church number: 202-483-7696.

**Lisa Duperier**, of Adams Morgan Main Street (AMMS), announced the following: Hoopla, 2314 18<sup>th</sup> St. has added the carriage house to its store, grand opening on Oct. 19; AMMS is seeking volunteers to work on tree boxes on Columbia Rd. and 18<sup>th</sup> St., cleaning, aerating and mulching; part of proceeds from AMMS' wine tasting at Chloe, Oct. 23 will benefit the Avalon Condominium fire victims.

### **Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project Update**

**Mary Belcher**, KCA liaison to the Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project, said that: 200 people participated in her joint Walkingtown DC tour of Civil War era Adams Morgan with Eddie Becker, ending in Pierce Park; on Oct. 10, KCA & Howard U. Prof. Mark Mack and his student team shared the award for archeology in the Mayor's Awards For Historic Preservation; and on Friday, Nov. 2, Mary, Eddie and Prof. Mack will make a presentation on the WPPAP at the Washington Historical Studies Conference at the Carnegie Library, 801 K St., NW.

Mary urged that the site be protected in the future-that there is organized farming going on that has disturbed the study area so that it will need to be re-surveyed. She asked for suggestions about how the cemetery space could be commemorated. A meditation garden was suggested. **Frank Smith**, of the Black Civil War Veterans Memorial project, suggested that at least one of those interred was a Civil War veteran, and that a

headstone should denote this.

### **Resolution on ABC Board Order**

**Denis James** introduced a resolution to confirm that the KCA membership approves the prior vote of the KCA Executive Committee to protest Chloe's application to switch from Restaurant to Tavern in September, 2006, and calling on the ABC Board to reverse its order dismissing KCA's protest. The resolution passed by a vote of 30-0.

### **Washington Heights Historic District: 1840-46 Vernon Street**

**Ann Hargrove**, KCA Zoning & Historic Preservation Chair, told the full meeting that at a pre-meeting at 6:30, developer Greg Selfridge of NOVO Development Corp. & architect David Haresign presented plans to KCA's Historic Preservation Committee & interested neighbors. Ann recommended KCA approve a resolution supporting the project with regard to HPRB review. The resolution passed unanimously. Completion of the 28 unit condo building is expected in 2009.

### **Presentation by Guest Speaker Mayor Adrian Fenty**

**Mayor Fenty** said he and his predecessor have taken the city from bankruptcy to professional management. He is reorganizing DHS, DCRA, police and fire services and other core agencies. He will foster economic development. Schools remain an important priority-we can't fill DC jobs with graduates of DC schools who don't qualify for the jobs.

**Matt McCarthy** complained the Washington Hilton loading dock causes disturbance and traffic congestion on 19<sup>th</sup> St. & Florida Ave. Repeated complaints to MPD get no response. Officers seem to receive favors from hotel personnel, such as free dinners. **Mayor Fenty** asked for information about MPD not enforcing laws on the Hilton which has to obey the same laws as everybody else. He asked to be contacted directly.

**Matt Forman** claimed that property taxes keep rising not because of the economy but due to poor assessment. Taxes go up 10% a year. Fenty said the rate was reduced in the last budget year. Matt said this didn't offset the increase under the cap. Fenty said he didn't disagree but that government must live within its means. We can't be wildly in the red, as happened several years ago. The property tax must be considered along with all other taxes.

**Paul Levy** asked about the promised soccer stadium at Poplar Point. Fenty said it was still a priority but the deal must make sense for DC. He said that RFK was not off the table-we will look at all proposals. Soccer is a priority.

**Lisa Duperier** thanked Mayor Fenty for his decision on taxi meters.

In a discussion about fire hydrants in Adams Morgan, & the Avalon fire, Fenty said there had been a review of hydrants, that the issue was that hydrants close to the Avalon have 6" pipes while 20" pipes were needed to fight a fire that size. It wasn't that hydrants didn't work. DCWASA must increase pipe size. The Georgetown Library fire exposed inoperable hydrants. All hydrants have been inspected and 10% are inoperable. This is a DCWASA issue, and we are working on correcting it.

**Asst. Fire Marshall Gary Palmer** said the Fire Department did the hydrant inspections in record time. He said they always send out more trucks than seem necessary, as there are 500 gallons per truck. At the Avalon, more pressure was needed. Fenty noted in both major fires, the Fire Department got the job done.

**Denis** pointed out having only 6" supply lines available on 18<sup>th</sup> St. was a potentially dangerous situation.



To a question on engaging the American people to support a voting representative for DC, in light of the recent defeat of this in the U.S. Senate, Fenty said there is tremendous energy on that issue & we should get involved with DC VOTE.

With regard to public schools, **Mike Gould** asked if progress had been made to reduce the number of employees and increase the quality. The Mayor said a shakeup in the central administration should come first. There will be hearings on that in November, and the Council has indicated support. The system is broken and needs drastic change.

In response to a question about health care services offered on the DC General campus, **Mayor Fenty** indicated three health care priorities for the east side of DC: 1) takeover of Greater Southeastern Hospital; 2) strengthening of the healthcare alliance, including more insurance for DC residents; and 3) following the Rand Study recommendation for ambulatory health care centers in Wards 6, 7, and 8, using tobacco settlement money. Overall, there should be an emphasis on primary care and prevention.

**Mary Belcher** thanked Mayor Fenty for the award for archeological work done in Walter Pierce Park. She said Professor Mark Mack will be making recommendations on protecting the cemetery. She asked the city for financial help on this and for establishing commemorative space in the park. The Mayor said: "We will support you."

With regard to a question about the large number of homeless people in DC, Mayor Fenty said we must close down the shelters and move people into housing, starting with DC Village. He plans to build transitional housing for the homeless. He pointed out that much money is now spent on affordable housing.

**ANC 1C Chairman Bryan Weaver** noted that because of a Public Space Committee decision to grant a curb cut, and that there is no appeal process in DDOT, a private development will result in a loss of public street parking on Champlain St. The Mayor said it's essential that DDOT be responsive to ANCs. Adams Morgan has high density. We are trying to make parking more flexible and to advance mass transit.

**Denis James** explained to the Mayor that KCA had been dismissed from a protest on Chloe after the ABC Board ruled on interpreting our Constitution. Denis said that the Board should not be examining neighborhood association by-laws, and that the situation would be helped if there were more attorneys on the Board who understood the law. The Mayor said that he felt the Board should focus on hearing the neighborhood issues and not get bogged down in technicalities that prevent participation.

**James Coleman** suggested that reducing school staff won't work if nothing else changes. Kids are on the internet and not doing their homework. He can't find out what his child's homework assignment is. DCPS should encourage and enable internet communication between schools and parents. Fenty called this an "excellent suggestion".

In response to a question about free internet that had once been promised to DC residents, the Mayor said he would have to check on that plan.

**Mayor Fenty** introduced **Ward One Councilmember Jim Graham**. Jim asked that KCA consider the question of continuation of reciprocity of parking on Ward boundary streets. Jim was asked about DCWASA as he chairs the Council Committee on Public Works & the Environment with oversight of DCWASA. He said DCWASA is quite independent, and doesn't work as he would like it to. DCWASA is governed by a Board of Directors of 11 principal & 11 alternate members. The Board is comprised of six DC representatives, two each from Montgomery and Prince Georges' counties in Maryland, and one from Fairfax County in Virginia. Jim says that the suburban members meddle in DC water policies while we never weigh in on their policies!

### **Resolution on Reciprocal Parking**

**Denis James** introduced a resolution to support continuation of reciprocal parking on ward boundary streets. The resolution was passed unanimously.

### **Presentation on the Washington Hilton**

**Geoff Griffis** of City Partners, LLC led a presentation that included representatives from Lowe Enterprises, the new owners of the Hilton; and architects Byer, Blinder & Belle. Together, they want to communicate with neighbors, inform them of plans and get feedback. Lowe Enterprises will seek LandMark protection for the

existing structure.

The hotel currently has 1,000 rooms and 700 employees. They want to be a better neighbor and recognize that the loading dock on 19<sup>th</sup> St. is a problem, and that parking (by employees and valets) is a problem. Access is also problematic at the main entrance on Connecticut Ave., where pedestrians compete with cabs and other vehicles as they cross the sidewalk.

Lowe Enterprises, seeks to build a “by-right” new condominium structure with up to 200 units in the side yard that would overlook 19<sup>th</sup> St. & Florida Ave. There is much unused floor-area-ratio (FAR) on the site which is zoned residential. Hotel services, such as valet, room service, & valet parking would be extended to residents of the condo structure. The new structure would be slightly less tall than the existing building.

Many neighbors who are members of the health club at the Hilton voiced concern about the future of the tennis courts and pool. Lowe hasn’t made final decisions about all those areas yet but indicated a new pool would be built nearby to replace the existing one.

Concerns were raised about the disturbance to the neighbors caused by the loading dock and parking entrance on 19<sup>th</sup> St., and employees parking on neighborhood streets. Lowe Enterprises indicated a desire to improve the relationship of the Florida Ave. border with the neighborhood to make it more alive and inviting.

Lowe Enterprises announced that there will be a meeting on November 13 from 6-8 pm, at the hotel for further neighborhood discussion of their plans

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

*- Minutes submitted by Secretary Linda Ingram and reviewed by President Denis James.*

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## **CONTRIBUTIONS AND DUES PAYMENTS**

Annual dues are now due. Contributions can be made by credit card or PayPal at: [www.KaloramaCitizens.Org/Join](http://www.KaloramaCitizens.Org/Join). Or use this convenient form and send your check to KCA, PO Box 21311, Washington DC 20009. KCA is a 501(c)(3) organization and all dues and contributions are fully tax deductible to the extent provided by law

I wish to support the Walter Pierce Park Archeology Project. Enclosed is my \$\_\_\_\_\_ contribution to help match the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Humanities Council of Washington DC Grants!

Here’s my \$25 dues for 2007

I’ve corrected the mailing label below and/or added a missing apartment or unit number.

Visit our website at: [www.kaloramacitizens.org](http://www.kaloramacitizens.org)

Pay dues/contribute with your credit card or PayPal account.

View Past issues of this publication on the Newsletters page.

Learn more about the Adams Morgan community.



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Return Service Requested

**NEXT KCA MEETING:**

**THURSDAY NOV 15, 7:00**

**DISCUSSION OF NIGHT-LIFE  
PROBLEMS WITH MPD  
& ABRA OFFICIALS**

**GOOD WILL BAPTIST CHURCH  
1862 KALORAMA ROAD NW**