

# Project Narrative – anc1D 2008 Small Grants **anc1D**

mount pleasant, dc

**Title:** In 15 words or less, give a title that describes the project's main beneficial result.

Incorporate the Park Road Row Association to Build Community and Progress

**Narrative:** 500 words or less, all on this page. Label paragraphs - A: Group. B: Project. C: Benefits. D: Leverage.

A: Group: Park Road Row Association.

We are a group of row houses and small apartment buildings on the south side of the 1600 block of Park Road west of 1630 Park Road up to 1666 Park Road as Park Road intersects with Mount Pleasant Street. We share a set of issues having to do with trash handling, parking, fire and emergency, legal and rent that are quite different from some of the other "chunks" of the 1600 block of Park Road NW. The buildings vary a great deal, in how they are subdivided. We have private single family residences and multi-apartment arrangements. We have a religious order of Sisters alongside young professionals with porch parties.

B: Project.

An ANC1D grant would allow us to become incorporated with the DC government, with articles of incorporation and by-laws, and pay any legal or notary fees we may incur.

We wish to organize a small umbrella organization so that we can solve problems and improve life on our part of the block. There are many changes we would like to see in the sidewalks, parking, street cleaning, trash pickup, police patrol that require communication, written materials, meetings, local experts, and research. We'll need to get a complete list of buildings, residents and management companies, and contact information for schools.

There are several different management companies and landlords involved over these buildings. Our style is to be very thorough and invite in all the various participants into a group problem solving. We also wish to involve the 2 large schools that use this block (Sacred Heart) and Chavez Preparatory, the ANC, MPD, and representatives from City Agencies. We also wish to collaborate with the other Building Associations and Condo Associations.

C: Benefits.

As an incorporated group, we could set a structure for meetings and committees, and begin to get things done. Individually, it is difficult for any one resident to make headway with the city government or to take issue with the landlord. Legal battles can be very expensive and prolonged. While we are just now taking steps to become formally organized, many of us are well-acquainted with each other and what needs to be done. Incorporation would give us more of a collective voice, and more recognition with City Agencies, Councilmember, and ANC 1D.

D: Leverage.

Representatives from our group can begin to attend ANC meetings, and benefit from the rich network of Building Associations that are growing in Mount Pleasant. We are also participants in All-Ways Mount Pleasant, and contributed to the body of work collected on needed transportation changes on Park Road. We are unique as a group that considers using public right of way "parkings" as a tradeoff to improve sidewalk, which is an innovative precedent for DC.

We believe our integrated approach is innovative and have already identified other possible funding sources.