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Stop work on the MtP Library until safety issues are clearly resolved

Resolved, ANC 1D advises DCRA (DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs) to issue a stop-work order on the MtP Library construction until safety issues in and around the site are clearly resolved and there are no significant risks to neighbors within a block distance and others in the area.

1] At a minimum DC Fire and EMS Department (DFEMS) and DC-WASA should test all hydrants within 2,000 feet of the project, so to determine:

- * the hydrants' working status and water flow rate,
- * to visibly band all hydrants noting their working status and water flow rate, and
- * to develop a schedule of repair for all hydrants that are not at optimal status and flow rate, and
- * to develop a plan to retrofit the hydrants to modern nozzle capacity.

2] As required by DC Construction code, 1D advises that DCRA bring together DCFD and DCWASA for meetings to develop a publicly documented pre-fire safety plan pursuant to DC Construction code (DCMR Ch. 12 -- IFC 1408.1 and IFC 1408.2, 12 DCMR F-2601, 12 DCMR 3307.2)

Why:

In the immediate area of this construction, there have been several fires in the last few years, with several deaths and critical injuries – so we know the ongoing potential for loss of life and property.

Welding, and other construction work are hazardous and bring a heightened probability of fire and other perils.

We know that the construction of nearby buildings supports very rapid growth of fires. Without sprinklers and fire stairs, we know that people are likely trapped in upper floors.

The international fire code commends fast access to all sides of buildings. In recent fires, ladder trucks or even stringing of hose have been blocked or delayed for times sufficient for doubling and redoubling of the fire space.

In the presence of such risks, prevention is not only prudent, but its lack can too easily be disastrous.

DCRA must stop work on major parts of MtP library construction until zoning and safety issues are resolved.

Passed by 5 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on June 21, 2011, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Edwards, McKay, Scott, Romero-Castillo, Wilson Phelan. Absent: Commissioner Terrell.