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Make the list correlating traffic and parking citation three-digit codes to DCMR Regulations readily accessible

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Metropolitan Police Department, the Department of Public Works, and the Department of Motor Vehicles to make the list correlating traffic and parking ticket codes with Municipal Regulations readily available on their Web sites.

Why: Traffic and parking citations do not indicate the actual violation, but merely a three-digit code and a severely abbreviated indication of the supposed violation. Simple judicial fairness requires that persons receiving such citations be able to know precisely what the accused violation is. This is especially important where there is question about the violation, and the person accused wishes to defend himself or herself against the accusation. Only with the clearly stated regulation in hand is such a defense possible.

In June, 2010, this ANC passed a resolution advising District agencies to note the DCMR regulation on the actual traffic or parking citation. This appears to be somewhat difficult to implement. In the absence of explicit notation of the DCMR regulation, the correlation of the three-digit codes to DCMR regulations must be made readily available.

An official of the MPD has agreed “that members of the public being cited should be able to identify the law or regulation that they are charged with violating”. But the document providing the public with the correlation of three-digit citations and municipal regulations is buried in an obscure document on the MPD Web site, where no simple searching will turn it up. There is no such document to be found on the DMV and DPW Web sites, where one might think it should be found.

All three agencies should post this document where it is readily found by any person receiving a traffic or parking citation and wanting to obtain the precise language of the regulation that he or she is charged with having violated.

Passed by 6 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on February 15, 2011, with a quorum present. Voting “yes”: Commissioners McKay, Scott, Romero, Wilson-Phelan, Terrel, Edwards.