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Approve the Mount Pleasant Small Area Action Plan

Concerning the Mount Pleasant Street Small Area Action Plan, ANC1D advises the Committee of the Whole, and the Council of the District of Columbia, to pass Resolution PR 18-1167, approving that plan as published in August, 2010.

Why: The problems of the Mount Pleasant Street commercial strip are longstanding, and this ANC has long been pressing for actions that will promote revitalization of this district, which many Mount Pleasant residents depend on for their shopping and entertainment needs. In fact, it was an ANC1D resolution, of July, 2008, that led to the Office of Planning Mount Pleasant effort. Two and a half years later, the final plan is in hand, and the Office of Planning is to be thanked for its diligent efforts in creating this plan.

It is apparent that such a plan must be in place to facilitate District Government efforts to bring about improvements in any neighborhood. To that end, ANC1D advises the acceptance of the plan in hand, despite a number of concerns about some elements of it. This plan is an attempt to reconcile the viewpoints of a number of disparate groups comprising the Mount Pleasant community, so it is perhaps inevitable that certain conflicts would appear in the final product. As is the case in any such complex undertaking, "the devil is in the details", and those details won't be decided until those elements of the plan are actually implemented.

ANC1D believes that it is crucial for the District Government, and any agency tasked with implementation of any element of the plan, to continue consultation with the neighborhood, and specifically with the elected representatives of the neighborhood, that is, this Commission. The plan is not to be a "blank check" for District agencies to proceed without such consultation. It must be taken to be a general outline, a list of desirable actions and objectives, with the details to be decided upon, and agreed upon, in the months to come.

With that understood, ANC1D calls for the current plan to be accepted.

Passed by 4 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on November 16, 2010, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Bosserman, McKay, Edwards, Scott.