

The Corner Forum

for the 1200 and 1300 blocks of E, the 400 and 500 blocks of 13th,
Duncan Place and Emerald Street NE

Issue #53
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37¢ + 2¢ D.C. sales tax
<http://www.thecornerforum.org>

Mrs. Lee Asks for Community's Support

BY HYON LEE, CO-OWNER, N-A MINIT, 421 13TH ST. NE

Mrs. Lee, who owns N-A Minit together with her husband, Sae Won Lee, submitted the following letter on Thursday. N-A Minit has asked the city for permission to purchase Excello's liquor license, transfer the license to 421 13th St. NE and remove the prohibitions against selling single-serving containers of alcohol that are attached to Excello's license.



Dear Corner Forum readers and my neighbors,

Over the past few months there have been a few negative comments made against the license transfer process from the Excello liquor store to the N-A Minit store. As most of you know, N-A Minit has been a part of this neighborhood for 18 years. Over the years, we have seen many changes around us. When we first moved into the store, the store was not in good condition. We spent a lot of time and effort on the beautification of the store and added many items for our customers' convenience. Many customers gave us encouragement and positive feedback that has been the energy of our business, allowing us to thrive for the last 18 years

— not only business-wise: we also became friends with many of our customers. We've been sharing happiness and sadness with our neighbors through the many weddings, funerals and other events we attended — not because we had to, but because we wanted to and were a part of this community.

Quite contrary to what some people said, the neighborhood around us became cleaner, less loitered and quieter compared to when we first came. I don't think anybody would dispute the fact that we maintain the area around the store neatly, to the best of our ability. Some may argue that selling single bottles of beer causes littering in the neighborhood. As an owner, why would I be opposed to the cleanliness of the store? If there is a true problem, we will be the first to try to correct it. Look around, our friends, it is NOT true that the people who can afford to buy a case of beer are the only ones capable of keeping the area clean, and that the people who buy single bottles simply because they could not afford to buy a whole case will litter the place. That is an unfair judgment to the people in our area. I know many people who may not be able to spend a great deal of money but who are equally or better mannered than most people.

As you know, the neighborhood is always changing. Old neighbors are moving out and new ones are coming in. While we welcome the changes, we also need time to adjust to the new environment. You just can't make accommodations overnight. We have had a real strong bond with our neighbors as friends and as a part of community. We have earned our customers' trust. However over the last couple of years, it feels like the trust was betrayed. All of a sudden many of our good relationships with our customers were never mentioned, and the N-A Minit store became the target of daily gossip.

We appreciate the business our community has given us over the years, but we need continued support to allow us to serve and run our business. As a community member and as a friend, I would like to ask you readers of the community to support us so that we can continue to serve our community for many more years to come. §

Police Plan Would Shift Readers to Eastern PSA

BY LIBO LIU, 500 BLOCK OF 14TH ST. NE

The Police Department is now set to incorporate Police Service Area (PSA) 511, where the Corner Forum area currently falls, into the new PSA 103, instead of the new PSA 102, as it had proposed earlier (see the report by Marc Borbely in the May 11 issue of the Corner Forum). The new PSA 103 goes as far east as the eastern bank of the Anacostia River, and as far north as Florida Avenue. The immediate reaction from some residents in this neighborhood is rather negative. They say that when our neighborhood is grouped with areas that have worse problems, it will be more difficult to get police attention for problems in our neighborhood.

On Friday, I interviewed Anne Christine Grant, of the Research and Resource Development Unit at the D.C. Police Department, to find out the latest developments on the proposal for citywide changes of PSA boundaries, and particularly to ask about the change regarding PSA 511. Ms. Grant is the analyst who directly oversees the proposal to change the PSA and Police District boundaries. Apparently, folks in the neighboring PSA or PSAs to the west of us don't want us to be included in PSA 102. Ms. Grant says there aren't many comments from our area about the proposal, but that there is still recourse if residents in our neighborhood strongly oppose the latest proposal.

Ms. Grant, first of all, thank you for talking to the Corner Forum. In May this year, the Police Department announced the plan to change the PSA boundaries and asked city residents to submit their comments. What kind of response have you gotten so far from the residents? Can you tell us the status of that proposal?

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We have gotten a lot of comments since May. We have incorporated all the comments from citywide PSA meetings, ANC meetings, phone calls and e-mails, city response centers — everything. We incorporated all that into documents that have all the comments listed, in July. Then we took only those relating to boundaries, and not relating to staffing or what MPD could be doing differently about their areas. So all those relating to geography — we put those into a spreadsheet for the command staffs and asked for their opinions. We kept the record of the responses from the commanders and then incorporated more changes, and sent the proposal back to them. They made other changes. So the PSA map has been going through several stages of work.

At this point, we just re-presented the proposal to Deputy Mayor Margret Kellems, three weeks or about a month ago. Now we are presenting it to each of the City Council members separately. We go to their offices, if they request a meeting. We meet with them or their staffs to discuss the latest version of the PSA boundary maps before we go back to the mayor's office, just to see if there are some big-ticket items we still need to change before we re-present them.

What kind of response have you got from Deputy Mayor Kellems?

She is very pleased — very happy that we are accommodating a lot of what the community wanted. She thought we are at a good stage to continue forward.

And from Council members?

So far, they have been pretty receptive. We have presented them with all the comments we have gotten since May. Now, I think most of the council members and residents are concerned about staffing. Unfortunately, we won't make any decision regarding staffing until PSA boundaries are final, because we can't do a staffing analysis on one version and turn around a week later to do an analysis on another version. We can't do it because it will just take too long.

What about the residents? Are most of the residents supporting the proposal or doubtful about the change?

I would say it's about 50-50. Half of the people probably say, "It doesn't matter to me where the lines are, as long as I have enough police." I would say the whole population of D.C. probably just wants to have more police. Half of the people are concerned about the boundaries because they are concerned about how to define their neighborhood. The other half doesn't really care, thinking this is just a police decision.

What is left to do before announcing final PSA boundaries?

Well, we are finishing the meetings with the Council mem-

bers. We are going to meet with the Mayor, and then I think decisions will be made at that point about how to proceed. So if the Mayor seems pleased with the latest version, the Police Chief and he may make a decision at that point to go forward and start implementing it within the department, and continue to work with the Council members.

So when does the Department intend to announce the final decision?

I don't know. I can't speak for the Chief. But I know the only thing they have said was that they hope to have it implemented by the end of the first fiscal year quarter, January 31st, 2004, which is pretty soon. Implementation is pretty involved for such a massive change. So I am not sure that's gonna happen or not.

What is the reason behind the change of the PSA boundaries anyway?

Originally, we were mandated by the Council to look at the boundaries, and to look at the staffing. That was back, I think, in 2001. So we have looked at the staffing, and started to look at the geography, to see if any change is needed, since it has been about five years since the last PSA plan was implemented. We started to make little changes here and there. And then the Chief made the decision in January — maybe we should look at larger changes, and focus on the model that the Office of Planning had already developed with community input, basically the neighborhood clusters. We started with 39 clusters,

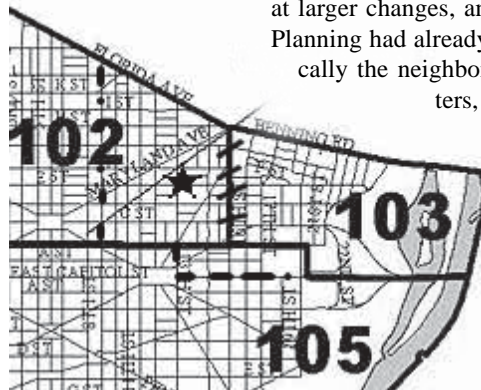
and we have been kind of moving them around, reshaping them, so the map not longer looks like the clusters, but we have about as many PSAs. I think we are up to 42 now, rather than the existing 83. Basically, the chief had made the decision to increase the flexibility within his command. He believes larger PSAs will allow his command staffs more flexibility for deployment.

But we have never promised that we will have more police. Right now, we are authorized to have 3,800 officers, and the new boundaries are not going to change that.

Let me get into the one issue that our readers care about most. I heard PSA 511, where our neighborhood currently belongs, is to be part of the new PSA 103, rather than PSA 102 as shown on your Web site. Can you confirm that? Why the change?

Indeed, most of PSA 511 will be in PSA 103. We have subdivided the First District a lot more since the summer. The map you see on the Web site is the map from May. The newest proposed map is not on the Web site yet. We only made that particular change about three weeks ago — the last change we made citywide.

The reason for the change is that there were some Capitol Hill residents who were concerned that their PSA was much too large, and split up on the wrong street, so we moved the



Under the plan currently being considered by the police department (broken lines), the western boundary of PSA 103 would be at 8th Street instead of at 15th Street NE, as it was in the proposal (solid lines) presented by the department in May. The star shows the Corner Forum area.

[PSA 103] boundary up further west, and we had to change the numbers around. So we made PSA 102 smaller, and PSA 103 bigger.

Can you describe the new PSA 103 boundary for us?

Sure. You are at the corner of Constitution and 8th Street, NE. You head north on 8th, head east on Florida, which turns to Benning Road, cross the river, and come back down the river side, and then go west on East Capitol, north on 13th Street, finally west on Constitution to complete the loop.

Would that change put us further away from the heart of Capitol Hill?

Well, the neighborhood hasn't changed. And you will still be in the First District.

I don't know how readers in our area will respond to the latest change. But if they are not happy, what can they do about it?

A 2nd Fund-Raiser for Lovejoy Park

BY RICHARD SUNDBERG, 1200 BLOCK OF DUNCAN PLACE NE

Just wanted to give everyone an update on the Lovejoy Park effort. After the fund-raiser at the beginning of the year, attention was focused on finalizing the nonprofit organization. This was a much more complex task than originally thought, but thanks to the selfless efforts of Cathy Shea, this is completed. In the interim, things such as the architectural renderings for the site have been shepherded along.

We have now planing another fund-raiser, this one focusing on members of CHAMPS (Capitol Hill Association of Merchants and Professionals). Of course, neighbors who would like to support this event are invited. And we are looking again for donations of food (a turkey, ham, salads, etc.). The last fund-raiser was a terrific event, and our hope is the next one will be more of the same.

Following is the invitation being posted on the PSA listserv, and it gives a bit more information...

Please join Council Member Sharon Ambrose for light re-

Forum Focuses on Affordable Housing

SUBMITTED BY MARY SPENCER, 1349 EMERALD ST. NE

From an e-mail from Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), describing an event that will take place Tuesday. (See Calendar.)

Finding a decent, safe, affordable place to live in Washington, has never been harder. Public and private investment is bringing much needed revitalization to our city, but high housing costs are pushing out many long-term residents and making it harder and harder for people to move into the District. We need policies that make housing affordable to all DC residents.

Inclusionary zoning (IZ) is a strategy for putting a good place to live within the reach of a greater number of District

They should contact me immediately, because if they sent the comment to the Chief or their Council member, it will eventually come to me, which will take longer to get to me. I am kind of the person overseeing the whole project. They can certainly "cc" the Council member or the Chief the things they feel strongly about. I may even be available for a walk in the neighborhood with residents, if they want to make their case stronger.

Thank you, Ms. Grant. You are very kind to me.

You are very welcome.

Note: Here is Ms. Grant's contact information: Anne Christine Grant, Policy Analyst, Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, Research and Resource Development Unit, 300 Indiana Ave. NW, Room 4152, Washington, DC 20001, 727-0915 (Direct line), 727-4174 (Office line). §

freshments and jazz on Wednesday evening, Nov. 12, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., 11 Fourth St. NE, to help raise funds for Lovejoy Park.

As you may know, Lovejoy Park is a site located adjacent to E Street NE between 11th and 12th Streets. At present, the Park is paved over with asphalt that is badly cracked and filled with weeds, and the chain-link fence is dangerously ripped.

Neighborhood residents have formed a nonprofit organization, Friends of Lovejoy Park, to try to create a beautiful green landscape in this part of northeast Capitol Hill for ALL community residents, including people who will shortly be moving into Lovejoy Lofts, the condominium development that is now under construction by Winter Properties.

The goal is to leverage a promised \$20,000 from Winter Properties by raising \$10,000 at the community level, and to also capture the energies and talents of the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation, which is headed by Neil Albert. At our first fund-raiser in January, we made over \$2,000!

Please join us. RSVP: Anne Montgomery, 543-6845, or Richard Sundberg, 544-0761. §

residents. IZ requires developers to make a percentage of housing units in new residential development affordable to low- and moderate-income households *while* still allowing developers to make a profit. IZ is being used in hundreds of communities across the country to produce affordable housing. In the counties surrounding the District, IZ has produced over 15,000 units of affordable housing.

The forum is the place to learn more about IZ and how it can support the development of more affordable housing in DC. The forum program includes: a presentation of findings from *Expanding Housing Opportunity in Washington, DC: The Case for Inclusionary Zoning*; a discussion about the policy principles that can guide a successful local inclusionary zoning policy; and an opportunity for you to shape IZ policy principles for DC and to develop a winning policy campaign. §

Calendar of Upcoming Events

If you attend any of these events, please send in anything from a few lines to a long article about what happened. And if you know of any upcoming events that other readers might be interested in, send them in! Events are free, unless otherwise noted, and open to all.

— Compiled by Sharon Cochran
1300 block of Emerald Street NE

Tuesday, October 28

10 a.m. Arts and Crafts Workshop. “Get ready for Halloween by decorating a mask to wear and start building a collection!” Recommended for children in grades 4 and 5. Space is limited; reservations required, 287-3369. At Anacostia Museum, 1901 Fort Pl. SE. <http://anacostia.si.edu>.

5:30 p.m. D.C.P.S. Girls High School Volleyball. SWW vs. Spingarn. At Spingarn, 2500 Benning Rd. NE, 724-4525.

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Community Forum on Inclusionary Zoning. (See story.) At Reeves Center, 2nd Floor Community Room, 2000 14th St. NW. Info, Will Ward, ACORN, 547-9292 or dcacorn@acorn.org.

7 p.m. D.C. Public Schools Reform. Panel discussion by the Ward 6 Democrats, with Tommy Wells, Iris Toyer, Deborah Spitz, and Ward 6 parents and educators. At the H Street Playhouse, 1365 H St. NE. Info, Ward6Dems@aol.com or Dan Wedderburn, 333-7171 or Jan Eichhorn, 547-8855.

7-9 p.m. ANC 6A Economic Development & Zoning Committee. Draft agenda includes “DCRA’s responsibilities for nuisance properties” and “Additional Q&A on YSA group home at 1626 Kramer Street NE with Department of Human Services and Youth Services Administration.” At Capitol Hill Towers, 900 G St. NE, community room. Info, ANC 6A03 Commissioner Cody Rice, 544-3734. <http://www.anc6a.org>.

Wednesday, October 29

All Day. D.C.P.S. Staff Development. No school for students.

7 p.m. Double Feature for Halloween. “The Most Dangerous Game” (1932) about a sinister count who hunts people like animals and “The Mask of Fu Manchu” (1932) with Boris

Karloff, who searches for Genghis Khan’s sword and mask. A British expedition races to get there first. At Capitol Hill Arts Workshop 545 Seventh St. SE. <http://www.chaw.org>.

Thursday, October 30

6 - 8:30 p.m. H Street NE Transportation Study. “We will review the findings of the Study’s Existing Conditions Report and Needs Assessment. We will also go over the Study’s preliminary recommendations and get feedback from you on what you think of them. Possibilities include all new trees and tree boxes, pedestrian scale lighting, new bus shelters, bulb-outs at most intersections, preservation of parking at all times on both sides of the street, new traffic signals, and other exciting options.” At Miner Elementary School, 601 15th St. NE. Info, Rachel MacCleery, Ward 6 Transportation Planner, 671-2555 or rachel.maccleery@dc.gov.

Friday, October 31

All Day. Halloween!

2:30 p.m. D.C.P.S. Homecoming. Boys football: Ballou vs. Spingarn. At Spingarn, 2500 Benning Rd. NE, 724-4525.

5-9 p.m. Hilloween at Eastern Market. A Halloween party for children, sponsored by the Von Schlegel Realty Team. At Eastern Market, 7th Street & North Carolina Avenue SE. Info, Jon Jamison, 548-4810 or Lori Hamilton, 547-0180.

7 p.m. King Kong (1933). Halloween Special Film. “A masterpiece of filmmaking, both historically and aesthetically with groundbreaking special effects. A film producer hears about a strange island with prehistoric animals and leads an expedition there to make a film.” At Capitol Hill Arts Workshop, 545 Seventh St. SE. <http://www.chaw.org>.

Saturday, November 1

8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Citizen Summit III. “The summit will give residents an opportunity to help shape the policies of the District government on healthcare, crime, education, housing, economic priorities, and neighborhood enhancements.” At the New Washington Convention Center, 801 Mount Vernon Pl. NW. Info, <http://www.citizensummit.dc.gov>. §

Free Cabs for Drinkers on Halloween

FROM AN E-MAIL BY THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

[The police department] is once again supporting the Halloween “SoberRide” program, sponsored by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP). From 8 p.m. on Friday until 4 a.m. on Saturday, WRAP will offer people who have been drinking in D.C. with free cab rides home, up to a \$50 fare. Residents can request a free cab ride home by calling 800-200-TAXI (8294) or #8294 (TAXI) on an AT&T Wireless phone. Info, <http://www.soberride.com>. §

Corner Forum Acknowledgments

Amy Fisher, 427 13th St. NE, picked up paper for the Corner Forum this week. The following people helped produce or distribute the Oct. 19 issue of the Corner Forum: Marc Borbely, 536 13th St. NE (editing, distributing); Sharon Cochran, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (distributing); Lea Mesner, 1300 block of Emerald Street NE (editing); and Demetra (Deta) Voyadgis, 1223 E St. NE (transcribing). There are 83 households in the Corner Forum area that are subscribed to the newsletter (29 on E Street, 28 on Emerald Street, 19 on 13th Street, and 7 on Duncan Place). Thank you, to all. §

SEND IN YOUR THOUGHTS AND YOUR NEWS! — by phone (544-2447); by voicemail (517-9128); by e-mail (news@thecornerforum.org); or by mail (536 13th St. NE).
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