

September report to constituents

Here is news of the **September 13 ANC meeting**, and notes of other events in the neighborhood.

Karyn LeBlanc and Jama Abdi of the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) provided an update of the schedule for the **completion of the street light work** north of Park Road. The cable trench digging is complete, the new posts installed, and work is proceeding now on adding the globes, connecting the wires, and energizing the new circuits. The new lights from 16th Street to the intersection of Newton and 18th should be operational now. The street lights in the alleys north and south of Ingleside Terrace are supposed to be operating by the end of September. The lights between 18th and 19th should be operational by October 15.

The multiple projects under way in this area complicate keeping to any schedule. WASA is busily doing lead service line replacement, which is certainly desirable, but of course the final road resurfacing cannot be done until they're finished. DDOT noted that the lights were out in the alley north of Ingleside Terrace because WASA had inadvertently cut the street light power line. Repair of that cut line would require replacement of the buried cable – but that is, of course, exactly what DDOT is doing, so they don't want to go to the expense of replacing the old, damaged cable, and yet the new one isn't quite ready to go. Hence, the alley remained dark while DDOT finished up the new streetlight

ANC 1D03 NEWSLETTER

Jack McKay, September 27, 2004

Opinions expressed here are those of Dr. McKay alone, speaking for himself, not for the Mount Pleasant ANC.

"Just wanted to thank you for your service and your newsletter. . . . Our judgment is that you are serving our ANC SMD very well indeed. Please keep up the hard work." –an Ingleside Terrace couple

I cannot tell you how wonderful it is to receive such sentiments. My only reward for this ANC work is the appreciation of the people of Mount Pleasant. Notes such as this are precious.

Residential Permit Parking in Mount Pleasant has expanded by another block, forcing the neighborhood's non-permit cars onto still fewer remaining unzoned blocks. This time it is the 1700 block of Irving, which does in fact have a problem of suburban commuters parking there for the day and taking the Metro downtown.

Some time ago I extracted from DDOT an agreement that ANCs would be allowed to review RPP petitions. This is needed because DDOT does a poor job of confirming that petitions represent the required majority of households (not houses) on a block. Many RPP petitions unintentionally lack a true majority, because residents have difficulty counting households, and yet are carelessly approved by DDOT.

In this case, DDOT failed to provide the petitions to the ANC for review, despite their agreement. I protested, and was shortly provided with the Irving Street petitions. As has happened with other RPP petitions, this petitioner significantly undercounted the number of households (she counted 50 "houses", I counted 59 "households".) What she thought was a four-vote surplus was in fact a one-vote deficiency. I found one additional signer for the petition, thus making it sufficient.

The 3200 block of 19th is about to be zoned for RPP, and now a petition has been started for RPP for the 3100 block of 19th. With each additional block zoned, the pressure is increased on the remaining blocks to be zoned. Pretty soon every block will be zoned, and there will be no place in Mount Pleasant for child care workers, household help, and contractor's workers, to park.

There will be an **ANC Candidate's Forum** on October 12, 6:30 to 8:45 pm, at the Mount Pleasant Library. Council-member Jim Graham will moderate. The focus of attention is likely to be the two contested ANC seats: mine – *yes, I have an opponent, an Ingleside Terrace resident who wants me removed from the ANC* – and the seat left vacant by Barbara Bitondo's departure.

I think the people of my district know me very well by now, thanks to my 25 monthly and special-issue newsletters. I stand on my record of accomplishment: preserving parking on Park Road, despite two attempts to reimpose the rush-hour parking prohibitions on those blocks; improving safety at the Park Road-Klingel-Walbridge intersection, through better signage and pavement markings; more street lights on Monroe; widening of Mount Pleasant Street to permit both-sides parking; improvement of community relations with Columbia Heights; revelation of the unsatisfactory robbery closure rate by the MPD; forced repair of a landlord-neglected property on Klingel Road; pressing for the successful MPD strategy of focusing resources on the specific problems of drug dealing and robberies; work for reform of our terrible RPP system; support for our neighborhood schools; close tracking and analysis of crime in Mount Pleasant; and, of course, regular communication of ANC and other neighborhood activities to the public, through my newsletters.

I stand on my record, and I hope that the vote on November 2 will be an approval of that record, and that I'll be allowed to continue this work, and these newsletters.

system in that alley.

The removal of the old poles and lights will proceed gradually during the coming months. This work should be complete by the end of the year.

I asked about the problem of the high crown on Newton Street, which causes problems to vehicles using the driveway to the Stoddard Baptist Home. DDOT is aware of this problem, and agrees that the resurfacing of Newton is an opportunity to fix it.

There was a presentation concerning the bill in City Council to separate the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) from the Fire Department, with somewhat involved arguments about the qualifications of paramedics versus firemen with medical training. This is a contentious issue downtown, the City Council evidently favoring separation, the Fire Chief and the

Mayor opposing it. In my opinion, this is simply beyond our qualifications, is not an issue specific to Mount Pleasant, and is a matter over which we have insignificant influence. Let City Council worry about it. Council-member Graham is a co-sponsor of the EMS separation bill, and he's not asking for, and doesn't need, the help of our ANC. The resolution supporting EMS separation passed, over "no" votes from me and Peter Muller.

Richard Huffine of the Friends of the Mount Pleasant Library noted that, while the library system has been given a budget increase to permit an expansion of the operating hours from 40 to 54 per week, the library had not been given permission to hire the staff necessary to carry out this expansion of the hours. We passed a resolution calling on City Council to fix this absurd situation.

— *no more space!*

All of my past newsletters – 24 of them, so far, not counting this one – are available via my Web site, <http://jackmckay.smcwebhosting.com/>.

David Bryant, charged **with the sexual assault of June 19 on Walbridge Place**, was formally arraigned on September 10. He's charged with ten felonies, including aggravated assault, sexual assault, sexual abuse with aggravating circumstance, armed robbery, and assault with a dangerous weapon. Mr Bryant pleaded not guilty on all counts.

A trial date of February 22 was set. I'll be there (if I'm re-elected!), to report back to the neighborhood.

The October ANC meeting will be on October 4, 7:30 pm, La Casa Community Center, 3166 Mount Pleasant Street. On the agenda will be parking meter policy on and adjacent to Mount Pleasant Street, the renewal of the Marx Café liquor license, and RPP on Irving and 19th Streets.

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I introduced, and the ANC unanimously passed, this "**Emergency No Parking**" resolution. Perhaps this will help in our continuing difficulties with construction projects taking up great gobs of curbside parking:

Whereas on-street parking is in great demand, and very limited supply, in Mount Pleasant, and residents commonly have difficulty finding legal parking spaces, especially in the evening;

Whereas District infrastructure projects have repeatedly appropriated numerous on-street parking spaces with "Emergency No Parking" postings, substantially depleting the supply of on-street parking available to residents;

Whereas these postings usually prohibit parking as of 7:00 AM, so early as to render these spaces unusable for overnight parking, as well as daytime parking;

Whereas District contractors are currently free to demand as many on-street parking spaces as they want, for as long as they want, for whatever hours they want, with no regard to the hardships imposed on residents;

Whereas these parking prohibitions are left in place and in force even on days when, due to weather or scheduling, no curbside work is being done, and there is no need for the prohibitions;

Whereas these "Emergency No Parking" demands are made with little advance warning, and no explanation, and generally fail to identify the District agency responsible for the taking of parking;

Whereas residents of unzoned blocks who are forced by street work to park their cars on residential-permit zoned blocks are subject to costly parking tickets;

Be it resolved, that the Mount Pleasant ANC 1-D calls on the Department of Transportation, and other District agencies responsible for projects affecting on-street parking, to do the following:

(1) Impose rules on the contractors that they are to take up no more on-street parking than is truly needed, for no longer than is needed, and for no more hours of the day than are truly needed;

(2) Require that any "Emergency No Parking" postings identify the associated District agency, with contact information for residents affected by the work;

(3) Post explanations of the work to be done, and the reason for the appropriation of curbside parking space;

(4) Post suspensions of the "Emergency No Parking" postings when work is delayed, or postponed, e.g., due to weather, and the space is not needed;

(5) Post termination of the "Emergency No Parking" when the work is done for the day, and no purpose is served by a continued prohibition; and

(6) Provide temporary Residential Permit Parking placards to residents displaced from their unzoned blocks.