



Government of the District of Columbia
Advisory Neighborhood Commission
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



June 11, 2010

Mr. Tersh Boasberg, Chair
District of Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board
801 North Capitol Street, NE, 3rd Floor
Washington, DC 20002

RE: HPA #10-241 (1222 Constitution Ave. NE)

Dear Chairman Boasberg:

At our regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on June 10, 2010, our Commission voted 5-2-0 to support some aspects of the above referenced application and oppose others.

The Commission supports the applicant's request for basement window wells on the 12th Place side of the structure. These window wells are necessary to allow light into the basement.

On the other hand, the Commission opposes the basement window wells on the front of the structure (Constitution Ave. facing) because it is out of character with other structures on the block. None of the other buildings on the block have front facing basement windows or window wells.

In addition, the Commission opposes locating the rear basement staircase on public space and urges the Board to require that it be constructed on the applicant's property. The Commission believes that erecting structures on public space contradicts the intent of the historic Parking Act and should only be considered when the structure cannot feasibly be built on private land. In this case, the Commission believes that there is enough private land in the backyard for the stairs to be constructed without using public space. Furthermore, the applicant has not obtained a permit to construct the staircase on public space and the Commission believes that HPRB should not sign off on projects that have not received approval from DDOT's Office of Public Space. Please see the attached letter to former City Administrator, Dan Tangherlini, regarding this issue.

If you have any questions, please contact Commissioner Drew Ronneberg at ronneberg6a02@gmail.com or (202) 431-4305.

On behalf of the Commission,

Kelvin J. Robinson
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Mrs. Nancy Metzger, CHRS
Mr. David Maloney, HPO