Resolution Regarding Embassy Church Public Space Application #113460

WHEREAS, the Owner of the property at 3855 Massachusetts Ave NW, the Embassy Church, has filed for a Public Space permit from the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) to allow several parking spaces within the Public Space in front of its property (PS Application #113460);

WHEREAS, the Embassy Church property faces the area known as Hamilton Circle, at the junction of Massachusetts Avenue, Idaho Avenue, and 39th Street NW, is one of the large planned circles in the plan for the city, designed to contribute to the beauty, green space, dignity and elegance of the city;

WHEREAS, 40% of the property around that circle is in ANC3B including the Warwick apartments as well as 4000 Massachusetts Avenue NW; the intersection is a major gateway to ANC3B; and many residents use the streets through that intersection to walk, bicycle, or drive in and out of ANC3B;

WHEREAS, all the other properties bordering the area of Hamilton Circle respect the Public Space and have located any parking, driveways, and buildings outside the Public Space designated as Hamilton Circle which belongs to the city;

WHEREAS, Embassy Church has built a driveway and parking spaces within the Public Space, without having received any public review or permits to date;

WHEREAS, Embassy Church has been cited previously for installing a fence to create a children’s play area on Public Space, without a permit and in violation of city Public Space regulations;

WHEREAS, ANC3C, which has jurisdiction over the Embassy Church property and adjoining properties making up 60% of Hamilton Circle, has found no reason to approve PS application #113460 and has requested the support of ANC3B in opposing the permit application from Embassy Church to allow parking with the Public Space at Hamilton Circle;

WHEREAS, the stated goal of DDOT’s Public Space Management policies is to achieve and maintain safe and beautiful streets, improve the quality of life for residents, and effectively manage the uses and demands on public space;

WHEREAS, ANC3B agrees with ANC3C the public space of Hamilton Circle should be respected by all neighboring properties, and finds no reason to provide special treatment to the Embassy Church, especially since it has already violated Public Space regulations by installing its driveway, parking lot and other structures in the Public Space without the required permits;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the ANC3B opposes PS Application #113460, and objects to placement of private parking within the Public Space of Hamilton Circle that borders Embassy Church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that given the lack of prior public review of the driveway serving Embassy Church, ANC3B also supports ANC3C’s request that DDOT review the configuration of the driveway, after the above application for parking on the property has been addressed.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman or the Commissioner of ANC3B or their designees are authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

This Resolution was APPROVED by a vote of 5-0 at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC3B on Thursday, November 12, 2015, at which a quorum was present. (A quorum is 3 of the 5 members.)

Jackie Blumenthal, Chairman

Ann Mladinov, Secretary