

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E  
TENLEYTOWN • AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK • FRIENDSHIP  
HEIGHTS

c/o The Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home  
5425 Western Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20015

[www.anc3e.org](http://www.anc3e.org)

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Dear Councilmembers:

ANC3E would like to express our deep concern and apprehension that the DC government is not allowing free speech on private property. The residents of the 4700 block of Ellicott Street have been working with the District Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to lawfully display signs on their own property only to be told that there is no provision for these signs within DC. The ANC respectfully submits a recent Washington Post article for the details of the case and wants immediate Council action to rectify the situation to protect the free speech of the citizens in our nation's capital.

It seems to this ANC that this case clearly limits private citizens' free speech on their property. The signs that these residents have made do not block the flow of traffic, are firmly on the residents' property, are not slanderous and make no direct reference to other property owners. Our understanding is that all signs over 1 foot square is illegal in the District, yet there are political campaign signs, contractor signs, and frequently, signs announcing happy events such as births in front of people's houses all the time. Our understanding is that there is only adverse action on these signs if there is a report filed, as there was in this case. We believe that signage cannot be differentiated based on content and that homeowners and landowners should have the right to express themselves on their own private property. We believe that limits on size and scope can certainly be made, however, making no provisions for any signage is a direct violation of District citizens' first amendment rights.

ANC3E would like to ask the DC Council to hear this case and make provisions for free speech expression on personal property or to make an interpretation of the laws in a way as to not limit private citizens' free speech in our nation's capital.

ANC3E would also like the Councilmember Jim Graham to reverse all fine levied on the citizens of the 4700 block of Ellicott St. NW.

Respectfully submitted,

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