



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3E

TENLEYTOWN AMERICAN UNIVERSITY PARK FRIENDSHIP HEIGHTS
c/o Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt Home 5425 Western Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20015
www.anc3e.org

July 16, 2009

BY E-MAIL AND FIRST CLASS MAIL

Arthuro V. Lawson
Government Affairs Officer
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
600 5th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: N8 Bus Problems on Yuma Street, NW

Dear Mr. Lawson:

ANC 3E is committed to making the neighborhood it encompasses as transit-friendly as possible, and to leveraging the public transit opportunities that already exist here. As you know, by reducing automobile traffic, public transit protects the environment and enhances quality of life, among other benefits.

At the same time, we recognize that public transit vehicles, like any vehicles, can create adverse effects. We recently received a petition from approximately 30 residents living on and around Yuma Street NW, between Wisconsin and Massachusetts Avenues, complaining about adverse effects associated with the N8 bus line. These residents assert that the N8 bus

- is underutilized;
- causes homes to shake to the point where structural integrity is affected;
- disregards stop signs and speed limits creating a safety hazard;
- adversely affects infrastructure; and
- creates an environmental hazard by spewing noxious fumes.

Some residents argue that the N8 bus should be abolished. Yet, others say that they or people they know rely on the N8 to get to and from jobs, shopping, and other destinations. These individuals urge that WMATA take more measured steps, such as better driver training, use of smaller buses, or schedule changes, to address problems with the N8.

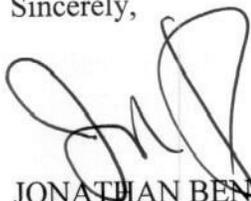
At its June 9, 2009 meeting, ANC 3E passed the enclosed resolution calling on WMATA “to conduct a balanced and thorough study of the N8 route to determine how to alleviate concerns while balancing the needs of those who use it[.]”

Please note that we take no position in this resolution as to how WMATA should substantively address these concerns. Rather, we respectfully ask WMATA to initiate a process as soon as possible *to determine* how best to address the concerns. We believe that as part of this

process, WMATA should collect and share detailed ridership data with the ANC and residents. Likewise, we believe that WMATA should ensure ample opportunity for the ANC, Yuma Street residents, N8 riders, and other interested parties to contribute to this determination.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Bender', written in a cursive style.

JONATHAN BENDER,
CHAIRPERSON

Enclosure



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RESOLUTION REGARDING N8 BUS

WHEREAS ANC 3E has received complaints associated with operation of the N8 bus from residents of Yuma street (some, but not all of those complaints relate to noise, size of buses, disobeying traffic laws, and hours of operation), and

WHEREAS ANC 3E has also been made aware of requests that the N8 bus continue to serve those that use it,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 3E respectfully asks WMATA to conduct a balanced and thorough study of the N8 route to determine how to alleviate concerns while balancing the needs of those who use it, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson draft and send a letter accompanying this resolution, acceptable to all Commissioners voting for the resolution, further setting forth issues raised by the N8 route.

The resolution passed by a vote of 4-0 at a properly noticed meeting held on June 11, 2009, at which a quorum was present, with Commissioners Bender, Frumin, Serebin, and Sklover voting yes.

ANC 3E


by Jonathan Bender
Chairperson