



## **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](http://www.anc3e.org)

### **Resolution Regarding the Petition for Removal of a female Ginkgo tree in front of 4332 Verplanck Place NW**

**Whereas**, the Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) of the District Department of Transportation has established a Female Ginkgo Tree Removal Policy that allows property owners who are concerned about the yearly inconvenience caused by falling female ginkgo tree fruit (technically a seed) to decide on a block-by-block level if they wish to have one or more of these trees removed and replaced with another tree.

**Whereas**, pursuant to the UFA policy at least 60% of the homeowners on a block must petition for removal of female ginkgo trees;

**Whereas**, over 60% of the owners of the 19 homes on the 4300 block of Verplanck Place, NW have in accordance with the UFA policy petitioned, for removal of the female ginkgo tree on public property in the tree box in front of 4332 Verplanck Place. Signers support the petition including the homeowner in front of whose house the tree is sited and by the homeowners whose houses are located on either side of the tree;

**Whereas**, homeowners on the block have represented that the trees at issue are prolific producers of fruit for several months every fall, and that the fruit: falls to the ground in exceptionally great quantity; creates a remarkable and repellant stench that is typically described as smelling like rancid butter, vomit, or dog feces; and, creates a sticky mess on the street, slippery when wet, on nearby sidewalks, lawns, and vehicles, damaging vehicle paint and, when tracked into homes, hardwood floors, creating a health and safety hazard;

**Whereas**, the UFA has attempted for many years to reduce fruit production of the tree by spraying pesticide and injecting the tree with a systemic treatment, without substantive result; We quote from UFA: "...Nonetheless, the conditions on this block related to [this tree] exceeds what most people would consider reasonable. And we have tried every option at our disposal to address the issue, but to no avail."

**Whereas**, the petitioners have attempted to negotiate and reach consensus with neighbors opposed to removal and replacement of the tree, including meetings, options discussed, and review of past attempts to remediate the problems associated with the trees, in a good faith effort to achieve harmony in resolving the issue;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, in recognition of these considerations, ANC 3E adopts the following resolution.

**RESOLVED**, ANC 3E supports the petitions by the residents of the 4300 block of Verplanck Place, NW, to remove and replace the female ginkgo tree at issue.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** ANC 3E looks forward to UFAs recommendations for a replacement tree or trees, in concert, if possible, with the street residents, that can replicate the shade and beauty created by the Ginkgo and will have a long and healthy life.

The resolution passed by a vote of 5-0-0 at a properly noticed meeting held on May 14th, 2015, at which a quorum was present, with Commissioners Bender, McHugh, Quinn, Hall, and Wallace in attendance.

ANC 3E

By Jonathan Bender, Chairperson