

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING



PUBLIC SPACE APPLICATION REVIEW

DATE: May 12, 2010
ADDRESS: 1471 P Street NW
APPLICATION: Unenclosed Sidewalk Cafe

Site Information

Zone: ARTS/C-3-A
Historic District: Greater 14th Street Historic District
CFA: No
Neighborhood Character: Active commercial corridor

Background:

The Office of Planning received the public space application for review on April 9, 2010.

Relevant Policies of Planning Initiatives

Policy UD-3.10: Sidewalk Cafes

Discourage the enclosure of sidewalk cafes in manner that effectively transforms them into indoor floor space. The design of sidewalk cafes should be compatible with the architectural qualities of the adjoining buildings, should complement the street environment, and should not impede pedestrian movement.

KEY ISSUES

The proposed unenclosed café has an area of 140 square feet and proposes 4 tables and 8 chairs. The sidewalk width from the property line to the curb is 21', a width that provides ample space for a sidewalk café. However, the District's regulations require a minimum 10' clear pedestrian path in the sidewalk adjacent to a sidewalk café; as proposed there is only an adjacent 8'-8" clear pedestrian walkway from the edge of the café to the curb. This includes a 4' furniture zone and tree box area. Street lights and tree boxes are not shown on the drawing.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The sidewalk café is a welcome addition to the neighborhood.

The Office of Planning recommends that a sidewalk café at this site be approved, but the adjacent sidewalk width may need to be increased, number of seats may need to be reduced, and drawings may need to be revised so that they accurately reflect site conditions. There are also planters in public space that exist, and they should be considered as part of this application.