

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF PLANNING



PUBLIC SPACE APPLICATION REVIEW

DATE: June 10, 2010
FROM: Joshua Ghaffari, Citywide Planner
ADDRESS: 3501 New York Avenue NE
APPLICATION: Curb cut and driveway

Site Information

Zone: M
Historic District: No
CFA: No
Neighborhood Character: Parkland

Background:

The Office of Planning received the public space application for review on May 17, 2010.

Relevant Policies of Planning Initiatives

Policy UD-2.2.1 Neighborhood Character and Identity

Strengthen the defining visual qualities of Washington's neighborhoods. This should be achieved in part by relating the scale of infill development, alterations, renovations and additions to existing neighborhood context.

KEY ISSUES

The proposal is for a new driveway and curb cut for the National Arboretum. The applicant wants to put in a new gate and extend pavers to the gate and curb cut. The area is currently grassy open space. The proposed curb cut site is located off of a limited access highway with no sidewalk.

The applicant does not provide any reasoning as to the need for this new curb cut and driveway. The Public Space Committee needs to ascertain from the applicant what the compelling need is for this new curb cut and driveway and who will be using it.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

The increase of paving and parking in an area that is clearly intended to be landscaped is inconsistent with the intent of the District's public space regulations. It is not clear from the application why this proposed curb cut and driveway is necessary even though there is an existing access point nearby.

The Office of Planning does not have enough information at this time to make a recommendation.