

January 10, 2002

The Honorable Anthony A. Williams
Mayor of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Williams:

I am writing to request that you submit legislation to the Council to effectuate your proposal to convert Klinge Road into a hiker and biker trail. To proceed with your proposal in the absence of enacted legislation would be contrary to decades of precedent, would undermine the Council's authority over street closings as well as the District's longstanding position vis a vis the federal government regarding local authority over street closings, and would possibly subject the District to litigation for failure to comply with local law.

Enclosed for your review is a copy of an opinion from the Council's General Counsel on this matter. Even if you have received a differing legal opinion, I strongly encourage you, as a matter of public policy, to follow the process which we require for all street or alley closing applicants whether they are private citizens or public agencies. This process allows conditions to be established for a street closing, such as requiring a hiker/biker trail to be constructed on part of the right-of-way, and retaining the full width of the right-of-way for future vehicular use if the District determines that transportation needs warrant such use, which I understand to be your position with regard to Klinge Road.

In the interests of "one government, good government, and self-government," your adherence to the statutory process for street closings in the case of Klinge Road would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

Linda W. Cropp
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Councilmembers