



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

April 23, 2021

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 504
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Attached, please find the *'Public Restroom Facilities and Promotion Act of 2018: Report on the Sites with Frequent Incidents of Public Defecation and Urination.'* This report is being submitted pursuant to the reporting requirements of DC Official Code § 10-1052(b).

If you have any questions, please contact Keith A. Anderson, Director, Department of General Services, at (202) 727-2800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Muriel Bowser".

Muriel Bowser

Enclosures



Public Restroom Facilities and Promotion Act of 2018:

Report on the Sites with Frequent Incidents of Public Defecation and Urination



**Prepared by the Department of General Services
March 12, 2021**

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I. ACRONYMS AND DEFINITIONS

ACRONYMS

ANC – Advisory Neighborhood Commission

BID – Business Improvement District

DDOT – District Department of Transportation

DGS – Department of General Services

DHS – Department of Human Services

DMPED – Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development

DOH – Department of Health / DC Health

DPR – Department of Parks and Recreation

DPW – Department of Public Works

DSLBD – Department of Small and Local Business Development

MPD – Metropolitan Police Department

OCA – Office of the City Administrator - Internal Services Division

DEFINITIONS

Advisory Neighborhood Commission – An Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) is a non-partisan, neighborhood body comprised of locally elected representatives called Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANCs).

Business Improvement District – A Business Improvement District (BID) is a self-taxing district established by property owners to enhance the economic vitality of a specific commercial area. The tax is a surcharge to the real property tax liability. The tax is collected by the District of Columbia and all revenues are returned entirely to the nonprofit organization managing the BID. Business and property owners control the BID and how funds are spent. There are currently 11 BIDs in the District of Columbia.

Clean Team – The Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) funds and monitors the District's Commercial Clean Team Program, which is managed by the Commercial Revitalization Division within the agency. Basic services of Clean Teams include improving the appearance of the District's commercial corridors, reducing litter, graffiti and posters,

maintaining a healthy tree canopy, including landscaping along the corridor and supporting Sustainable D.C. goals by recycling, mulching, using eco-friendly supplies and reducing storm-water pollution generated by the city's commercial corridors.

Human Waste – Human feces and/or urine.

Public Restrooms Act – Alternately referenced as ‘law’ herein; D.C. Law 22-280– Public Restrooms Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2018 – was passed in April 2019 to establish a Working Group consisting of nine (9) agencies and five (5) Mayoral appointed community members to direct the Mayor to establish a public restroom facilities pilot program and install two public restroom facilities in high-need locations in the District; and to establish the Community Restroom Incentive Pilot Program to provide financial incentives to places of public accommodations in a selected Business Improvement District that open their restrooms for public use. Funding for the Community Restroom Incentive Pilot Program has been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

II. OVERVIEW: PUBLIC RESTROOM FACILITIES AND PROMOTION ACT OF 2018

Overview of Law

In April 2019, the DC Council and the Mayor enacted the ‘Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2018.’ This law directs the District to work toward the following¹:

1. Solicit feedback from Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs), and Clean Teams on potential locations for two pilot sites for 24/7 public restroom facilities;
2. Submit a report from the Mayor to Council with locations of sites with at least ten incidents of public urination and/or defecation resulting in dispatch of staff;
3. Establish a Working Group consisting of nine (9) District government agencies and five (5) community members to recommend locations for stand-alone public restrooms in a pilot program;
4. Engage communities on the Working Group’s recommendations, and;
5. Install two stand-alone public restrooms.

Purpose of Report

This report summarizes feedback from District agencies that are required to participate in the Working Group as well as feedback from ANCs, BIDs and Clean Teams. Additionally, this report details information on top areas in the city where public defecation and urination problems persist, to the extent that such data exist. This report also outlines preliminary recommendations that have surfaced in conversations thus far.

The nine (9) agencies that are mandated to participate in the Working Group are:

- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)
- DC Department of Health (DOH / DC Health)

¹ Not all milestones in the Public Restrooms Facilities and Promotion Act of 2018 are referenced. Please refer to the legislation for additional information.

- Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)
- Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)
- Department of General Services (DGS)
- Department of Public Works (DPW)
- DC Water

In addition to convening nine (9) government agencies, the Working Group must also include five (5) community members. The community members must meet the following criteria, as specified in the Act.:

- Representatives of non-profits with a focus on homelessness (2)
- Representative of a non-profit with a focus on seniors (1)
- Representatives of a non-profit with a focus on public health (1)
- An individual with experience in urban planning (1)

The Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2018 requires that the 14-member Working Group convene its first meeting within sixty days of publication of this report.

III. SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

District Agencies

The law requires this report to include data on the locations that experience at least ten calls for service for human waste problems resulting in dispatch; however, this type of specific data is unavailable. The District's 311 service and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) have confirmed there is no specific reporting category for public urination or defecation. Instead, incidents under these two categories are incorporated into larger reporting categories complicating data analysis efforts.

As a substitute, representatives from the government agencies referenced in the statute met on September 17, 2020 to discuss and share any available data, even if anecdotal, related to human waste. Attendees included:

1. DHS representative
2. DDOT representative
3. MPD representative
4. DC Health representative
5. DPR representative
6. DMPED representative
7. Several representatives from DGS

Separately, DGS met with DPW representatives who were unable to attend the meeting.

In addition, the group identified areas which the working group could consider, such as data gaps, the importance of community engagement, security, vandalism, and cleanliness.

Information Gathered from District Agencies

Few agencies had anecdotal data relating to where problems of public defecation and urination occur most frequently. Most agencies did not have direct experience responding to these types of complaints.

DPW was the only agency with documentation about responding to such issues. The agency holds a contract with a vendor that specializes in biohazard removal. This contractor visits the following locations, with frequencies in parentheses:

- 2nd & L & M St., NE (twice per month)
- 27th & K St., NW (once per month)
- New Jersey & O St., NW (four times per month)
- 2nd & D St., NW (once per month)
- 3rd & Virginia Ave., SE (once per month)

- New York Ave & Montana Ave., NE (once per month)

Additionally, the contractor makes emergency visits on an as-needed basis. During the summer months of 2020, the contractor visited the following sites, with number of emergency visits in parentheses:

- 27th & K St., NW (4)
- 3rd & Virginia Ave., SE (2)
- New York Ave & Montana Ave., NE (2)

DHS placed portable, temporary restrooms at various locations across the city at the onset of the pandemic. These restrooms are located in areas with high numbers of individuals experiencing homelessness. Locations of DHS portable restrooms are as follows:

- 3rd & L St., NE
- Dupont Circle, NW
- M & Delaware Ave., NE
- 26th & I St., NW
- 3rd & Virginia Ave., SE
- 4th & O St., NW
- 21st & East St., NW
- 14th & K St., NW
- 14th and Park Road, NW

DPR is also planning to complete their installation of two standalone public restrooms in the spring of 2021. One restroom will be located at Oxon Run Park in Ward 8, and the other at Walter Pierce Park in Ward 1. DPR selected these locations based on previous conversations with community members who expressed interest in installing a public restroom at recreation facilities. DPR also considered the amount of foot traffic in the vicinity and whether these locations allowed the agency to place the restroom close to lighting and street traffic.

At the time of the September 17th meeting, MPD had already drafted a list of recommended locations for public restrooms. Importantly, these recommendations are based on observations rather than hard data; see Appendix I for MPD's complete list of locations.

Areas of Common Recommendation and/or Servicing

Several locations throughout the city emerged as high priority areas for District agencies. DPW and DHS reported their on-the-ground experiences with problems of public human waste while MPD made recommendations and DPR selected two parks as future sites of public restrooms.

Below is a list of the intersections that two or more of these four agencies have considered:

- L Street, NE corridor (between 1st Street, NW and 3rd Street, NW) in NoMA. Both DPW and DHS serve this area and MPD recommends placement of a public restroom at this location.
- Foggy Bottom (27th and K Street, NW). DPW's biohazard contractor has made emergency visits recently and DHS has placed a temporary restroom here.
- Columbia Heights (14th Street and Park Road, NW). DHS placed a temporary restroom here and MPD included this site in their recommendations.
- New Jersey Avenue, NW and O Street, NW. DHS placed a temporary restroom here and DPW's biohazard contractor visits this location four times per month, indicating that the site needs weekly maintenance due to human waste.
- 400 2nd Street, NW. MPD recommended this location and DPW's biohazard contractor has visits this location once per month.

ANCs, BIDs and Clean Teams

On September 30, 2020, a survey was distributed to ANCs, BIDs and Clean Teams requesting feedback on the topic of public restrooms (see Appendix II for survey questions and results).² Of the 328 recipients, 52 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC)³ five BIDs, and one Clean Team responded. There were 23 additional respondents.

Information Gathered from ANCs, BIDs and Clean Teams

The majority of respondents supported the installation of public restrooms. Many respondents expressed interest in having follow-up conversations to learn more about the District's efforts on this topic, and to further share ideas. Suggestions from respondents included:

² The category 'Other' was included in the survey in the event entities outside of these groups received and responded to the survey. The "Other" category represents residents, community advocates, civic associations, residents and/or other interested parties.

³ The survey was developed with the intention to elicit responses from Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) regarding community feedback on the topic of public restrooms. Some ANC Commissioners responded independently.

Survey Highlights

- 85% of respondents supported the District’s public restrooms efforts
- 86% of respondents witnessed and 81% encountered incidents of public defecation and/or urination at least once a year
- 29% of respondents recommended locations for public restrooms outside of their neighborhood

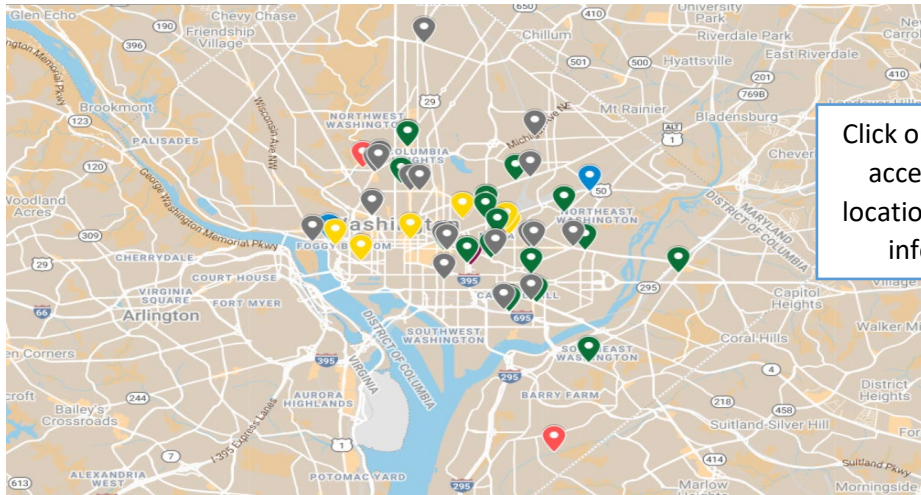
- Locate public restrooms near other public facilities areas such as metro stations, police or fire stations
- Ensure locations have attendants that can monitor public restrooms, with a hiring preference for individuals experiencing homelessness; or, provide self-cleaning facilities
- Incorporate public restrooms in a brick and mortar or new development
- Prioritize regular cleaning and maintenance, design not susceptible to vandalism, accessibility, usage monitoring/data collection, and safety

Community Recommendations for Public Restroom Locations

ANCs, BIDs and Clean Teams were asked about specific recommendations for public restroom locations in their neighborhood/service areas. Respondents provided 103 distinct locations, 19 of which received more than one recommendation (see Appendix II for more information).

- Ward 3 respondents indicated the desire to place public restrooms in other areas of the District, or near metro stations.
- Ward 6 had the highest number of respondents reporting ‘Yes’ to either encountering or witnessing human waste in their neighborhood/service area.

Commonalities: Community and Government



Click on the chart to access a map of locations for further information.

In the above image, blue dots represent sites where DPW has performed emergency cleanings; purple dots represent other DPW sites that a biohazard contractor services; yellow dots represent temporary DHS restrooms; green dots represent MPD recommendations; and pink dots reflect future DPR sites of standalone public restrooms.

Survey respondents identified 19 locations that received two or more recommendations⁴ from community members. These 19 locations were compared with those that government agencies had serviced or recommended. Below are the rough geographical areas that government agencies and multiple community members both suggested as potential public restroom locations:

- 27th and K Street, NW: DPW’s biohazard contractor has made multiple emergency visits to this area, DHS placed a temporary restroom here, and community members identified the nearby Georgetown Waterfront as a potential location.
- 3rd Street and Virginia Avenue, SE: MPD and community members recommended this location for a public restroom, and DHS placed a temporary restroom here.
- Gallery Place NW: MPD and community members recommended this location for a public restroom.
- Dupont Circle, NW: DHS placed a temporary restroom near the circle and community members also recommended this location for a public restroom.
- Near Union Station, NW: MPD and community members suggested placing a public restroom near this location.
- 17th Street and Benning Road, NE: MPD and community members suggested placing a public restroom near this intersection.

Feedback Implications

There is overwhelming community support from survey respondents for public restrooms in the District. Additionally, survey respondents requested more community engagement; they asked for a process that carefully considers public restroom locations with a heavy emphasis on community buy-in.

There is equal concern, both among community members and District government representatives, for public health and safety, specifically routine maintenance and security to prevent an increase in vandalism or other types of crime.

Finally, there are several locations across the District that agencies and members of the community agree are eligible sites for public restrooms. The accounting of those recommendations provided above can serve as a guide for Working Group members as they draft their own recommendations for stand-alone public restroom locations.

Next Steps

The public restrooms Act outlines specific steps necessary to implement this program and install the stand-alone restrooms. The next major milestones as required by the statute are as follows:

- **Mayor Names Public Restroom Working Group:** 30 days after publication of this report

⁴ There were 20 locations that multiple community members recommended, but one location – “downtown business district” – was too vague to be included in our analysis.

- **Working Group Convenes Initial Meeting:** 30 days after Mayor names Public Restrooms Working Group

In 60 days, the Working Group will begin the process of establishing a public restroom facilities pilot program, which will culminate in the installation of two public restroom facilities.

IV. APPENDICES

Appendix I: MPD Recommendations for Public Restroom Location, by Police District

Possible Locations for a Public Restroom

First District

1. 3rd and Virginia, SE
2. 9th and Penn, SE
3. 50 Mass Ave., NE (around Union Station),
4. 400 blk of 2nd St., NW
5. Gallery Place

Third District

1. North Capitol/Florida Ave., NW
2. Columbia Heights area (14th/Kenyon and Irving)
3. 15th and Florida Ave., NW – near Meridian Hill Park
4. North Capitol/O Streets, NW

Fifth District

1. West Virginia Ave., & Mt. Olivet Rd., NE (there is open space on the northwest corner that is bounded by a fence)
2. North Capitol St. & Florida Ave., NE
3. 100 blocks of either K, L, or M Sts., NE
4. 17th & Benning Rd., NE (Laundromat area)
5. 4th & Rhode Island Ave., NE

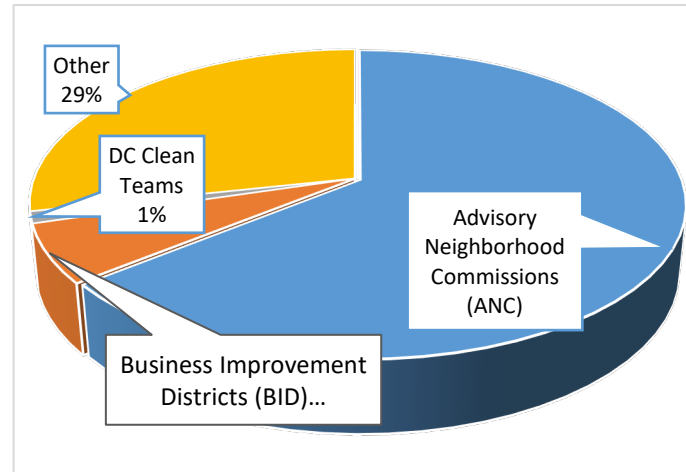
Sixth District

1. 3800- 3900 block of Minnesota Ave., NE - this is a business corridor which is populated with individuals experiencing homelessness, drug addiction, and mental illness.
2. The Good Hope Road Corridor shared by both 6th and 7th Districts. This would be for the same reasons as above, with the addition of prostitution.

Appendix II: Survey Questions and Responses

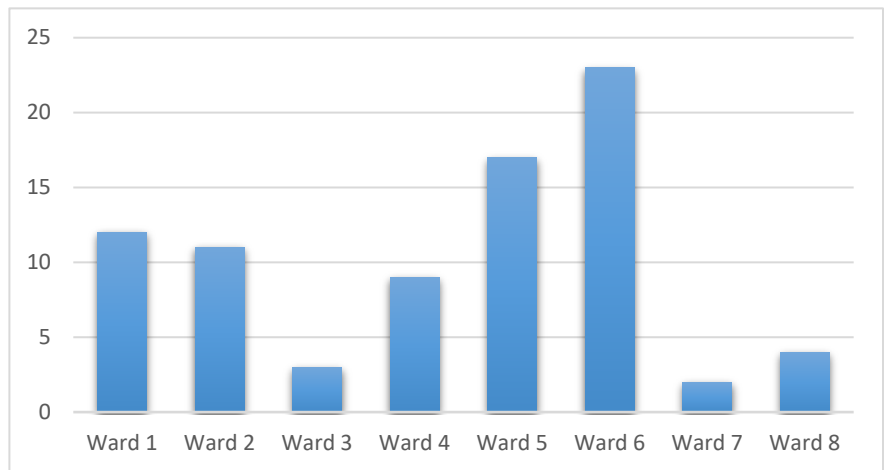
What organization do you represent? If other, please specify in "Other" ⁵

Entity	# of Responses
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANCs)	52
Business Improvement District (BID)	5
DC Clean Team	1
Other	23
TOTAL RESPONSES =	81



Which Ward do you service or represent?

- Ward 1 = 12 responses
- Ward 2 = 11 responses
- Ward 3 = 3 responses
- Ward 4 = 9 responses
- Ward 5 = 17 responses
- Ward 6 = 23 responses
- Ward 7 = 2 responses
- Ward 8 = 4 responses



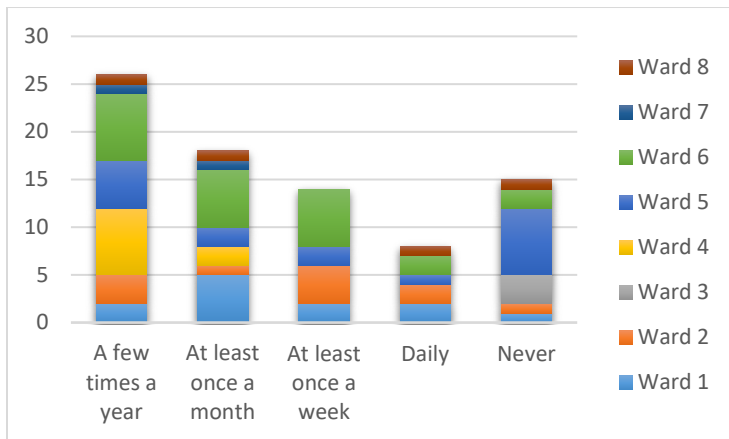
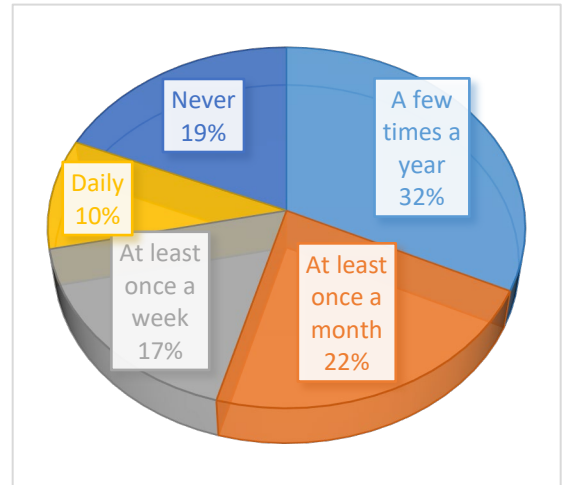
Ward-Specific Neighborhood Responses (number of responses by neighborhood are in parenthesis):

- **Ward 1** = Adams Morgan (3), Cardozo/Shaw (4), Columbia Heights (5), Howard University (2), LeDroit Park (2), Park View (2), and Pleasant Plains (2)
- **Ward 2** = Burleith/Hillandale (1), Chinatown (3), Downtown (3), Downtown East (1), Dupont Circle (4), Foggy Bottom (1), George Washington Univ (1), Georgetown (2), Penn Quarter (1)
- **Ward 3** – Cathedral Heights (1), Foxhill Village (1), Friendship Heights (1), Georgetown Reservoir (1), Glover Park (1), Palisades (1), Spring Valley (1), Wesley Heights (1)

⁵ This survey was disseminated to ANCs, BIDs and Clean Teams, a feedback requirement mandated by law. The category ‘Other’ was included in the survey in the event entities outside of these groups received and responded to the survey. The “Other” category represents residents, community advocates, civic associations, residents and/or other interested parties.

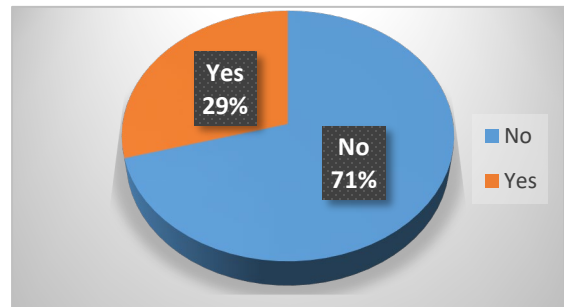
How frequently do you encounter (see) discarded feces or urination in your neighborhood?

Response	# of Responses
Never	14
A few times a year	25
At least once a month	15
At least once a week	13
Daily	8



Are the recommendation(s) (you are making for a public restroom location) outside of your ANC or neighborhood?

Response	# of Responses
Yes	22
No	54



What are your recommendation(s) for stand-alone restrooms (respondents could choose 2)

Listing of Locations	# of Recommendations
11th and Monroe Streets, NW	1
12th and Franklin Streets, NE	1
12th and H Street, NE	1
12th and Monroe Streets, NE	1
12th Street, NE and Michigan Ave, NE	1
14th and Constitution Avenue NW	1
14th and E Street, NW	1
14th and Girard Streets, NW	1
14th and Spring Rd, NW	1
14th and U Streets, NW (Reeves Center)	7
14th and V Streets, NW	1
14th Street and Spring Road, NW	1
16th and H Street Streets, NW	1
1700 block of Columbia Road, NW	1
17th Street Corridor (1704 Columbia Rd or 1747 Columbia Rd NW -side of the Safeway building, near Ontario Rd NW)	3
3rd Street Corridor	1
5th and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE	1
7th and D Streets, NW	1
7th and H Street, NE (by DC public services building)	2
7th and H Streets, NW	2
8th & H Street, NE	1
8th and D, SE	1
8th and H Streets, NE	5
8th Street (Under the freeway)	1
Adams Morgan (at or near 18th St and Columbia Road)	3
Atlantic Street and Livingston Road, SE	1
Bladensburg Road between South Dakota and New York Avenue	1
Buzzard Point	1
Civic Plaza	1
Columbia Heights (near intersection of 14th and Kenyon Sts, NW)	1
Congress Heights near St. Elizabeth's campus	1
Corner of North Capitol Street, NW and Florida Avenue NW (gated triangle park)	1
Corner of North Capitol Street NE, Lincoln Road NE, and Quincy Place, NE	1
Cross streets of Taylor/Upshur and Georgia Avenue	1
Downtown business district	2
Dupont Circle	4
Dupont Circle (P Street and Massachusetts Avenue)	1

Listing of Locations	# of Recommendations
East of North Capitol on New York Avenue, NE (McDonald's parking lot)	1
Near Eastern Market Metro Plaza Park -- 800 Pennsylvania Ave	1
Near Eastern Market Metro Station (Plaza at 7th and Pennsylvania Avenue, SE)	1
8th Street, SE (at SE expressway overpass - Marine Barracks)	1
Gallery Place (9th and G Streets, NW)	2
Galveston Street and South Capitol Street	1
Garfield Park (Near the I-695 overpass/homeless encampments abutting park)	4
Georgetown (by M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, NW)	1
Georgetown Library - Wisconsin and R Streets - the garden behind	1
Georgetown Waterfront (K Street)	2
Georgia and Lamont St NW	1
Georgia and New Hampshire Avenues, NW	1
Georgia Avenue and Upshur Street, NW	1
Georgia and Missouri Avenues, NW (near park)	2
Golden Triangle	1
Historic Anacostia (near the Big Chair)	1
Near Tenleytown Metro Station (intersection of Wisconsin Avenue and Albemarle Street, NW)	1
Near Friendship Heights Metrorail stations (along Wisconsin Ave between Jennifer Street and Western Avenue, NW)	1
Intersection of Military/Missouri Roads and Georgia Avenue, NW	1
Kalorama Park (intersection of Columbia Rd, NW, Kalorama Rd., NW, and 19th St., NW)	1
Massachusetts Avenue and 14th Street	1
McPherson Square, NW	1
National Mall (adjacent to the Mall along Constitution Ave NW)	3
Near (rear) of So Others Might Eat (SOME) , between North Capitol and First St., NW, 2 or 3 blocks north of New York Avenue, NW	1
Near 12th and Newton	1
Near Brookland Metro Station (Michigan Ave. & 10th St.)	3
Near Convention Center (7th St and M St NW)	1
Near Deanwood Metro Station	1
Near Dupont Circle	1
Near Eastern Market (Near east bldg. Eastern Market and Rumsey Pool)	1
Near Eastern Market metro station (Pennsylvania Avenue and 7th/8th Streets, SE)	3
North Capital Street (Near fire station)	1
Near Fort Slocum Park (without impeding on NPS land)	1
Near Logan Circle (south side between O St, 13th St, and the Logan Circle, NW).	1
Near Metro Center Metro Station (11th and G Streets, NW)	1

Listing of Locations	# of Recommendations
Near Montrose Park	1
Near Petworth Library and Mac Farland/triangle area near Georgia avenue/Varnum/Upshur	1
Near Petworth Metro Station (Georgia Ave NW and New Hampshire Ave NW)	1
Near Post Office on Pennsylvania Ave SE (cross street is L'Enfant Square/Minnesota Ave, Ward 7, SE quadrant)	1
Near public facilities areas like metro stations, police or fire stations	1
Near Rhode Island Avenue Metro Station (10th and Rhode Island, or W Street, NE near MBT entrance)	3
Near SE Public Library	1
Near Takoma Metro Station (On the grounds, or around 327 Cedar Street, NW)	1
Near the intersection of Wards 1 and 5 in the Shaw neighborhood	1
Near U Street Metro stop (13th and U Streets)	2
Near Virginia Avenue and 3rd St, SE	1
New Hampshire and Georgia Avenues, NW	1
NoMa	1
Park Rd and 14th Street, NW	1
Rhode Island Ave & 5th Street, NE (by fire station)	1
Rhode Island Avenue between 13th & 18th Streets	1
Seward Square	1
Somewhere in ANC 1B	1
South Capitol and First Streets, SW	1
Southeast Side of Thomas Circle (above the Massachusetts Ave NW overpass)	1
Stanton Park (at the end of the 700 block of 8th St NE by H Street, NE)	1
Starburst Plaza (near Hechinger Mall-Benning & Maryland intersection, or Bladensburg and H Street, NE)	2
Triangle at 13th, East Capitol and North Carolina Ave NE	1
Triangle at Massachusetts (East Capitol and 13th Streets, SE)	1
Under railroad tracks on K Street/L Street, NE	1
Union Station	2
Unity Park (triangle park bordered by Columbia Rd, NW, Euclid St. NW, and Champlain St., NW)	2
Upshot and 14th Streets, NW	1
Valley Ave (between Wheeler Road and 13th Street, SE)	1
Vermont and K Streets, NW	1
Washington Circle	1

