

ANC 1C Resolution to study traffic calming measures and/or one-way streets for the 1800 blocks of Kalorama Rd NW and Wyoming Ave NW and the 1700 and 1800 blocks of California Street NW

WHEREAS the 1800 blocks of Wyoming NW and Kalorama Road NW are both narrow 30 ft curb to curb residential streets with parking on both sides of the street, and

WHEREAS the 1800 blocks of Wyoming NW and Kalorama Road NW as well as the 1700 and 1800 block of California Street NW have significant use by bicyclists and pedestrians, including many accompanied by small children, dogs, and/or the elderly, and

WHEREAS there are significant pedestrian generating facilities including three parks, two DCPS schools, two recreation centers, two bike-share stations, places of worship adjacent to or in the immediate vicinity of the three streets, and

WHEREAS said streets are between two heavily travelled commercial streets, 18th Street NW and either 19th Street NW or Columbia Road NW, resulting in significant traffic volume, cut-through traffic, traffic noise, traffic accidents and dangerous conditions for pedestrians and cyclists, and

WHEREAS the vast majority of the traffic, particularly during the hours of 7 pm and 3 am, consists of non-residential motorists, including taxi cabs, Uber and Lyft drivers, and private passenger vehicles that do not belong to neighborhood residents or their visitors, and

WHEREAS these drivers use the streets as cut-throughs between the commercial streets or while searching for on-street parking, and

WHEREAS the limited on-street parking in the neighborhood lead to many U turns by drivers who see open parking spaces on the opposite side of the street, and

WHEREAS vehicles parked on the 1700 block of California and 1800 blocks of Kalorama and Wyoming have regularly been side-swiped by vehicles attempting to pass when other vehicles are double-parked or are in the process of on or off-loading passengers, and

WHEREAS noise is excessive as drivers honk and engage in verbal and/or physical confrontations in their attempt to proceed through the blocks, disturbing residents at all hours of the night and early morning hours, and

WHEREAS making the 1800 blocks of Wyoming Avenue and Kalorama Road NW one-way would significantly reduce risks, damages and disturbances by providing steady, consistent one-way traffic, and

WHEREAS these problems are particularly troublesome between the hours of 7 pm and 3 am on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, due to the high number of people coming into the neighborhood to patronize the bars and restaurants along 18th St. NW and Columbia Road NW, and

WHEREAS the 1800 blocks of adjacent Belmont Road, California and Vernon Streets are already one way streets and making Kalorama Road and Wyoming Avenue one way would be consistent with those existing one way streets, and

WHEREAS the change proposed may have a negative impact on vehicular circulation and congestion in the neighborhood, but that this concern is outweighed by the need to improve the residents' safety and quality of life, and

WHEREAS the residents of the 1800 block of California have experienced and some residents of the 1800 blocks of Wyoming and Kalorama have raised concerns about the speed of some vehicles on one way streets, and

WHEREAS a change to one way could encourage some drivers to use adjacent alleys for purposes other than access to the rear of properties on the alley, and

WHEREAS both ends of the 1800 block of Wyoming Avenue have significant numbers of students crossing the intersections with 18th and 19th Streets during times immediately before and after school, and

WHEREAS there are bus stops and routes on both Columbia Road and 18th Street, but no public transit use of either Wyoming Avenue or Kalorama Road in the 1800 block,

BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 1C hereby requests:

1. the District Department of Transportation [DDOT] to study, consider and implement a change in the traffic pattern on the 1800 blocks of Wyoming Avenue and Kalorama Road NW such that the streets become paired one-way streets, with Kalorama westbound and Wyoming eastbound;
2. the District Department of Transportation [DDOT] to study, consider and implement "traffic calming" measures that could be employed to minimize speeding on the 1700 and 1800 blocks of California Street NW, and the 1800 blocks of Wyoming Avenue NW and Kalorama Road NW;
3. the District Department of Transportation [DDOT] place "local access only" signs on each of the alleys between 18th Street NW and either Columbia Road or 19th Street NW.