

Resolution of the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C urging the Council and Mayor of the District of Columbia to adopt an adequate system for proper disposal of pharmaceuticals

Whereas, the District of Columbia has regularly expressed an interest in improving the quality of the water it discharges into the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers and their tributaries, and subsequently Chesapeake Bay.

Whereas, the District of Columbia is expending hundreds of millions of dollars to build catchment tunnels under the city to catch excess storm water that would otherwise overwhelm the City's sewage treatment facilities, with the goal of limiting the amount of untreated water that reaches our rivers.

Whereas, the District of Columbia has almost no system for the collection and disposal of pharmaceuticals.

Whereas, providing easily accessible systems for pharmaceutical disposal reduces the risk of misuse of unused drugs kept at home, including the poisoning of children. The non-medical use of prescription drugs ranks as the most second most prevalent category of drug abuse in the United States, according to the 2009 National Survey on Drug Use and Health.

Whereas, drugs disposed of in the garbage or flushed down the drain harm aquatic ecosystems, and have negative effects on fish and seafood harvested from the rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

Whereas, many state and local jurisdictions in this country have systems for separate collection and burning of pharmaceuticals.

Therefore be It Resolved that the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1C

Urges the City Council and the Mayor to choose the most appropriate structure for pharmaceutical collection and disposal, with considerations of the positions of the DC Water and Sewer Authority, Department of Public Works, Department of the Environment Hazardous Waste Division, Department of Health, the Metropolitan Police, and the public.