

# DC Police Union

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February 10, 2025

## **VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 406, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

*Re: Opposition to the Georgetown Business Improvement District Widened Sidewalk-Stretery Pilot Project*

Dear Mayor Bowser,

I hope this letter finds you well. As the Chairman of the DC Police Union, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the Georgetown Business Improvement District's (BID) Widened Sidewalk and "Stretery" Pilot Project, which runs along M Street and Wisconsin Avenue in the heart of Georgetown's commercial corridor. This temporary pandemic-era social distancing pilot has outlived its usefulness and has significant adverse effects on the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) ability to protect businesses and residents in Georgetown.

1) As you are aware, response time is critical. If the first few minutes of a call are spent trying to navigate delivery trucks and vehicles that are double-parked and then try to find an opening in the jersey barriers to get to a retail shop, we have effectively lost the ability to interrupt the crime and/or apprehend the criminal. Our officers have expressed serious concerns about the hinderance of response time that are resulting from the widened sidewalks and streateries.

2) MPD is aware that the city is considering making these structures permanent. The amount of money required to do this is unimaginable. With crumbling police stations, the need for competitive salaries to recruit new officers, and the call for upgraded technology we ask that you prioritize public safety.

3) We understand residents enjoy outdoor dining. But without a holistic approach to M Street and Wisconsin Avenue, these sidewalks and streateries will continue to jeopardize our ability to provide timely assistance to those in need. We must remember that M and Wisconsin are evacuation routes and plan accordingly.

4) A February 4<sup>th</sup> article in Urban Turf citing 10 developments coming to Georgetown shows Georgetown is facing huge population growth and even more strains on traffic, congestion and parking. M Street is the only way to get to Canal Road and Key Bridge – Wisconsin Avenue connects many NW neighborhoods. With the uptick in back-to-office policies moving to eliminate rush hour traffic rules and reduce lanes in Georgetown seems short-sighted.

The city can't afford extended sidewalks financially nor operationally. It's time to pull them up and allow first responders access to the businesses and community that rely on them for safety and security.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these concerns further and collaborate on finding solutions that benefit the entire community.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gregory Pemberton', written over a horizontal line.

Greggory Pemberton,  
Chairman  
D.C. Police Union