



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001

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Mayor Anthony A. Williams
One Judiciary Square
441 Fourth St. NW
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Mayor Williams:

I write in advance of a decision by your administration regarding the future of Klingle Road to share concerns with the process underway and information generated by officials of the government and consultants to the Department of Public Works.

Members of the public attending a meeting on November 30, 2000, received copies of a draft analysis prepared by a DPW consultant. That analysis failed to include information developed by the Department of Health (DOH) Environmental Health Administration which, according to a December 14, 2000, DOH memorandum, "will result in a major shift in the impacts of the different alternatives" now under consideration by your administration. In that memo Deputy DOH Director Theodore J. Gordon wrote: "We feel that their failure to include this information in the document provided to the public on November 30, 2000, was an extraordinarily serious omission."

I call this omission to your attention in the hope that you will not reach a conclusion with regard to the future of Klingle Valley without giving due regard to all of the analysis, including that of DOH, prepared on the subject. Further, I encourage you to bring to any recommendation on the future of this area your record as an environmentalist and careful guardian of taxpayer money.

My own view is that the environmental degradation to Klingle Valley must be addressed and the area preserved as green space, possibly including a bike and/or hiking path but not including the construction of a roadway for automobiles. My view is based on environmental and financial concerns.

The Department of Health Environmental Health Administration report notes that the "Klingle Branch is a functional yet fragile ecosystem that serves as a valuable

tributary of Rock Creek." The agency found that this area is fragile "because of the invasive construction that has already taken place in an attempt to keep the creek within its banks during high water conditions." Finally, DOH wrote, "the most obvious potential impact that threatens the Klingle Branch ecosystem was the presence of Klingle Road, which meanders alongside the natural contour of the stream."

The financial concern is this: constructing a 1-way or 2-way roadway in such a manner that addresses the considerable environmental concerns in Klingle Valley will require an investment of \$5 to \$6 million. That level of funding could be put to far better use in traffic mitigation including widening major arterials to reduce traffic in residential areas.

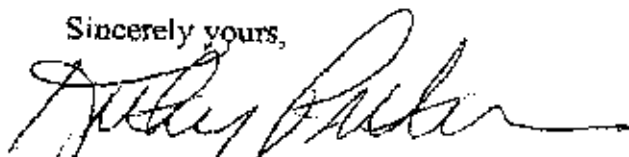
Proponents of constructing a new roadway through Klingle Valley include Ward 3 constituents greatly concerned by commuter traffic on residential streets. My constituents, including families with young children who live on Porter Street, have expressed the hope that if a new roadway is constructed and Klingle Road is reopened through Rock Creek Park, it will alleviate the heavy commuter traffic on Porter and other east-west streets. I share the view that the District of Columbia government must take action to reduce commuter traffic on residential streets. Nevertheless, I fear that rebuilding and reopening Klingle Road will bring more, not less, traffic to the other nearby east-west streets, including Porter, as inbound drivers, principally from Maryland, travel south into Ward 3 then move east or west to their final downtown destination.

Steps other than rebuilding Klingle Road must be considered to alleviate traffic in residential areas, and I look forward to a stronger analytic capacity within the executive branch to address such traffic concerns. I also look forward to raising the issue of traffic mitigation alternatives during the upcoming Council performance hearings in the Committee on Public Works and the Environment.

I urge you to resist any temptation to see this issue as one that pits one part of the city against another. I have constituents on both sides of this issue, as does my colleague, Jim Graham. I fully realize, and regret, that you have come under criticism in recent weeks based on a position that has been unfairly characterized as currying favor with Ward 3 residents. I am confident that you will reach a thoughtful and forward-looking decision on the future of Klingle Valley.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,



Kathy Patterson