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RESOLUTION OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4D CONCERNING MAINTAINING BEACH DRIVE FOR PARK USE RATHER THAN AUTOMOBILE COMMUTING

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D takes note of the following:

1. **WHEREAS** in July 2022, the National Park Service (NPS) published an Environmental Assessment (EA) of Beach Dr./ Upper Rock Creek Park with three options and time for public input; and ultimately have chosen option 2: "Full-Time Closure for Recreation;"¹
2. **WHEARAS** NPS found in 2022 that "[t]he upper portion of Beach Drive is a minor road that carries a small amount of traffic relative to nearby roadways," and that the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) had found that "a full closure to motorized vehicles would result in minimal impact to traffic during peak commute times;"²
3. **WHEREAS** The battle over cars in Rock Creek Park dates back more than 100 years, to the early 20th century, when automobiles were first making their mark on the city. In a 1918, a park master plan prepared by the famous Olmsted brothers warned against allowing the "noise and tangle"

¹ <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=124589>

² *Id.*

of motorized traffic into the heart of Rock Creek valley. A 1934 report declared, “The automobile can be designated as one of the greatest detriments to the enjoyment of Rock Creek Park today.”³

4. **WHEREAS** “That same year (1966), NPS instituted the first closures of Beach Drive to cars — the road was closed on Sundays, between Broad Branch and Joyce Rd. NW. In the early 1980s, NPS expanded the closures to include Saturdays and federal holidays, and added another 1.3 mile section from Sherrill Dr. NW to the Maryland border.”⁴
5. **WHEREAS** In the District (entire city including Rock Creek Park), traffic fatalities increased from 27 in 2019, to 37 in 2020, to 40 in 2021, with 35 in 2022 and 38 year-to-date in 2023, highlighting the challenges that remain in building slower & safer roads in the District;⁵
6. **WHEREAS** Washington D.C. has been rated as having the best park system in the nation,⁶ a legacy that should be preserved rather than weakened to serve commuters;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D:

1. **Endorses** the National Parks Service’s 2022 decision to keep upper Rock Creek Park/ Beach Dr. closed to motorized traffic year-round;
2. **Disagrees** with recent calls to unwind NPS’s 2022 decision to commit Beach Drive for use as a park rather than a commuting thoroughfare; and
3. **Supports** the use of Rock Creek Park as a place of respite, recreation, and relaxation devoid of the noise, presence and potential hazards of privately owned vehicles.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That Commissioner J. Clark Weigel (4D07) is hereby authorized to represent the commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

³ https://dcist.com/story/22/11/02/dc-beach-drive-stays-car-free-all-year/#;https://www.nps.gov/subjects/ncptt/upload/Tim-Davis_Frans-edits-added-to-TD-revised-text.pdf

⁴ <https://dcist.com/story/22/11/02/dc-beach-drive-stays-car-free-all-year/#>

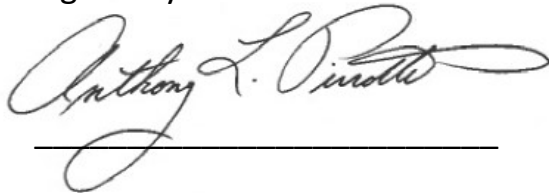
⁵ <https://visionzero.dc.gov/pages/crash-analysis#ethnicity;https://dcfamiliesforsafestreets.org/vision-zero/>

⁶ <https://www.usnews.com/news/cities/slideshows/the-10-cities-with-the-best-park-systems-in-the-us?slide=12>

This Resolution of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4D Concerning Maintaining Beach Drive for Park Use Rather than Automobile Commuting was considered on October 18, 2023 before ANC 4D at a duly noticed meeting of the Commission in the presence of a quorum. The vote of the Commission was 6 in favor, 1 against, and 0 abstentions. The resolution is hereby adopted as resolution number 4D-2023-13.

Signed by:

Dated: October 31, 2023

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Anthony L. Pirrotti", written in black ink. The signature is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Anthony Pirrotti, ANC 4D Chair