

COMMUNITY COUNCIL: A Proposal for Renewed Community Engagement

To ensure the effectiveness of the University's responsive efforts to address the impacts of students in neighboring communities, and to help the parties re-engage in dialogue as community partners and neighbors, the University proposes the formation of a new Community Council.

- The Council would take the place of the Alliance for Local Living, and be specifically tasked with discussing issues and proposing solutions to issues that exist or arise as a result of students living in the neighborhoods adjacent to the University. The Council would initially be tasked with considering issues related to transportation, trash, noise, resident behavior, property maintenance, landlord accountability, and community beautification.
- The University recommends these meetings be facilitated by a neutral third party to assure productive conversations and good faith participation. A potential partner might be Don Edwards of Justice, Sustainability & Associates, who has indicated his willingness given his past experience facilitating conversations of similar community groups
- The Community Council group would be composed of five (5) representatives selected by Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E and five (5) representatives selected by the University. All would agree to participate in good faith.
- Representatives from relevant government offices, such as MPD, DCRA DPW, and DDOT, and area landlords could be included in meetings by invitation. Representatives of OP would also be invited to observe each meeting.
- Each year, the Community Council would meet three times during the fall semester of the University's academic year, three times during the spring semester, and one time during the summer.
- To facilitate frank and productive discussion, the Community Council meeting would not be open to the public, but would sponsor each year three separate meetings that would be open to the public, and used to share information about the Council's work, updates about the University, and could be used for the purpose of information-sharing and receiving input from local neighbors and general public.
- Upon request and at least on a semi-annual basis, the University shall report to the Community Council data on student enrollment and reports on all conditions and commitments adopted as part of the Campus Plan.
- During the first Council meeting, the Council shall adopt specific administrative procedures that will govern its operation.