



FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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WATERGATE POST OFFICE UPDATE and (Your) NEXT STEP

Annie Kennedy, from the Postal Commission writes that the Postal Service's list of facilities identified as candidates for possible closure is fluid and will be updated by the Postal Service on a monthly basis.

She suggests that as further action with regard to Watergate Post Office, that interested persons submit 'formal statements' for inclusion in the public record in **Docket No.**

N2009-1 which can be done through the **www.prc.gov** homepage. (*see info below*)

Ms. Kennedy indicated, "the Commission currently is holding hearings in **Docket No. N2009-1** to consider a Postal Service proposal that may result in the closing of numerous postal retail facilities nationwide. In addition to the impacts such closures would have on customers,

the economy, and the postal network, the Commission is carefully examining the criteria and processes being used by the Postal Service to evaluate these offices and to implement any closures.

While I cannot provide you with the assurance that your facility will not be closed by the Postal Service, I hope you find this information useful."

So, FB/WE residents, we

are grateful for Ms. Kennedy's guidance and suggest that you file a formal statement regarding accessibility, parking, and services with the Postal Regulatory Commission into the record developed for this case.

*You can read more about this initiative at the PRC web site, **www.prc.gov**, where you will find it listed on the homepage under the docket number N2009-1.*

*You can add your comments to the public record in that docket online via email, **prc-dockets@prc.gov**, or you may submit written statements via regular mail to: **The Honorable Ruth Goldway, Chairman, Postal Regulatory Commission, 901 New York Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington, DC 20268.** Whichever method you choose be sure to reference **Docket No. N2009-1** in your correspondence.*

CITIZEN ALERTS WACHOVIA BANK Columbia Plaza Mall on 23rd St

Another letter to the editor suggests neighbors may be wise to mail letters...

I have just gotten notice that the Columbia Plaza Branch of Wachovia Bank (a subsidiary of Wells Fargo), 502 23rd Street, NW, will permanently close its doors on January 28.

A bank has been at this location for more than three decades.

This Wachovia Branch is one of only two banks in south Foggy Bottom. The branch serves many residents, a large government and business population (adjacent to both the WHO and the

(continues on next page)



Fact Sheet on Closing Postal Service Retail Facilities -- The Role of the Postal Regulatory Commission

The Postal Service has advised the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) that it will examine approximately 3,200 postal stations and branches nationwide for possible closure or curtailment and that an additional 1,600 stations and branches could likewise be reviewed depending on the outcome of the initial examination.

The PRC has established Docket N2009-1 to provide a public hearing and issue an advisory opinion on the national service implications of the Postal Service's "Station and Branch Optimization and Consolidation Initiative."

- The PRC does NOT determine whether post offices should be closed or not.
- The United States Postal Service makes ALL such decisions.
- The PRC will review the process the Postal Service uses to make such decisions to ensure that adequate service levels are maintained.
- The review is currently on-going.
- The PRC is obtaining public input on what factors should be considered, and how.
- The PRC will advise the Postal Service on whether that process is well designed to achieve results consistent with national policy.
- If the Postal Service decides to close a post office, that decision may be appealed to the Postal Regulatory Commission.
- On appeal, the PRC may set aside a decision to close a post office found to be:

Unsupported by substantial evidence on the record;

Not made in accordance with established procedures; or

Arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law.

THE FOGGY BOTTOM NEWS

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The *Foggy Bottom News* is published by the Foggy Bottom Association as a service to its members and provides information on FBA and neighborhood news, programs, activities and other events of interest to FBA members. Contributions and story ideas are welcome, but the *FBN* reserves the right to edit or hold pieces as space requires.

The Foggy Bottom Association was formed by a group of citizens in 1955 and was formally incorporated in 1959. Attendance at FBA meetings is open to all residents of Foggy Bottom and the West End.

FBA Officers:

PRESIDENT – Asher Corson
VICE PRESIDENT – Lev Trubkovich
SECRETARY – Jill Nevius
TREASURER – Bille Hougart
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR – David Hertzfeldt

FBA Board of Directors:

Victor Ciardello, Dusty Horwitt, Lucia Pollock,
Greg Snyder, Robert Vogt, John Woodard
Ex-Officio: Joy Howell (Immediate Past President);
Susan Trinter (FBN Editor)

WACHOVIA BANK (*cont'd*)

State Department) and a large student population.

Along with the Post Office, this is not a service our residents can afford to lose, especially at a time we should be encouraging people to walk not drive for their

shopping needs.

I have been assured by Wachovia that letters from customers and neighbors will allow it to reconsider this closing.

— *A Concerned
FB Resident*

Please write letters to:

**John Stump, CEO
Wachovia Bank
POB 563966
Charlotte, NC 28256**

Unsung Heroines

We are sad to report that Betty (Elizabeth) Noel, People's Counsel of the District of Columbia, has not been reappointed to her position. Betty and her staff are incredibly competent in an area of the (utility) law that is opaque to most customers who will ultimately be footing the bill, directly or indirectly. We thank Betty for her nearly 20 years of service and leadership to DC residents, and—with a touch of envy for her next employer—wish her well.

From: "Elizabeth A. Noel" <eanoel@opc-dc.gov>

Date: November 4, 2009 4:06:02 PM EST

Subject: News from the People's Counsel of the District of Columbia

Hello Friends and Associates,

On Tuesday, November 3, 2009, I was advised by the D.C. Office of Boards and Commissions, that Mayor Adrian Fenty has declined to reappoint me as People's Counsel for the District of Columbia.

For those of you with whom I have worked with, along side, (/nights, week-ends, holidays) /etc. ...on behalf of the utility consumers of the District of Columbia, know this:

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE!

I am quite sure there are many more lawyers who make lots more money, have great access to "power," are better known, etc.,but, it is hard to imagine a lawyer who has enjoyed the work of the Office, the professional relationships, and the constant contact with real people-- the consumersany more than I have.

As expected, I have informed my staff of this turn of events.

I have requested that the Office continue to stay true to the Agency's statutory mandate and to representing the interests of the D.C. consumers who are clients.

THANK YOU!

Betty Noel

People's Counsel for the District of Columbia
(1991-2009)

N O V E M B E R C A L E N D A R

FARMER'S MARKET! Wednesdays – Order Your Thanksgiving Turkey Now!

IN SEARCH OF HISTORIC FOGGY BOTTOM PROPERTY OWNERS YARDS

Arts in Foggy Bottom, a project of the Foggy Bottom Association, will be mounting its **Biennial Foggy Bottom Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit** in the Foggy Bottom Historic District from May through October, 2010. There were 12 sculptures sited on owner-occupied property in the Historic District in the inaugural exhibit in 2008. The project Co-Directors anticipate including two or three additional sculptures in 2010 and are looking for sites on which to install these sculptures. If you are a property owner in the Foggy Bottom Historic District who lives on the property and would be interested in having your property considered as a potential site, please contact Jackie Lemire, Co-Director, *Arts in Foggy Bottom*, at jglemire@aol.com or 202-337-2167.