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## **Mount Pleasant Foot Patrols**

Passed by five to zero vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of July 10, 2006, with a quorum present.

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Metropolitan Police Department to provide adequate personnel for continuation of its Mount Pleasant foot patrols.

**Why:** Residents have observed a decline in the presence of foot patrol officers in recent months. The Metropolitan Police have indicated that shortfalls in the support of foot patrols have come about because of staff shortages and an internal policy of giving priority to officers sitting in patrol cars awaiting calls for service.

ANC1D asserts that this is a misplacing of police priorities. The foot patrol officers have been very effective at reducing disorderly conduct and harassment of residents by certain street people, and at reducing intimidation of residents by gang members. The cutback in foot patrols has led to a resurgence of these problems, which have a substantial effect on the lives of Mount Pleasant residents.

The policy of the Metropolitan Police Department to give priority to officers sitting in squad cars awaiting radio calls for service is an inferior use of limited personnel resources. In most cases, officers responding to calls arrive long after the incident in question, and can do little but take a report. This is ineffectual in deterring crime or capturing offenders. Conversely, police officers can be very effective at deterring bad behavior on the street, by creating an atmosphere of discipline on the street, persuading would-be offenders to cease their bad conduct, or go elsewhere. Furthermore, officers put in close contact with the residents, rather than sitting in isolation inside a squad car, create an atmosphere of trust and legitimacy with the residents, including some who tend to distrust authorities.

ANC1D asserts that it is in the interest of the police, as well as the neighborhood, to assure full staffing of the foot patrol effort in Mount Pleasant.