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## Give roadwork clearing towing higher priority

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the District Department of Public Works (DPW) to give higher priority to the towing of parked cars interfering with Department of Transportation (DDOT) projects.

Why: A DDOT slurry-seal project on Newton Street NW on July 10, 2015, suggests that DPW gives the towing of parked cars interfering with roadwork projects lower priority than other towing jobs, resulting in substantial increases in roadwork project costs, and increased inconvenience to residents.

A DPW tow truck went to work early on the morning of July 10, but had cleared only about half the length of the project before disappearing, without explanation. By midmorning the DDOT contracting crew had completed the slurry seal on the cleared blocks, but then had to stop and wait for another DPW crane to appear. An estimated three hours passed, the members of the work crew idling, the machinery halted, until finally another tow truck arrived.

That truck dealt with just two of the remaining parked cars, and then itself vanished, the driver evidently having been called to a higher priority job. Again, the DDOT crew worked the area that had been cleared of parked cars, then stopped, waiting for a DPW crane to come deal with the remaining parked cars.

No tow truck ever appeared. Eventually the crew decided to work around the remaining parked cars. This means that, besides the cost of the 8-hour roadwork job having been extended to a 12-hour job, the crew will have to return at some time in the future, and residents will again be faced with "emergency no parking" placards, to deal with the portions of the pavement that could not receive the slurry seal, due to the parked cars.

This is obviously expensive and inefficient, and presumably the District taxpayer will have to absorb some of the costs of this inefficiency. Furthermore, residents will again be inconvenienced by the temporary parking ban imposed to clear the pavement for treatment.

It appears to this Commission that DPW is giving this towing task very low priority. We do not know what tasks these tow-truck drivers were being called to that warranted their abandoning the roadwork clearing task. But it appears that the costs involved in giving roadwork clearing of parked cars are being underestimated, and that this DPW task warrants higher priority than it is now being given.

*Passed by 4 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on July 21, 2015, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Hoey, McKay, Rivas, Griffiths. A quorum for this commission is three; four commissioners were present.*