

Summary

We propose to create two parking sub-zones within the LeDroit and northern Shaw Neighborhoods limiting parking on one side of each block to residents in the affected areas of those areas.

The Problem

The Northern Shaw and LeDroit Park neighborhoods face a unique and worsening parking challenge: Growing numbers of non-residents park in the very limited number of parking spaces available for residents. The Shaw-Howard Metro and Howard University Hospital both attract significant numbers of drivers who park for long periods during the daytime, either because they have the right zone sticker or because current parking enforcement in the area is insufficient to deter those who do not have the right sticker from staying more than two hours.

This problem is unique because there is already no excess parking capacity in our neighborhoods, for three primary reasons:

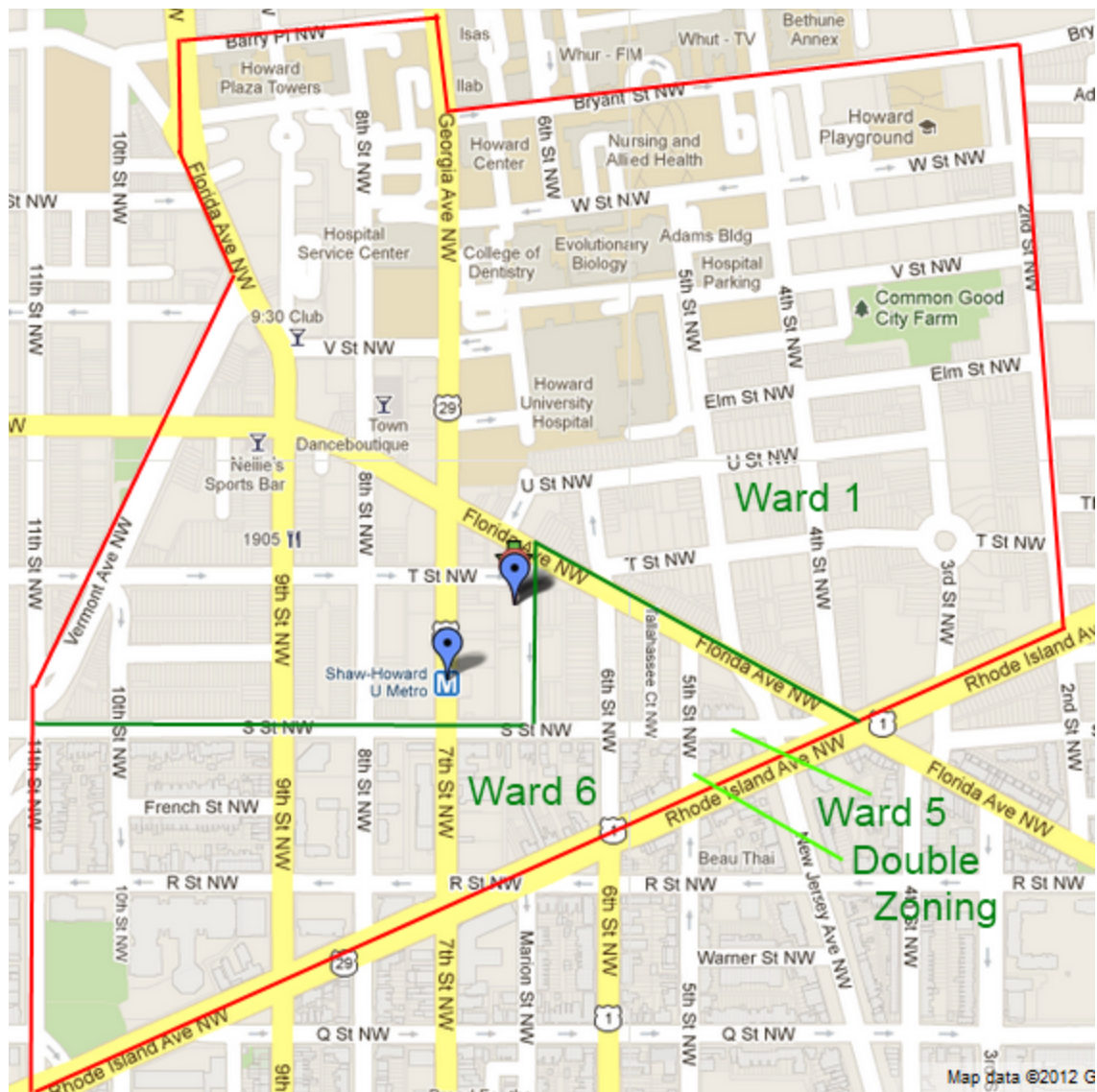
1. The area is crisscrossed by two major avenues (Florida and Rhode Island), which are lined almost entirely by homes but lack any parking, and a third (Georgia) with only metered parking;
2. We already have several large residential buildings in northern Shaw, with more on the way; and
3. We have no parking garages to absorb extra parking demand, and the garages under construction will likely not result in net increases in parking.

Until now, conflict over parking has been worst during the day, when most of our residents either leave their cars in place or drive to work. (Though it is worth noting that the Metro may also draw parking at night among people down Rhode Island Avenue from Maryland who would rather park here and take the metro two stops into Chinatown than metro in from more remote stops.) But this problem is about to become acute in the evenings with the planned reopening of the historic Howard Theatre at 7th & T on April 12. With seating for 600 (and standing room for 1200), and 54 events currently planned through early September, the Theatre promises to be a boon for our neighborhood, but also a serious parking headache. Howard University Hospital has graciously offered to allow theatregoers to use of their two parking lots along Georgia Avenue. While this might, in theory, be adequate to accommodate demand for parking, many theatregoers will either not know about this option or simply prefer to park closer to the theatre.

Besides the Theatre, demand for parking will increase significantly because of ongoing development in the neighborhood, including:

- The opening of Shaw's Tavern and Bistro Bohem at 6th & Florida;
- The completion of the Progression Place complex on 7th between S and T, featuring shops as well as offices and residences; and
- Development of the three currently vacant lots formerly owned by WMATA along Florida between 9th and 7th, including retail and restaurants.

The only solution to these problems is to create two sub-zones limiting parking on one side of each bloc to residents in the affected areas of those areas as depicted in this map.



We believe this is the most logical geographic unit for the two parking sub-zones. Note that two blocks of this area include blocks that are currently double-zoned to allow parking by Ward 5 residents on one side of the block. We do not propose to include those in our sub-zone.

Implementation of this proposal will require:

1. Modifying or replacing the parking signs on one side of every block in these areas;
2. Making streets with parking only on one side (e.g., Wiltberger, which immediately abuts the Howard Theatre) subzone-only;
3. Issuing sub-zone stickers to residents of these areas. We propose simply mailing out those stickers to each resident to get the program started. In future years, the sub-zone

permit should be issued along with, or combined with, the normal zone parking permit. Residents should *not* be charged extra for the sub-zone permits.

4. Each resident should get one guest pass (as around Arena Stage).
5. Enforcing parking rules in these sub-zones, and especially on Thursday-Sunday evenings, and Sunday afternoons, when the Howard Theatre will have most of their events.

Turn-by-Turn Boundaries

- West
 - 11th & RI north to Vermont
 - NE on Vermont to Florida
 - Florida to Sherman
 - Sherman to Barry
- North
 - Barry to Georgia
 - South on Georgia to Bryant
 - Bryant to 2nd
- East
 - 2nd to Rhode island
- South
 - RI to 11th