

Statement of Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond

on

**B19-757, the "Department of Parks and Recreation Revenue
Generation Clarification Amendment Act of 2012"**

and

**B19-758, the "Department of Parks and Recreation Concession
Authority Act of 2012"**

**Wednesday, July 11, 2012 at 1:00 pm
Room 412, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004**

Zen McManus
President, SWDP
6th and I St., SW

southwestduckpond@gmail.com

<http://www.southwestduckpond.org>

Statement from Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond

Thank you for the opportunity to submit a statement to the Council of the District Columbia as a local representative of the Southwest community and responsible for the Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond. We are represented by the Honorable Tommy Wells of Ward 6 and our local Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner is Robert Craycraft (ANC 6D01). The Neighbors of the Southwest Duck Pond are a local 501(c)(3) organization established in 2011 to be part of the Friends of Program within the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and to help provide an official presence that could raise and donate funds to the restoration and maintenance of the Southwest Duck Pond.

Our position is to generally support the Department of Parks and Recreation Revenue Generation Clarification Amendment Act of 2012 and the Department of Parks and Recreation Concession Authority Act of 2012 with a few things to consider.

One, providing and supporting the sale of concessions could be a useful tool for revenue generation, but we would want to make sure that this Act would ensure that the community plays a key advisory role in approving what is sold and contracted within the local parks under DPR. This role will be critical to ensuring that the community stays involved in their parks and recommend what is sold or not to promote the best community environment possible. The community can work with third party vendors to determine better concessions and generate higher sales.

Two, having concessions can naturally support community-sponsored and DPR-promoted events. We can both benefit programmatically. That being said, we do not want to see the community options limited to just one government contracted vendor or strictly DPR approved vendors. We encourage that the system supports flexibility in how it contracts for such services and does not push a one-size-fits-all solution.

Third, as Commissioner Craycraft will state we want to make sure that the management and execution of this Act is done as professionally as possible. If DPR cannot be properly resourced or effectively coordinate between Department of General Services (DGS) and the community, the enactment of this Act will not generate the results intended.

Thank you, on behalf of the Neighbors of Southwest Duck Pond, for the opportunity to make our comments known today, and for your continued focus on the development of our community, its public spaces, and the District of Columbia.