

# Mount Pleasant Neighborhood News and Update

July 2010

Dear MPNA,

MPNA will hold a public board meeting on consideration of protests of **Haydee's, Don Juan's, and Don Jaime's** requests to terminate their Voluntary Agreements and expansion of their entertainment hours.

Date: Friday July 23, 8:30 am, Location: 1770 Park Road. Please send your comments to [admin@mtpalliance.org](mailto:admin@mtpalliance.org).

Have a great summer and please, don't forget, if you're not a member, take a moment to support your neighborhood association. To join on-line, just visit our membership page [here](#). You can also [download a membership form](#) and mail it in.

## Haydee's Restaurant Chops Down Tree in Public Space to Gain Outdoor Seating

The community was in an uproar, when it found out that the owner of Haydee's Restaurant took it upon herself to cut down a public tree in public space, remove the tree box and then bricking over the area to allow them more space for outdoor seating.

The Mount Pleasant Community Discussion forum went in high gear after a resident posted the following:

Pages of discussion continues here: <http://www.mtpleasantdc.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=6960>

*Below is a note from the DC Department of Transportation planner for Ward 1 regarding the mysterious removal of the tree in front of Haydee's and the paving over of the tree box. **Apparently it was all about an issue of how many tables Haydee's might be allowed to have at a sidewalk cafe. The tree and treebox meant that she would be allowed 2 fewer tables than she desired.***

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From: Vega, Gabriela (DDOT)  
To: Phil Lepanto; Jack McKay  
Subject: Haydee's cuts down tree in front of business

Phil and Jack,

Not sure if you are aware of this or not but Haydee's cut down the tree in front of her business last Saturday. As of June 18th I had had two conversations with telling her that she could not do this w/o a permit that in most likelihood she would not get. She initially told me that she had planted the tree and because of that she was entitled to take it down. I of course did my own research and found that it was not the case.

Last night I met with MPMS and was told that the tree had mysteriously lost all of its leaves in the last week, I assured them I had photo of a healthy looking tree. We walked over there and were shocked to see the tree no longer there and the tree box covered.

I am told by other sources that another ANC supported these actions - I hope this is not true, this is a bad example to set for all the other businesses.

As you probably know Haydee's withdrew her application for outdoor café. She would have gotten the permit but one of the conditions was that she remove two tables by her entrance to provide sufficient sidewalk space to pedestrians as they walked by the tree box, she refused and said that she wanted all the tables and did not understand why there needed to be 6' of clearance.

I am enclosing some pics I took of the before and after.

Gabriela Vega  
Transportation Planner, Ward 1  
District Department of Transportation  
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Washington, DC, 20009  
Ph. 202.478.1458



**MPNA** would like the community to be aware of a new program called **SeeClickFix**.

**SeeClickFix** provides an online forum where citizens and neighborhood associations can report, discuss, and monitor non-emergency issues (e.g. potholes, graffiti, litter) in their neighborhoods. Local officials receive notifications of every issue that is posted and are encouraged to fix them.

The goal of **SeeClickFix** is to put local government in the hands of citizens by increasing transparency, heightening accountability, and improving communication. It's a great way to enhance neighborhood advocacy and create change on a local level. Let's activate Mount Pleasant! Click on the logo above to access.

Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Alliance