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1730 Kenyon St HPRB

Resolved, that ANC 1D advises the Historic Preservation Review Board to preserve the existing pattern of second story “sleeping porches” with side setbacks at the rear elevation in reviewing plans for a rear addition at 1730 Kenyon Street NW (HPA 17-556).

Why: Historic preservation must be a block-by-block concern when confronted with non-uniform construction in a preservation district. While the HPO staff report correctly notes that the rear addition is not out of place in the neighborhood as a whole, the plans call for an elimination of the side setbacks on the second story and this change contrasts with surrounding structures. Page 3 of the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Guidelines on Additions to Historic Buildings specifies that a contrasting rear addition may be acceptable “if it is not visible from a public street or alley and when it does not destroy existing character-defining details, ornamentation and materials of a rear elevation.” The proposed addition contrasts with the rear elevation and is plainly visible from the alley. We find the pattern of side setbacks on the second stories of this block to be a character-defining detail, and therefore this pattern should be preserved in rear additions on this block.

Passed by 4 to 1 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on October 24, 2017, with a quorum present. Voting “yes”: Commissioners Stewart, Romero-Latin, Karrer, Karaffa. Voting “no”: Commissioner McKay. A quorum for this commission is three; five commissioners were present.