

# FOGGY BOTTOM

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By working in partnership with neighborhood leaders, Councilmember Evans has been an active voice for Foggy Bottom-West End neighborhood.

## **Neighborhood Preservation**

Large institutions such as George Washington University, the IMF/World Bank, embassies and downtown office buildings are some of the forces constantly threatening the residential fabric of Foggy Bottom.

- Jack has opposed large commercial projects such as the office complex near the West End library while supporting mixed use projects, with neighborhood serving retail, such as the Columbia Womens' Hospital.

- Jack is working to ensure the development of the GW's Old Hospital Site (Square 54) will be appropriate for the neighborhood, include neighborhood serving retail and contribute appropriately to the Campus Plan.

- Seeking to protect the neighborhood from adverse environmental effects of new development, Jack enacted legislation to change the boundaries of the Central Employment Area (CEA) to provide environmental effects consideration in the development of five Foggy Bottom sites and for all new GWU major construction projects.

- In an effort to increase housing in Foggy Bottom, Jack supported a 0% commercial, mixed use building with residential, retail and hotel uses at 2200 M Street in the old Blackie's parking lot.

- Jack worked with residents to fight the illegal demolition of the historically contributing buildings next to the landmarked 2501 Pennsylvania Avenue. The 2501 Pennsylvania Avenue building is soon to be renovated with apartments and street level retail.

- Recognizing the negative impact the soon-to-be-built American Red Cross headquarters building will have on the six neighboring residential buildings, Jack worked for more than two years with community leaders and organizations to stop this project. Jack sent letters to federal agencies, coordinated meetings with top city officials and executives of the American Red Cross, and attached conditions to the Mayor's requested DC tax-free bond for the American Red Cross.

- In order to encourage developers to place a priority on downtown housing, Jack introduced an amendment to the City's tax increment financing law which provides lower financing costs for private building projects, such as housing, that are of special benefit to the city.

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## **Public Safety**

Public safety of all residents, including those living in Foggy Bottom, remains of paramount concern to Jack.

- Jack is a vocal and consistent advocate of increased foot patrols in the Foggy Bottom area -- and has dogged the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for their delays in implementing this popular and effective policing method.
- Jack fought successfully for aggressive anti-panhandling legislation to curb the intimidation of residents, especially the elderly.
- Jack successfully worked with City officials to remove the homeless trailers near the Watergate residential buildings and fought the move of the Western Presbyterian Church's homeless feeding program from a commercial area to the residential area of Foggy Bottom. As a result, Jack secured \$346,000 from the International Monetary Fund for a homeless feeding program in the commercial area of Foggy Bottom.

## **Parking and Traffic**

Combating the lack of parking and ensuring smooth traffic flows are critical challenges in Foggy Bottom.

- At the request of the West End Citizens Association, Jack has worked with dozens of government officials to secure a much-needed traffic light at 21st and F Streets.
- In an effort to alleviate the terrible shortage of parking available for Foggy Bottom residents, Jack authored and secured passage of legislation to prohibit Ward 2 neighborhood-parking stickers for students with cars registered out-of-state. As a result, parking has improved for residents.

## **Green Space and Parks**

Foggy Bottom must work vigilantly to both preserve its trees and parks, as well as counter the dirt and trash, which result from its central location.

- Foggy Bottom is in dire need of more green space -- when one of the neighborhood's most popular parks was threatened to be replaced with a large-scale development, Jack moved swiftly to enact legislation to protect the park west of 26th Street between I & K Streets.
- Jack is working with FB/WW residents to plan a \$1 Million as part of a neighborhood beautification project provided through as an amenity through the International Monetary Fund's Planned Unit Development. Improvements included planting new street trees, improving the park at 21st and E Streets, and the park at 26th and L.

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- When the Francis Swimming Pool was renovated (at Jack's urging) in the mid-'90s, Jack led Foggy Bottom efforts to reverse the DC Government's proposal to transform this neighborhood center into a regional facility with limited use for local residents.
- Jack sponsored legislation increasing sanitation fines and increasing the number of city sanitation inspectors. He meets regularly with DC government officials to encourage vigilant enforcement of the sanitation laws.
- Jack successfully fought last year to increase funding for the Department of Public Works Tree Division in order to keep Foggy Bottom and other neighborhoods a city of trees.
- Knowing the challenges Foggy Bottom faces in battling graffiti, Jack has introduced legislation, which would greatly enhance penalties for those seeking to deface our City.

## **Senior Citizens**

One of Foggy Bottom's greatest assets is its population of senior citizens. Jack has sponsored dozens of legislative initiatives to protect and enhance the lives of senior citizens.

- As Chair of the powerful Committee on Finance & Revenue, Jack is currently pushing tax relief for senior citizens earning less than \$30,000, through a real property tax reduction.
- Jack is currently working to secure passage of the proposal to increase the pension exclusion for senior citizens age 65 and over who retired from either the federal or District governments from \$3,000 to \$6,000.

## **Tenants**

The backbone of the Foggy Bottom community is our tenants -- preserving the rights of tenants is a core effort of Jack.

- Jack authored The Tax Parity Act of 1999, which reduces the Class 2 Property Tax rate (the Rental Residential rate) from \$1.54 per \$100 of assessed value to .96 per \$100 of assessed value, or 37.6%. The result should be a reduction in rent for all tenants.
- In 1995 and 2000, Jack co-introduced legislation to re-authorize DC's rent control for five years. Jack's efforts on this and numerous other tenant bills have earned him the endorsement of TENAC (the city's leading tenants-rights group) in every election.