



## **Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B**

*By Electronic Mail*

September 28, 2022

Tom Greco, CEO  
Advance Auto Parts  
5008 Airport Road  
Roanoke, VA 24012

RE: Improving Community Safety In & Around Advanced Auto Parts

Dear Mr. Greco,

We are writing in support of Alexander Hadden's letter asking for you to improve the operating environment of the Advance Auto Parts retail location at 6300 New Hampshire Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. The site is currently a hazard to the daily safety and wellbeing of our community, your employees and your customers, and is putting them all at risk. We believe your thoughtful leadership on improving the operating issues at the site can positively impact your customers, employees and the broader community, as well as uphold the values of your company.

On July 16, 2022, a 27-year-old mobile mechanic operating his business at the referenced Advance Auto Parts parking lot was shot and killed. In 2018, there was a police chase, gunfight and shooting that originated at your site. The July 2022 homicide is just the most recent in a long line of tragic and needless criminal activities that occur due to your team's poor management of the site, including vehicular hit-and-run, assaults, and robbery. These activities are the result of your company permitting an open-air mechanics' market to formalize and operate in the parking lot every day at all hours. On weekends there are often dozens of mechanics and multiple food vendors. The open-air mechanics' market creates a cascade of negative externalities on site and in the community, including the illegal dumping of toxic chemicals and used auto parts, littering, traffic violations, noise and sanitation issues. The mechanics themselves are not safe here. The tragedy of all of this is that it does not need to occur.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B provides the following feedback and recommendations:

- Advance Auto Parts paid over \$1 billion to shareholders last year but has failed to invest in basic measures to ensure a safe working, retail and community environment at this location. As a Fortune 500 Company, Advance Auto Parts has the resources and knowledge to be meaningful community stakeholder.
- Simple, low-cost measures to shrink the size of the available parking lot could be an effective and practical strategy to de-risk Advance Auto Parts retail staff's inability to manage a large, sprawling retail property.
- Our ability to influence improved management by Advance Auto Parts could improve site conditions and forgo the need for reactionary involvement from law enforcement.
- On-site 24-hour security, at a minimum, would deter the criminal activities.

The Commission recommends that you listen to your own words. We bring this issue to your attention in the spirit of your company's own stated "cultural beliefs" from your 2020 Corporate Sustainability and Social Report:

- ***"Speak up: I listen to seek and provide candid, informed feedback to improve performance."***
- ***"Be accountable: I own challenges and overcome obstacles to - achieve team and personal goals."***
- ***"Take action: I act with urgency because speed matters."***

Finally, The Commission requests that you respond to this letter with an action plan, no later than October 21, 2022 to allow us to report back to the community at our next meeting scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup>

The Commission also voted with \_ Yeas, \_ Nays, and \_ Abstentions to appoint the Commissioners for Single Member District 4B08, Alison Brooks or any member of the Executive Committee in their absence, to be authorized to communicate this letter and represent Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B in communication with your agency regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Alison Brooks, ANC 4B08 Commissioner

cc: Councilmember Janeese Lewis George (Ward 4)  
Alexander Hadden