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*****For Immediate Release*****

Washington City Paper Files for Chapter 86 Content Bankruptcy Protection

Altweekly sues readers for breach of confidence, requests time to reorganize and figure out the Web.

Washington, D.C. - *Washington City Paper*, D.C.'s alternative newsweekly for 26 years, has announced its decision to file voluntary petitions for content reorganization, citing diminished staff and the flagging confidence of its readers. During this time, *Washington City Paper* will continue to publish under court protection from its readers, who have wielded an unreasonable degree of power over the publication's future.

The filing will not interrupt *Washington City Paper's* operations in the form of blog posts about insects in our buildings, obsessions about Washington outsider-cum-maverick Sarah Palin, and neighborhood observations up to and including "Columbia Heights Day=Dull Times." Erik Wemple, editor, adds: "We love our readers—always have and always will. But that doesn't mean that we're above asking the federal courts for a break from them."

Washington City Paper continues to maintain that it provides a service to Washington, D.C., during a challenging time for journalists, though not for readers. This service includes four entirely distinct blogs and attitude-laden headlines with links to other people's content, known in some circles as "aggregation."

By way of background, *Washington City Paper's* parent company, Creative Loafing, Inc., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Sept. 29, a move designed to secure protection from its creditors while it implements a companywide reorganization. *Washington City Paper's* content filing, in turn, expresses solidarity with CLI in the federal bankruptcy docket. "The bankruptcy code is a glorious thing, with more chapters

than *Don Quixote*,” said Wemple. “We’re just happy that we’ve found a chapter that meets our needs as journalists.”

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About *Washington City Paper*

Published since 1981, *Washington City Paper* is an award-winning alternative newsweekly resting on its past laurels while trying to tap into a market that seems unable to walk down the street without texting someone. The *City Paper* used to specialize in features, criticism, and news, with an emphasis on long, drawn-out stories that would take people a good long time to read in the bathroom. In addition, *City Paper* published comprehensive film showtimes, theater, music, gallery, dance, and museum guides and a large classified advertising section. Some of the city’s most talented journalists, critics, and artists have written for *City Paper*, back when we could pay them.

City Paper is a controlled-circulation weekly, printed in a tabloid format on newsprint, for now. More than 82,000 copies are said to be distributed in the District of Columbia and the close-in suburbs of Maryland and Virginia, but people have expressed their doubts.

For more information about *Washington City Paper*, please (*please!*) visit washingtoncitypaper.com