

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B



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December 2, 2016

The Honorable Anita Bonds
Chairman, Committee on Housing and Community Development
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW Suite 110
Washington DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Bonds:

ANC 1B voted unanimously at a regularly schedule public meeting on December 1, 2016 to request the DC Council to postpone a vote on the pending Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016 (B21-0697) until such time as the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) have had the opportunity to fully consider and respond to the bill in its current form.

The ANC Omnibus bill, first introduced on April 5, 2016, has been the focus of a good deal of dialogue between the ANCs and the Committee on Housing and Community Development over the past 7 months. This led us to believe we understood the goals and nature of the legislation. Unfortunately, the bill has undergone a substantial number of revisions in the past several weeks. The latest "Amendment in the Nature of Substitute" made on November 15, contains substantive changes to section 1-309.10, among others. That section establishes how and when ANCs are entitled to receive "notice" and, which agencies must provide it. The viability of the ANC system rests on the twin pillars of "notice" and "great weight". Any alteration to either of those two elements will necessarily impact all the ANC's and, through them, grassroots democracy in the District.

ANC 1B was instrumental in working with your staff to draft the initial legislation. The substantive changes to the bill will weaken rather than strengthen the ANCs as an elected body of the DC Government. Attached are two Resolutions outlining our position on modernizing the ANCs, creating tools that streamline operations and collaboration with agencies, and the need for dedicated support centers. We support good public policy that holds the ANCs accountable and responsible for efficient and effective service to the communities we serve and respective collaboration with other DC agencies.

We respectfully request that the Council remove the bill from consideration during the current session so as to allow ANCs to fully analyze and provide meaningful feedback to the bill in its current form.

The Chair or delegate of the Chair, shall be authorized to communicate these actions to and testify before any agency of the Government of the District of Columbia or the members of the Council of the District of Columbia.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Regards,

James A. Turner
Chair ANC 1B, Commissioner 1B09

LaKisha Brown
Secretary ANC 1B, Commissioner 1B04

cc: The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chair
The Honorable Brianne Nadeau, Ward One
The Honorable David Grosso, At-Large