RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOOD PUBLIC POLICY TO TRANSFORM AND IMPROVE THE EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

A Resolution in support of good public policy that will improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) and further restore the public’s confidence in the body of government with the closest official ties to the people in a neighborhood. The ANCs consider a wide range of policies and programs affecting their neighborhoods, including traffic, parking, recreation, street improvements, liquor licenses, zoning, economic development, police protection, sanitation and trash collection, and the District’s annual budget.

WHEREAS; The Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016 was introduced by Councilmember Anita Bonds in April of 2016, and currently under consideration by the DC Council. The proposed bill would significantly reform the ways in which Advisory Neighborhood Commissions operate and interact with other DC Agencies.

BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1B OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that:

1. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B supports greater transparency within ANC operations, removing barriers to interagency collaboration, and rules that may curb civic participation by uncompensated public servants;

2. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B supports establishing an ANC Shared Operation Services Program, beginning with an FY17 Ward One pilot program. By centralizing ANC operations, technology, and support, the ANCs will be more effective and efficient through use of common systems and processes, allowing Commissioners to focus on constituents and policy issues, less on administrative items, while providing the transparency of effective and effective operations.

3. Specifically, ANC1B advocates for the following:

Operational Items:

- Tools to assist in compliance with physical and digital media retention requirements.
- Support with community notification, engagement, and collaboration on issues.
- Encouragement for cross-ANC collaboration by Commissioners in secure space (digital and physical).
- Assistance in acquiring public meeting space with appropriate recording devices for Commission (and Committees).
- Access to legal counsel for procedural, legislative, and regulatory issues.
- Access to shared legislative support staff personnel to assist ANCs in developing legislative proposals for consideration by the DC City Council.
- Single system and process for all ANCs to efficiently process payments, procure products, and generate financial reports.
- Use of common .org services including ANC websites part of the .gov domain (as opposed to the current .org that does not reflect ANCs as an integral part of the DC government).
- Access to common facilities and technology services afforded to other DC governance.
- Common processes for operations, including but not limited to the review and award of Grants and Community Benefits Agreements.
- Common central operational support staff for each ward managed and supported by the OANC.
- ANC be granted same physical status as DC Agencies at the lower Diaz at BZA and ZC meetings.

Systems:

- Use of .org email as primary communication point for all Commissioners, staff, contractors, and appointed committee members subject to the same retention requirements other elected offices observe.

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B serves the communities of Columbia Heights, LeDroit Park, Pleasant Plains, Shaw, U Street, Howard University, and lower Georgia Avenue.
Access to dc.gov domain for websites, common portal platform, content management system, and administration tools.

Support for a common compliant document retention tools.

DC-CFO common systems (PeopleSoft) for budget, payables (today is a checkbook), payroll, and financial reporting and (ARIBA - PASS) for procurement of goods and services.

OCTO web portal, Content Management, Document Management, email, tools (electronic surveys, distribution blasts, etc.) and IT help desk support.

**Funding:**

- Due to a high level of ABRA, BZA, Public Space, DDOT, and Special events, ANC1B holds a public meeting each month of the year. The proposed language to compensate Commissioners for attending a minimum of five meetings and maximum of nine meetings would negatively affect the ability to achieve a quorum at each meeting.

- ANC1B currently maintains a physical office space and contracts for limited professional services, the overall funding is grossly inadequate to establish a properly staffed and resourced support services center.

**ANC Representation:**

ANC 1B recognizes that while most official actions require the Chair or representative Commissioner to appear before an agency or the Council, at times some meetings can be effectively handled by the Chair of the functional committee. To that end, ANC 1B includes the following in some form on all agency correspondence:

"The Chair or any Commissioner or Committee Chair (Patrick Nelson, Nick Baumann, or Joshua Mater) as 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."

**ANC Commissioner Benefits:**

ANC Commissioners are elected non-compensated employees of the Government of the District of Columbia. As such, Commissioners should be treated as employees and be afforded all the rights and benefits of an employee.

**AND BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT:**

The Chair or any Commissioner as delegate of the Chair, shall be authorized to communicate this resolution 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.

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Certification:

After providing sufficient notice for and with a quorum of 9 Commissioners present at its July 7, 2016, meeting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1B voted, with 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.

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

LaKisha Brown
Secretary ANC 1B, Commissioner SMD 1B04