



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

March 20, 2018

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Chair, Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20004
abonds@dccouncil.us

Councilmember Jack Evans
Chair, Committee on Finance and Revenue
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004
jevans@dccouncil.us

RE: Proposal to Create an ANC Fund for American Sign Language (ASL) Interpretation

Dear Councilmember Bonds and Councilmember Evans:

At its regular meeting on March 14, 2018, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 6 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0):

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia values the participation of all residents in government matters, including community meetings,

WHEREAS, American Sign Language interpretation allows the content of community meetings to be accessed by members of the community who are Deaf,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has a policy to provide interpreters when requested before the meeting,

WHEREAS, currently ANC 2B would have to find and pay for interpreters out of its budget,

WHEREAS, the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016 has allowed ANCs to receive funding for American Sign Language interpretation: “1-309.12(d)(3)(C-1)(i) Reimbursement of translation and interpretation service costs

incurred by a Commission, for residents and Commissioners who require such services in relation to Commission documents or proceedings; provided, that applications for reimbursement under this sub-subparagraph shall be submitted to OANC, using a form prescribed by the Mayor;”

WHEREAS, the act’s Fiscal Impact Statement said that the Executive would require a 0.5 FTE to implement this section and DC’s FY 2018-19 budget did not include funding for a staff member to implement this in order to support commissions,

WHEREAS, the 40 ANCs are required by the federal Americans with Disabilities Act to provide interpretation services upon request by residents and to pay for these services out of the ANCs’ annual funding allotment from the District,

WHEREAS, the average interpretation cost to ANCs in 2017 was \$600 per meeting, which, if requested for twelve meetings per year for a total cost of approximately \$7,000, is more than the FY 2018 annual allocation for the District’s smallest ANCs and one-third of the entire FY allocation of the District’s largest ANCs, and

WHEREAS, ANCs are strong advocates for inclusive meetings and community engagement, and are supportive of interpretation services to support that inclusivity.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that funding for staffing through the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and funding for interpretation and translation services be fully allocated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that if any allocated funds are not used during an individual Fiscal Year, the unused funds are rolled over to the following Fiscal Year to be used for outreach to the Deaf community regarding the interpretative services that are available.

Commissioners Amy Johnson (2B01@anc.dc.gov) and Daniel Warwick (2B02@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Warwick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Warwick
Chair