



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

August 28, 2019

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

RE: Funding Request for LGBTQ Grant Programs

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Mayor Bowser:

At its regular meeting on August 14, 2019, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (9-0-0):

WHEREAS, fifteen LGBTQ organizations, ranging from SMYAL (Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League) to Mary’s House for Older Adults, jointly petitioned the DC Council to increase funding in the FY 2020 budget by \$3 million for the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ Affairs,

WHEREAS, the request was for the creation of a competitive grant program focusing on health equity to support LGBTQ organizations. The programs were to focus on the most vulnerable and at-risk: youth (especially homeless youth), trans people, and senior citizens,

WHEREAS, the DC Council declined to fund this request,

WHEREAS, Zoe Spears, a 23-year-old trans woman of color, was murdered on June 13, 2019 along Eastern Avenue – less than three months following the murder of another trans woman of color, Ashanti Carmon, at nearly the same location,

WHEREAS, there has been a reported uptick in hate crimes directed at members of the LGBTQ community in recent weeks, including several incidents within close proximity to ANC 2B, and

WHEREAS, the frequency of these incidents and the coincidence of many of them with Pride Month brought renewed attention to the disturbing realities that still confront

vulnerable members of the LGBTQ community and create a sense of urgency regarding the need for additional, targeted resources to serve that population.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B strongly urges the DC Council and the Mayor to re-consider their determination regarding this funding request and use either a supplemental appropriation or reprogramming authority to target resources toward the \$3 million grant program sought, thereby supporting community-driven efforts to improve the health, safety, and well-being of DC residents.

Commissioners Mike Silverstein (2B06@anc.dc.gov) and Daniel Warwick (2B02@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Daniel Warwick
Chair