



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

February 17, 2022

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Mayor  
Government of the District of Columbia  
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Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Chair, Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
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Attorney General for the District of Columbia  
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RE: Expeditious and Transparent Handling of Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents by All DC Government Agencies

Dear Mayor Bowser, Chairman Mendelson, Chancellor Ferebee, Mr. Graves, and Attorney General Racine,

At its regular meeting on February 9, 2022, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-0):

On the first day of Black History Month, Howard University (and other HBCUs nationwide) had to be shut down because of a coordinated series of bomb threats.

That same week, the day after International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Union Station here in Washington was defaced by as many as a hundred swastikas.

Earlier that week, in an editorial in the Washington Post, Colbert King had warned that hate crimes are becoming more common here and across our nation.

In his editorial, Mr. King referenced an event that occurred in December at DC's Watkins Elementary School, where third graders were directed to reenact scenes from the Holocaust, including mass shootings. When one student asked why the Holocaust occurred, the librarian reportedly answered, "because the Jews ruined Christmas."

Following parental complaints and national news coverage, the librarian was placed on leave and an investigation was promised. But now it is February, and we are told the investigation is still ongoing and there is nothing to report. Mr. King asked, "where is the outrage?"

We concur.

Colbert King follows that question with what he calls an immutable truth: "Jews alone cannot eliminate antisemitism; Blacks can battle racism like hell, but we can't overcome it by ourselves; victims of hate crimes can't defeat their demons without help." And we add the same holds true for all those who are victims of hate.

Racism, anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, homophobia, transphobia, sexism, xenophobia, and other forms of oppression are all vile and have no place in the District of Columbia or in our nation.

And we shout from the rooftops the title of his editorial: "The targets of hate can't be left to fight back alone."

The defacing of a sign at a beloved historically Black church in downtown DC was an attack on all of us.

The attack on an Asian-American family in Cathedral Heights, prefaced by both anti-Asian and anti-gay slurs, was an attack on all of us.

Any attack triggered by hate is an attack on all of us.

Therefore, we respond to our beloved friend and neighbor Colbert King that we share the outrage. We demand that the DC Public Schools and all other DC and federal agencies place high priority on dealing with hate crimes and not slow walk or delay investigations. Justice delayed is justice denied.

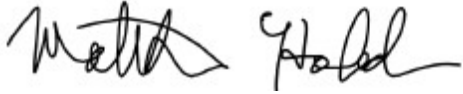
We also demand that the victims of hate crimes be kept informed of the status of their cases, and of any change in the status of those charged in the case. This transparency is necessary so that the victim might have a say in plea bargaining and also in changes to any bail or confinement requests, so that the victim of a hate crime might make informed decisions about self-protection.

Hate has no place in the District of Columbia. The targets of hate cannot be left to fight back alone. And our government and judicial system must prioritize dealing with hate crimes and cannot slow-walk their response.

Commissioners Mike Silverstein ([2B06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B06@anc.dc.gov)) and Matthew Holden ([2B08@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B08@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Holden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" and "H".

Matthew Holden  
Chair