

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

February 10, 2011

Errol R. Arthur, Chair Board of Elections & Ethics Government of the District of Columbia One Judiciary Square 441 4th Street NW Suite 250 North Washington, DC 20001

Re: Consideration of a resolution requesting a more equitable distribution of polling places in Ward 2 for the upcoming special election for At-Large City Council

Dear Chairman Arthur:

The Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 2B) at its February 10, 2011 public meeting unanimously passed the following resolution (8-0):

Resolution on Special Election Voting Centers Offered by Commissioner Jack Jacobson February 9, 2011

Whereas, due to a vacancy, DC will hold an election for At-Large City Council on Tuesday, April 26;

Whereas, due to constrained budgets, the Board of Elections and Ethics has proposed severely limiting the available polling places for voters, with only 16 such polling places available citywide, as opposed to the 143 polling places normally available; and

Whereas, according to BOEE, as of August 31, 2010, the most recent month for which numbers are available on BOEE's web site, there were 444,786 registered voters in the District which would need to be funnelled to this limited number of polling places, including 48,053 registered voters in Ward 2.

Therefore, be it Resolved, that ANC 2B urges the BOEE to keep all Ward 2 polling places open for the special election, as any impediment to voting disenfranchises DC residents, which are already disenfranchised on the federal level; and

Be it Further Resolved, that -- in the absence of opening all polling places on April 26 -- the Board assign at least one more polling place in Ward 2 to serve the residents of Dupont Circle, Logan Circle and Shaw; and

Be it Further Resolved, that should limited Voting Centers be available on April 26, that BOEE conduct a thorough public education campaign to notify all registered voters of the change in their polling places, their options for early voting, and their ability to vote at any of the Voting Centers of their choosing citywide.

That copies of this resolution shall be submitted to the Board of Elections and Ethics, the Mayor, the Council Chairman, Councilmember Jack Evans and all At-Large Councilmembers.

Commissioner Jack Jacobson (jack.jacobson@dupontcircleanc.net) is the Commission's representative.

Sincerely,

Will Stephens, Chair

William J. Highens

cc:

Mayor Vincent Gray

Councilmembers of the District of Columbia