



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

January 17, 2018

Councilmember Charles Allen
Chair, Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 110
Washington, DC 20004
callen@dccouncil.us

RE: DC Council Bill B22-0136 – the “Comprehensive Code of Conduct of the District of Columbia Establishment and BEGA Amendment Act of 2017”

Dear Councilmember Allen,

At its regular meeting on November 15, 2017, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Campbell, to adopt the following resolution:

ANC 2A is concerned about imprecise and vague language in the bill, particularly with regard to a Code of Conduct that would entreat commissioners as employees and require a standard of impartiality. ANCs have uniquely personal and intimate connections to their districts and surrounding neighborhoods. This is a design of the ANC system; they are supposed to be enmeshed in their communities. Natural conflicts will arise in the course of this, and therefore ANCs cannot be treated under the same standard as higher and compensated elected officials as well as District Government employees.

ANC 2A further notes that commissioners are unpaid and advisory representatives and that all commission actions must be approved by a majority vote, with no individual commissioner having the ability to unilaterally take any action on behalf of the commission.

Therefore, ANC 2A requests that the DC Council take additional time to redraft the bill with an ethics code more specifically tailored to ANCs, taking into account their unique position in crafting it.

Commissioner Patrick Kennedy (2A01@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.



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Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy
Chairperson