



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

June 24, 2020

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

## **RE: Proposal to Redirect FY 2021 Budget Resources from the Metropolitan Police Department to Social Programs**

Dear Councilmember Allen,

At its regular meeting on June 17, 2020, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted (5-0-2), after a motion made by Commissioner Harnett and seconded by Commissioner Campbell, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the local, national, and international conversation about the role of policing in American society over the last four weeks since the death of George Floyd, and countless others, manifests itself for ANC 2A in what we want to prioritize in our next city budget, a \$15,400,000,000 tool of community investment,<sup>1</sup>

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s proposed budget for FY 2021 includes a \$19,000,000 proposed increase in the budget for the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), to receive such a substantial increase in resources while there is an expected \$1,500,000,000 shortfall in FY 2021,<sup>2</sup>

WHEREAS, the DC Council has taken limited, but necessary emergency action to change police arbitration standards, ban chokeholds, ban the hiring of officers accused or found guilty of misconduct in other jurisdictions, and ban the use of riot gear and chemical weapons against First Amendment protestors,

WHEREAS, the Mayor’s proposed budget for FY 2021 also includes a \$4,000,000 cut for the Violence Interrupters Program, which works to stem violence before it begins by working directly with members of the community,

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<sup>1</sup> Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget to the Council. *Office of the Mayor of the District of Columbia*. May 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Financial Report to Accompany the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget. *Office of the Chief Financial Officer*. May 2020.



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WHEREAS, overwhelming public testimony and support from members of the DC Council exists in taking further fiscal action to limit the scope of MPD and re-task non-violent calls to social workers who are best positioned to respond with services to meet that individuals’ needs, and

WHEREAS, ANC 2A is dedicated to uplifting the voices and fights of our neighbors who have been victims of police brutality and moving forward recommendations that create a more just city for all.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the DC Council’s Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety thoughtfully considering the role and historical injustice of policing in our communities, and re-allocating resources proposed for MPD in next year’s budget to services for those experiencing homelessness or mental health crises, deeply affordable housing production and retainment, the estimated \$60,000,000 needed for immediate repairs of public housing, and increasing educational budgets in east of the river public schools as a more appropriate use of District funds.<sup>3</sup>

Commissioner James Harnett ([2A08@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A08@anc.dc.gov)) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

James Harnett  
Acting Chairperson

CC: Chairman Phil Mendelson, DC Council  
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large  
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3  
Councilmember Vincent Gray, Ward 7

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<sup>3</sup> “Affordable Housing: Put DC on a Path to Fully Meet the Housing Needs of Extremely Low-Income Residents.” *DC Fiscal Policy Institute*. [dcfpi.org/all/affordable-housing-put-dc-on-a-path-to-fully-meet-the-housing-needs-of-extremely-low-income-residents/](https://dcfpi.org/all/affordable-housing-put-dc-on-a-path-to-fully-meet-the-housing-needs-of-extremely-low-income-residents/)