



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

July 20, 2018

Attorney General Karl Racine  
Attorney General  
Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia  
441 4th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001  
[karl.racine@dc.gov](mailto:karl.racine@dc.gov)

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Mayor  
Government of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
[muriel.bowser@dc.gov](mailto:muriel.bowser@dc.gov)

## **RE: Cyber Threats to Electoral Infrastructure**

Dear Attorney General Racine and Mayor Bowser,

At its regular meeting on July 18, 2018, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“**ANC 2A**” or “**Commission**”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission unanimously voted (**6-0-0\***), after a motion made by Commissioner Smith and seconded by Commissioner Harnett, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, information technology (IT) systems are inherently insecure and there is no IT system currently publicly- or privately-operated that has not been breached in some form or fashion by hackers at one time or another,

WHEREAS, U.S. electoral systems have never been identified as critical infrastructure and are constituted by a hodgepodge of disparate components of varying ages that are operated at the state and local levels,

WHEREAS, the cyber threat has only increased with the release of sophisticated National Security Agency (NSA) hacking tools to the international market,

WHEREAS, only a small number of votes in key districts need to be changed in order to impact an election,

WHEREAS, in 2016 Russian agents targeted voter systems in at least 21 states, compromising systems in at least 7 of them,

WHEREAS, no additional evidence needs to be presented to confirm that Vladimir Putin has both the means and the will to impact future elections,



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WHEREAS, since the 2016 election, the Trump Campaign has been the subject of an investigation by a Special Prosecutor for possible collusion with the sophisticated and wide-reaching campaign by the Russian Government to alter the 2016 election results and, in July of 2018, that investigation resulted in the indictment of 12 Russian intelligence officers,

WHEREAS, Donald Trump and other members of the Executive Branch have publicly attacked law enforcement and intelligence agencies, including the Special Prosecutor who was investigating Russian election interference, and provided no leadership in addressing the underlying vulnerabilities of our electoral system,

WHEREAS, the investigation of Russian election interference and the U.S. response by the Intelligence Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives has been described by participants as hyper-partisan and ineffective, and Senate Majority leadership has shown, with few notable exceptions, little inclination for independent action,

WHEREAS, Facebook, Twitter, and other social media companies have already taken steps to combat election interference on social media platforms but no similar effort has been launched relative to U.S. electoral infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, the integrity of the voting system is the cornerstone of U.S. democracy at the local, state, and national levels, and the ballot box is the optimal means of addressing transgressions by public officials, including a sitting President.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on Attorney General Racine, with the support of Mayor Bowser, to work with law enforcement representatives from other states to appoint a Blue-Ribbon Panel, whose members shall be comprised of U.S. information technology leaders, representatives of leading-edge technology companies, political scientists, and distinguished public officials, to elucidate the scenarios and examine the strategies by which District of Columbia and other state electoral infrastructure might be compromised by illegal cyberattacks in the future and to provide recommendations for strengthening it.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on Attorney General Racine, with the support of Mayor Bowser, to convene, together with other states, a national conference hosted at some suitable venue in the nation’s capital to bring together key actors from the public and private sectors, as well as academia, to examine the best means of ensuring the integrity of the vote in the face of future cyber-attacks and the ways in which public and private sector actors may best provide assistance to election officials at the state and local levels in monitoring the threat and designing, updating, and hardening electoral infrastructure.



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Commissioners William Kennedy Smith ([2A04@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A04@anc.dc.gov)) and James Harnett ([2A08@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A08@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

William K. Smith, MD  
Chairperson

CC: Tony Towns, Director of Community Engagement, OAG  
John Green, Community Engagement Coordinator, OAG  
Richard Livingstone, Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services

\* Commissioner Harmon recused herself from voting on this matter.