



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

July 8, 2016

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Co-Chair  
New Columbia Statehood Commission  
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New Columbia Statehood Commission  
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## **RE: The New Columbia Draft Constitution**

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

At a special meeting on June 25, 2016, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“**ANC 2A**” or “**Commission**”) considered the above-referenced matter. With four of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**3-0-0\***), after a motion made by Commissioner Kennedy and seconded by Commissioner Zhurbinskiy, to adopt the following recommendations in regards to the above-referenced matter:

With regards to paragraph (a) of Article I, Section 7, we recommend that “substantially equal population” be removed from the proposed language, as we believe that commissions can best serve their constituencies when their boundaries are coterminous with broadly-accepted neighborhood boundaries, and that these neighborhood boundaries will inevitably lead to varying population amounts for each commission. We thus believe that the first sentence of paragraph (a) should state:

“The House of Delegates shall by Act divide the State of New Columbia into neighborhood commission areas, which shall be further divided into “Single-Member Districts” of substantially equal population from which “Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners” shall be elected.”

With regards to paragraph (a) of Article I, Section 7, we also recommend that the last sentence of the paragraph, which states: “Candidates for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner shall qualify for election by gathering signatures of at least five percent of the qualified voters in their neighborhood commission area,” be removed from the proposed language. The ANC disagrees with the five percent standard for gathering signatures, and we also believe that this standard is an inappropriate amount of specificity for a state constitution. Additionally, as an ANC that includes multiple university-area districts, which have large amounts of voters who registered in the districts for an individual election and no longer live in the districts, but are not regularly taken off of voter rolls, this five percent standard would present a substantial practical difficulty to people who are running for office in these districts.



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With regards to paragraph (b) of Article I, Section 7, we recommend that the entire paragraph be removed from the proposed language, as we believe that the details of this paragraph are already provided by existing DC laws, and thus it is unnecessary to include these details in the draft constitution.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy  
Chairperson

CC: Senator Paul Strauss, New Columbia Statehood Commission  
Senator Michael D. Brown, New Columbia Statehood Commission  
Representative Franklin Garcia, New Columbia Statehood Commission  
Gottlieb Simon, Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions  
Betsy Cavendish, General Counsel, Executive Office of the Mayor

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