



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

July 29, 2016

Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Chair, Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004  
[pmendelson@dccouncil.us](mailto:pmendelson@dccouncil.us)

**RE: DC Council Bill B21-0684 – the “Government Travel and Human Rights Act of 2016”**

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on July 20, 2016, 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 voted unanimously to adopt the following resolution, which was introduced by Commissioner Zhurbinskiy and seconded by Commissioner Williams, by a vote of **(6-0-1)**:

WHEREAS, Washington DC’s Human Rights Act of 1977 (amended on March 14, 2007) sought to secure an end to discrimination for any reason other than that of individual merit, including, but not limited to, discrimination by reason of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression familial status, family responsibilities, matriculation, political affiliation, genetic information, disability, source of income, status as a victim of an intrafamily offense, and place of residence or business,

WHEREAS, existing law provides for officers and employees of the District of Columbia, when away from their headquarters for official business, to receive travel expenses,

WHEREAS, when compared to other states, the District of Columbia has the highest percentage of adults who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, according to a Gallup study from 2012, at 10 percent, which is double the percentage of the second place state, and nearly triple the overall national average of 3.5 percent,

WHEREAS, the 2010 Census data shows that 5,146 District of Columbia households declared themselves as being headed by same-sex couples, representing a rate of 19 same-sex couples per 1,000 households,



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WHEREAS, since March of 2015, Indiana, South Dakota, Georgia, North Carolina, Mississippi, and numerous municipalities have either passed, or passed and signed into law bills that allow for discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity,

WHEREAS, religious freedom is a cornerstone of law and public policy in the United States, and ANC 2A strongly supports and affirms this important freedom,

WHEREAS, the exercise of religious freedom should not be a justification for discrimination,

WHEREAS, while Mayoral Orders are well intentioned, piecemeal efforts to address discrimination, the residents and public servants of the District of Columbia need a permanent solution, and

WHEREAS, Washington, DC must take permanent action to avoid supporting or financing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to consider and pass DC Council Bill B21-0684 – the “Government Travel and Human Rights Act of 2016.” This important law protects the District of Columbia’s public servants from discrimination and harassment and prohibits the use of DC funds to support activities in any state that affirmatively sanctions or requires discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

Commissioners Eve Zhurbinskiy ([2A08@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A08@anc.dc.gov)) and Patrick Kennedy ([2A01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A01@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Patrick Kennedy  
Chairperson

CC: Councilmember Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1  
Councilmember Jack Evans, Ward 2  
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3  
Councilmember Brandon Todd, Ward 4  
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5  
Councilmember Charles Allen, Ward 6



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Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Ward 7  
Councilmember LaRuby May, Ward 8  
Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large  
Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large  
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large  
Councilmember Vincent Orange, At-Large