



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

March 8, 2016

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 506  
Washington, DC 20004  
[kmcduffie@dccouncil.us](mailto:kmcduffie@dccouncil.us)

**RE: DC Council Bill B21-0529 – the “Special Police Officer Enhanced Security Amendment Act of 2015”**

Dear Councilmember McDuffie,

At its regular meeting on February 17, 2016, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted to adopt the following resolution, which was introduced by Commissioner Zhurbinskiy and seconded by Commissioner Harmon, by a vote of (5-1-0):

WHEREAS, Councilmember McDuffie has introduced proposed legislation entitled the “Special Police Officer Enhanced Security Amendment Act of 2015” (hereinafter referred to in this resolution as the “Special Police Officer Act”);

WHEREAS, the Special Police Officer Act would allow campus police in the District of Columbia to exercise their authority outside the currently defined and recognized boundaries of their respective campuses;

WHEREAS, the Special Police Officer Act defines “campus” to include “any building or property owned or controlled by the university and includes all public property that is within the same reasonably contiguous geographic area of the university”;

WHEREAS, the George Washington University’s main campus and its campus police are located within the boundaries of ANC 2A;

WHEREAS, the Special Police Officer Act’s definition of “campus” is defined so broadly that any university that owns property in the District of Columbia, of which there are many due to universities throughout the country that operate DC-based internship programs, could designate campus police to exercise authority within the boundaries of ANC 2A;

WHEREAS, without limitation, ANC 2A has the following concerns with the Special Police Act as drafted:



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1. The language of the proposed legislation is overly broad and ambiguous, particularly with respect to the scope and breadth of expanded jurisdiction for campus police. In addition, the legislation fails to include sufficient guidance and limitations on the interaction and lines between private and public policing especially as it relates to law enforcement authority for campus police.
2. Although some additional training will be required in the areas of mental health and behavioral health, campus police will not have the same level of training provided to MPD officers, yet they will have equal policing powers in jurisdictional areas, including neighborhoods within ANC 2A. In fact, under DC law, campus police are only required to receive 1 week of training prior to performing patrol duties and have up to 2 years thereafter to complete 250 hours of law enforcement training. By contrast, the DC Police Academy is a 28-week program (approximately 1,120 hours) and the probationary period for MPD officers is 18 months.
3. The legislation will provide an impetus for currently unarmed campus police officers to begin carrying guns. Currently, only Howard and UDC police carry firearms. However, once the other campus police forces leave the relatively safe confines of their campus, a legitimate argument can be made that they, too, will need to carry firearms for their own protection with the potential for lethal consequences. Firearm training for campus police is not comparable to MPD firearm training.
4. Campus police lack both transparency and accountability to DC residents. For example, campus police are not subject to the same freedom of information and record keeping requirements as MPD and there is no indication that campus police will either have body cameras or, even if they do, will have to release footage. This runs counter to recent gains in transparency and public accountability.
5. Some students living off campus are concerned that having campus police in their neighborhoods will lead to inherent conflicts between DC laws and university policies.
6. The legislation makes no provision for community involvement. Campus policing plans will be unilaterally approved by the Chief of Police without any opportunity for comment or input by the very neighborhoods they will be policing and without any input from elected officials.
7. The legislation’s definition of a college campus is broad enough that the numerous DC campuses of non-DC based universities, such as Johns Hopkins



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University; Pepperdine University; and the University of California, Berkeley, could have campus police forces that go into the community.

8. The legislation creates unnecessary liability for private property owners outside the campus boundaries. If the apartment owners or condominium boards admit campus police into their private buildings and student residents are thus expelled from their university because of the campus police’s findings, parents and/or students could sue the apartment owners or condominium boards for admitting the campus police officers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that while ANC 2A supports those provisions in the Special Police Officer Act that expand and enhance training requirements in the areas of mental and behavioral health, nonetheless, based upon the reasons set forth in this resolution, ANC 2A opposes those provisions of the Special Police Officer Act that would expand the law enforcement authority and jurisdiction of campus police officers beyond the currently defined and recognized boundaries of their respective campuses.

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 Jack Evans, Ward 2  
Councilmember Mary Cheh, Ward 3  
Councilmember LaRuby May, Ward 8  
Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large  
Councilmember David Grosso, At-Large  
Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large  
Chairman Phil Mendelson, DC Council  
Chanell Autrey, Legislative Counsel, Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie  
Renee McPhatter, Office of Government and Community Relations, GW  
Sally Kram, Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area