



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



January 23, 2006

Mayor Adrian Fenty
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Improving Citizen Access to the DC Municipal Code

Dear Mayor Fenty,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on January 11, 2007, our Commission voted 7-0-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request that the Mayor's office undertake an initiative to modernize the system for accessing the DC municipal code so that citizens of the District of Columbia can easily find the City's current regulations.

The last time that the full set of DC Municipal Regulations was published was more than 10 years ago. Some of these regulations have been put on-line (e.g. Zoning Regulations) but other are only available in hard copy at a library. The published regulations include many sections that have been repealed or modified and do not contain sections which have been incorporated into the DCMR.

In order for citizens to find out whether a published regulation is current, he or she must undertake the time-consuming task of searching through all volumes of the DC Register published since the last date of publication of the DCMR to determine if the section had been repealed or altered. Furthermore, it is very difficult for a citizen to learn about current regulations that only available in the past issues of the DC Register.

In short, it is difficult for our City to operate on the principal of Rule of Law, when it is almost impossible to determine the city's governing regulations. Accordingly, we request your Office modernize the current Byzantine system of accessing the DCMR by taking the following steps:

1. Placing up-to-date regulations for the DCMR on-line in a text searchable format.
2. Updating the on-line regulations when changes are published in the DC Register.
3. Tracking the changes to the DCMR to detail how the regulations have changed over time.

In the meantime, we request that ANCs be granted free-of-charge access to DCMR Advanced Version which allows advanced searching functions of the on-line Titles of the DCMR.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A