



July 15, 2025

The Honorable Chairman Phil Mendelson and Members of the
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Re: ANC 6A Response to the Proposed FY26 District of Columbia Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Honorable Members of the Council:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on July 10, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A voted 6-0-1 (with 4 Commissioners required for a quorum) to approve sending this letter setting forth our primary concerns with the proposed FY26 Budget for the District of Columbia.

Before outlining our specific issues, we want to acknowledge the difficult choices facing the Council and the District in the current fiscal and political climate. We also recognize and appreciate the intensive work by Council committees and staff to improve upon the Mayor's proposed budget in recent weeks.

We firmly believe that any budget approved by the Council should:

- **Not be balanced on the backs of the District's most vulnerable residents.**
- **Prioritize the well-being of medically at-risk individuals, young people, and future generations by addressing the real and growing impacts of climate change.**
- **Recognize that public safety extends beyond policing and encompasses a range of community-based strategies.**
- **Avoid unsustainable and inequitable economic incentives, including excessive subsidies for wealthy sports franchise owners and developers.**

The following sections expand on these concerns.

The Proposed Budget Disproportionately Harms Vulnerable Residents

We urge the Council to restore funding for critical programs that directly support low-income and at-risk residents, including pay equity initiatives, paid family leave, childcare workers, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, housing support, Medicaid, and the DC Health

¹ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on anc-6a@googlegroups.com, and newhilleast@groups.io, at www.anc6a.org, on Twitter (@ANC6A) and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.

Alliance. These programs are essential to safeguarding health and economic security - especially as the District anticipates job and benefit losses linked to reductions in the federal workforce.

Environmental Stewardship Is a Fiscal and Moral Imperative

Cutting or redirecting funds away from the Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and related initiatives is short-sighted and risks long-term environmental and economic harm.

Programs such as Net Zero goals, Anacostia River restoration, stormwater management, the DC Green Bank, and sustainable utility development are not only critical to public health and climate resilience but also contribute to job creation and infrastructure modernization.

Public Safety Requires a Comprehensive Approach

Effective public safety goes beyond law enforcement. It includes Safe Passage programs to ensure children can travel to and from school securely; robust support for returning citizens and violence interruption initiatives; enforcement capacity for agencies like ABCA to address illegal drug activity; full implementation and funding of the STEER Act to address reckless driving; and infrastructure improvements by DDOT that prioritize pedestrian, cyclist, and transit user safety. These include protected bike lanes, dedicated bus lanes, and the flexibility to update outdated sidewalk standards to support safer and more cost-effective designs.

Economic Growth Should Benefit Everyone

While views vary on redevelopment of the RFK Stadium site, there is consensus that the proposal outlined in the Mayor's budget represents an inequitable and fiscally unsound transfer of public assets. If redevelopment proceeds, the project must be dramatically revised to adapt the scale of parking infrastructure and include a new Metro station. Efforts should be made to expand affordable housing, preserve continuous public access to athletic fields and riverwalk trails, ensure fair compensation to the District through land value, taxes, or fee-sharing agreements, and incorporate strong environmental and labor standards.

ANC 6A-Specific Concerns

In addition to the citywide issues above, we highlight several priorities that directly impact ANC 6A and Ward 6:

- Funding to advance previously committed capital projects, including the full renovation of Rumsey Aquatic Center (with the addition of a second floor) and the Kingsman Dog Park and field renovations;
- Continued modernization of Ward 6 public schools and recreation facilities;
- Expanded programming and operating hours at Sherwood Recreation Center.

We also encourage a renewed focus on accountability and long-term value in the Capital Budget. For example, systemic construction flaws at School-Within-School (SWS) are now being corrected with District funds rather than by the responsible contractor, who continues to receive

new District contracts. Similarly, preventable HVAC failures point to the urgent need for improved maintenance planning and execution by DGS.

In closing, we recognize the enormity and complexity of the Council's task during this budget cycle. We thank you for your commitment to the residents of the District and your consideration of the concerns we have raised.

On behalf of the Commission,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Wethington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dave Wethington
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A