



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
PO Box 15020
Washington, DC 20003



ANC 6A RESOLUTION NO. 2022-004

Resolution regarding ANC 6A support for the Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2022.

WHEREAS, in March 2022, an Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act for DC was re-introduced by Councilmembers Allen, Nadeau, Henderson, R. White, Cheh, Lewis George, and Silverman.

WHEREAS, this legislation would require open captioning in a certain percentage of showings at DC movie theaters.

WHEREAS, the DC Deaf Moviegoers Group led by Erik Nordlof, Reema Bogin, and Brianne Burger has advocated for this legislation since 2018 following the success of similar legislation in Hawaii.

WHEREAS, open captioning benefits young children, English learners, senior citizens, military veterans, and other individuals, both with and without hearing loss. WHEREAS, the legislation already recognizes that not all patrons will want to watch a movie with captions and requires open captioning in only 12 percent of weekly showings.

WHEREAS, the legislation will have no cost for DC movie theaters because open captioning is available but deactivated in current showings.

WHEREAS, Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing citizens have made invaluable contributions to the ANC 6A community, including:

- Gallaudet University hosted the ANC 6A website, www.anc6a.org, and provided technical support to ANC 6A for 10 years from 2003 to 2013.1
- ASL Trivia DC, co-founded by a Deaf ANC 6A resident in 2014, regularly brought 100-200 customers to bars and other small businesses on H Street NE on Monday evenings throughout the 2010s.
- Mozzarella at 1300 H Street NE in ANC 6A is the first Deaf-owned-and-operated restaurant in DC and a source of neighborhood pride.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ANC 6A supports the Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2022, urges DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson to schedule a hearing for the bill, and asks the DC Council to take other steps as necessary to legalize open captioning in DC as soon as possible.

Attested by:

Amber Gove Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
June 2, 2022

This Resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0-0 on May 12, 2022 at a public meeting of ANC6A at which a quorum was present.