



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



October 18, 2023

Chair Phil Mendelson, Councilmembers Anita Bonds, Kenyon McDuffie, Vincent Gray, and Trayon White

1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20004

*Via email and the ANC Resolutions Website*

Re: ANC 6A Request for Support of the Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2023

Dear Chair Mendelson, Councilmembers Bonds, McDuffie, Gray and White:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting<sup>1</sup> on October 12, 2023, our Commission voted 6-0-0 (with 4 Commissioners required for a quorum) to support the Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act of 2023. In February 2023, an Open Movie Captioning Requirement Act for DC was re-introduced by 8 of 13 Councilmembers. This legislation would require open captioning in just 12% of showings at DC movie theaters.

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 and New York City. Open captioning benefits young children, English learners, senior citizens, military veterans, and other individuals, both with and without hearing loss. The UK Office of Communications found that 80% of captioning users have no hearing loss at all, which underscores that accessibility is universal. The legislation will have no cost for DC movie theaters because open captioning is available but deactivated in current showings.

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](http://www.anc6a.org), and provided technical support to ANC 6A for 10 years from 2003 to 2013.
- ASL Trivia DC, co-founded by a Deaf ANC 6A resident in 2014, regularly brought 100-200 customers to 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.

ANC 6A asks all 13 Councilmembers to support this legislation. Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of this Commission. I can be contacted at [6A04@anc.dc.gov](mailto:6A04@anc.dc.gov), and Commissioner Dooling can be reached at [6A06@anc.dc.gov](mailto:6A06@anc.dc.gov).

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

On Behalf of the Commission,

*Amber K. Gove*

Amber Gove  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A