



ANC 6A RESOLUTION NO. 2021-001

Resolution regarding ANC 6A support for funding the DC Office for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing in DC's FY2022 budget.

WHEREAS, in October 2020, the DC Council unanimously passed and Mayor Muriel Bowser signed into law B23-0147, the Office on Deaf and Hard of Hearing Establishment Amendment Act of 2019.¹

WHEREAS, this law establishes a DC Office for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (ODBH) to “advance the civil rights of the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing communities by ensuring and overseeing District-wide compliance with laws that affect the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing communities.”

WHEREAS, ODBH does not yet exist as an office because it is subject to appropriations.

WHEREAS, in July 2020, the DC Chief Financial Officer estimated a first-year budget of \$836,000 to implement the ODBH, including staff salaries and office space.²

WHEREAS, state-level offices for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing already exist in 36 U.S. states³ but DC currently has no such office despite having one of the largest deaf populations in the United States.

WHEREAS, the National Deaf Center (NDC) ranked DC 52nd out of 52 U.S. states and territories for bachelor’s degree completion by deaf individuals—the single worst outcome in the country.⁴ NDC also ranked DC 45th in high school completion and 50th in employment for deaf individuals—among the worst outcomes in the country.

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 2013.⁵
- ASL Trivia DC, founded by Deaf ANC 6A residents in 2014, regularly brought 100-200 customers to bars and other small businesses in ANC 6A on Monday evenings throughout the 2010s.

¹ <https://lms.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B23-0147>

² https://lms.dccouncil.us/downloads/LIMS/41895/Other/B23-0147-FIS_-_Office_for_the_Deaf_DeafBlind.pdf

³ <http://nasadh.org/usa-roster/>

⁴ <https://www.nationaldeafcenter.org/resource/state-rankings-postsecondary-achievement-deaf-people-2012-2016>

⁵ <https://anc6a.org/wp-content/uploads/ThankGU13.pdf>

- 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.

WHEREAS, ODBH would operate at the same level as and complement both the DC Office on Disability Rights and cultural offices such as the mayor's offices on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, LGTBQ Affairs, and Women's Policy and Initiatives, to name a few.

WHEREAS, ODBH would significantly improve the efficiency of ANC 6A and other DC government agencies in coordinating qualified sign language interpreters, captioners, and other accessibility measures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, ANC 6A strongly supports funding the Office for the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard of Hearing (ODBH) in DC's FY2022 budget, urges Mayor Muriel Bowser to fulfill her role to appoint a director of the ODBH, and asks the DC Council and Executive Office of the Mayor to take other steps as necessary to establish ODBH as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC 6A recognizes the following individuals and organizations for years of advocacy and support for the ODBH bill dating back to 2014:

- Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen
- ANC 2B
- Association of Late Deafened Adults
- DC Area Black Deaf Advocates
- DC Association of the Deaf
- Deaf Access Solutions
- Deaf DAWN (formerly Deaf Abused Women's Network)
- Deaf In Government
- Gallaudet University
- Greater Washington Asian Deaf Association (GWADA)
- Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA) - DC Chapter
- Helping Educate to Advance the Rights of the Deaf (HEARD)
- Latino Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association of the Metropolitan DC Area
- Maryland Governor's Office for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Metropolitan Washington Association of the DeafBlind
- National Association of the Deaf
- Virginia Department for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Deaf DC residents Brianne Burger, Graham Forsey, and Sean Maiwald

Attested by:

Amber K. Gove

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Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

April 10, 2021

This Resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0-0 on April 8, 2021 at a public meeting⁶ of ANC6A at which a quorum was present.

⁶ ANC 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.