



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



ANC6A RESOLUTION NO. 2020-001

Resolution regarding ANC6A zero tolerance for racism or other human rights violations; to require human rights training of all elected and appointed representatives of ANC6A; and to establish an ad hoc Committee to recommend changes to ANC6A Bylaws and operations in order to address the need for greater diversity and inclusion in ANC6A Committees.

WHEREAS, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A (ANC6A) is a diverse community comprised of residents who may possess any of the 21 traits protected from discrimination under District of Columbia law; and

WHEREAS, ANC6A seeks to serve all residents of the District who reside within its borders in a fair, respectful, transparent, manner, without regard to race; color; religion; national origin; sex; age; marital status; personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, Family responsibilities, political affiliation; disability; matriculation; familial status; source of income; genetic information; place of residence or business; status as a victim of an intrafamily offense; credit information; status as a victim or family member of a victim of domestic violence, a sexual offense, or stalking; and

WHEREAS, racism that disproportionately adverse impacts on Black, Indigenous, and other Persons of Color, has taken the spotlight in 2020, to the point of being declared a public health emergency across this nation; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia in introducing the *Racial Equity Achieves Results Amendment Act of 2019*, currently under consideration by the Mayor, reported, among other things, that it has become evident that “for many black residents across the District, there exist two pandemics, one being COVID-19, the other, racism;” and

WHEREAS, the Council has further stated that now is the time that local governments can and should take bold steps and remedies to correct the wrongs created by centuries of racist policies that have negatively affected black residents; and

WHEREAS, as an extension of District of Columbia local government, ANC6A must similarly take bold steps and remedies to correct wrongs that have been occasioned under its purview; and

WHEREAS, there are natural and unavoidable consequences of discriminatory acts or practices by representatives of the District government including humiliation, indignity, and other adverse and serious results; and

WHEREAS, appearances and public perception are important in building and maintaining trusting relationships between government and the residents whom we represent in ANC6A; and

WHEREAS, statements made by any ANC official, whether elected as a Commissioner or appointed to serve on an ANC committee, during an official public meeting could be reasonably attributable to the Commission, whether intended or not; and

WHEREAS, in July 2020, this Commission was the subject of controversy in which the Commission was accused, by members of the ANC6A community of engaging in racist behavior, requiring a community discussion at the Community Outreach Committee meeting of August 24, 2020; and

WHEREAS, an ANC6A Commission representative made a racially charged statement, referencing the Middle Passage during official discussions between the Commission as a whole and various officials of District government agencies at the November 12, 2020 monthly Advisory Neighborhood Commission meeting; and

WHEREAS, the conditions for enslaved Africans crossing the Atlantic Ocean in the Middle Passage were brutal and deadly wherein crewmembers segregated enslaved Africans by gender and then chained and packed them closely together in ship holds where they endured up to several months of extreme temperatures, harsh weather, filthy living conditions, and contagious diseases in these ship holds as they crossed the Atlantic Ocean, resulting in the death of approximately 2 million captives; and

WHEREAS, members of the Commission, Committee Members, persons having business before the Commission, and members of the community were deeply offended, humiliated, and angered by the statements made by the Commission representative; and

WHEREAS, community members and District Government officials contacted members of the Commission to voice their hurt, their shock, and their disdain for the behavior that they witnessed during an official government meeting,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC6A declares its refusal to tolerate any actions by any person elected to or appointed to an official position of the Commission that violates any of the aforementioned human rights specified by the government of the District of Columbia in the course of any public meeting of the Commission; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, ANC6A will request a presentation to be provided by the DC Office of Human Rights at a future monthly meeting within the first six months of 2021; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each person holding a position within ANC6A, whether elected or appointed, shall complete Human Rights Liaison training, or its equivalent, offered at no charge by the DC Office of Human Rights and/or the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions during the 2021 calendar year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC6A shall establish an *ad hoc* Committee comprised of Commissioners and community members to review and recommend changes to ANC6A Bylaws, with special attention to required trainings, committee member nomination and selection processes, and mechanisms for increasing diversity and representation of ANC6A Committees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bylaws of ANC6A shall be amended to minimally include mandatory human rights training and, additionally, any other appropriate training on cultural competence, as may be deemed appropriate and selected by the Commission, to be required of any ANC6A Commissioner or the chairperson or co-chairperson of any committee formally organized under the Bylaws of ANC6A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC6A shall review its mechanisms for outreach and communication, to ensure the Commission is making best efforts to reach all residents, including those who may have difficulty accessing digital content; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ANC6A shall issue a letter of apology to all persons present at the November 12, 2020 meeting, with a copy of this Resolution attached thereto, which shall be published on the ANC6A official website with copies delivered to all government officials present.

Attested by:



Amber Gove
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
December 31, 2020

This Resolution was approved by a vote of 7-0 on December 9, 2020 at a public meeting of ANC6A at which a quorum was present.