



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



March 15, 2007

Councilmember Tommy Wells
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 408
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Rehabilitative Services Administration Oversight Hearing March 19, 2007 at MLK Library

Councilmember Wells: *Tommy*

For several years, our Commission has been endeavoring to identify free/low cost interpreting services in the hopes that we could encourage the deaf community to become more involved in the ANC. To date, such services have not been identified although we have been in contact with a provider who charges market-rate. Most recently, we have been in touch with the Advisory Neighborhood Commission coordinator, Mr. Gottlieb Simon. He confirms that ANCs are required, by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), to provide this service. Currently, ANCs are responsible for identifying and paying for these services themselves.

As our ANC is home to a large deaf population, this is of particular importance to us; but must also affect other ANCs as well. Meeting the ADA requirements could potentially absorb a large portion of an ANC budget and places a potentially disproportionate burden on those ANCs who represent a large deaf community. Even locating a service provider is a challenge. It does not make good sense for each ANC to deal with this problem independently.

Accordingly, we request the District provide this service for the ANCs. Failing that, the District should negotiate a contract, with favorable rates, that ANCs can access at their own expense.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc: Mr. Gottlieb Simon