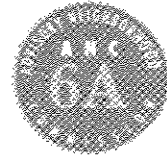


District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



June 16, 2008

The Public Charter School Board
3333 14th Street, NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20010

Dear Board Members:

Please provide Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6A with 30 day advance notice of any proceeding to grant a new charter or to grant permission for an expansion campus of an existing charter school within boundaries of ANC 6A. Notice of such action to the appropriate ANC is required, pursuant to DC ST § 1-309.10 (see attachment).

In testimony before the Zoning Commission on May 11, 2006, the PCSB Chair, Thomas Nida, outlines several topics on which ANCs are uniquely qualified to provide relevant information and advice to the PCSB. In that testimony, Mr. Nida stated that the PCSB will conduct a demographic or competitive assessment of each proposed new school and/or location. We assume that means the PCSB will attempt to determine if the immediate neighborhood is adequately served by other educational institutions, or if a gap exists that the proposed school can fill. ANCs, because of their intimate knowledge of the community, can provide valuable input to such an assessment.

Mr. Nida states in his testimony that “[charter school applicants] have to demonstrate community support for their program” He also states that PCSB looks “...at what schools they [*the proposed new or expanding schools*] will be competing with in that location”. We agree that there is no sense in placing a new school in a neighborhood where there is no need for additional programs or in a location that is not suitable for a school. Again, ANCs are well prepared to speak to the need for, and desirability of, new school programs within their community.

We are aware that AppleTree Institute for Education Innovation wishes to establish a public charter school within our community. We expect that they will soon seek permission for that expansion campus. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss these plans with you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Fengler, Chair

cc: Councilmember Tommy Wells
Gottlieb Simon, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

ATTACHMENT :

This request is pursuant to the ANC notification requirements found at DC ST § 1-309.10:

(b) Thirty days written notice, excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays of such District government actions or proposed actions, including (1) the intent to acquire an interest in real property, either through purchase or lease or (2) the intent to change the use of property owned or leased by or on behalf of the government, shall be given by first-class mail to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, each affected Commission, the Commissioner representing a single-member district affected by said actions, and to each affected Ward Councilmember, except where shorter notice on good cause made and published with the notice may be provided or in the case of an emergency and such notice shall be published in the District of Columbia Register. In cases in which the 30-day written notice requirement is not satisfied, notification of such proposed government action or actions to the Commissioner representing the affected single-member district shall be made by mail. The Register shall be made available, without cost, to each Commission. A central record of all such notices shall be held by the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

(c) (1) Proposed District government actions covered by this part shall include, but shall not be limited to, actions of the Council of the District of Columbia, the executive branch, or independent agencies, boards, and commissions. In addition to those notices required in subsection (a) of this section, each agency, board and commission shall, before the award of any grant funds to a citizen organization or group, before the transmission to the Council of a proposed revenue bond issuance, or before the formulation of any final policy decision or guideline with respect to grant applications, comprehensive plans, requested or proposed zoning changes, variances, public improvements, licenses, or permits affecting said Commission area, the District budget and city goals and priorities, proposed changes in District government service delivery, and the opening of any proposed facility systems, provide to each affected Commission notice of the proposed action as required by subsection (b) of this section. Each District of Columbia government entity shall maintain a record of the notices sent to each Commission pursuant to subsection (b) of this section...

(d) (1) Each Commission so notified pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of this section of the proposed District government action or actions shall consider each such action or actions in a meeting with notice given in accordance with § 1-309.11(c) which is open to the public in accordance with 1-309.11(g). The recommendations of the Commission, if any, shall be in writing and articulate the basis for its decision.

(2) At the close of business of the day after which the notice period concludes as provided in subsection (b) or (c) of this section, the affected District government entity may proceed to make its decision.

(3) (A) The issues and concerns raised in the recommendations of the Commission shall be given great weight during the deliberations by the government entity. Great weight

requires acknowledgement of the Commission as the source of the recommendations and explicit reference to each of the Commission's issues and concerns...

(B) In all cases the government entity is required to articulate its decision in writing. The written rationale of the decision shall articulate with particularity and precision the reasons why the Commission does or does not offer persuasive advice under the circumstances. In so doing, the government entity must articulate specific findings and conclusions with respect to each issue and concern raised by the Commission. Further, the government entity is required to support its position on the record.

(C) The government entity shall promptly send to the Commission and the respective ward Councilmember a copy of its written decision.

(4) Oral testimony shall be followed as if provided in advance in writing as required by paragraph (1) of this subsection when accompanied within 7 days by written documentation approved by the respective Commission, which supports the testimony.