



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



September 28, 2014

Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie  
Chair, Committee on Government Operations  
350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 506,  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Bill 20-471 - The Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Transparency Amendment  
Act Of 2014

Dear Councilmember McDuffie,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting<sup>1</sup> on September 11, 2014, our Commission voted 7-0-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to oppose Bill 20-471. While we appreciate the intent of Bill 20-417 and support increased transparency throughout the District government, we must oppose Bill 20-147 in its current form. If enacted, the bill will add significantly to the administrative and compliance obligations of ANC's.

The proposed legislation lists eleven (11) types of official action ANC's would be required to report to the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) within fourteen (14) days of each meeting and shortens the reporting period for amendments to ANC bylaws from thirty (30) days to fourteen (14) days. Additionally, it requires that the OANC develop and maintain a publicly assessable database of the documents. The time required to file reports with the OANC is very demanding and the reporting requirements will add significantly to the monthly administrative duties of ANC 6A.

There are many potential consequences of the proposed legislation. The additional reporting burdens will detract from our ability to best serve our community. They will distract our Commission from addressing the tasks and issues on which we should be focusing. The additional burden may require our Commission to assume the cost of employing staff to assist with reporting actions to the OANC. Without additional city funding or support those cost will divert funds from other important functions of our Commission. Our Commissioners volunteer a great deal of personal time to serving constituents and making our Commission an efficient and effective government body. Adding to the work of Commissioners will only discourage citizens from volunteering to serve as ANC Commissioners.

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



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Additionally, the OANC does not currently have adequately staff and resources to meet the obligations assigned by the proposed legislation. Cataloguing, managing and electronically posting hundreds of reports from 37 ANC each month will require significant human and technical resources that do not currently exist in the OANC.

ANC 6A has for the past decade operated with the degree of transparency this proposed legislation aims to achieve. Each month we post on our website ([anc6a.org](http://anc6a.org)) all of the documents and information that would be required by the proposed legislation. Materials dating back to 2003 are publicly available on our website. The proposed legislation would only serve to duplicate the efforts of our Commission while requiring additional work for our Commission.

We ask the Committee on Government Operations to closely evaluate what affects the proposed legislation will have on ANC's and the OANC before proceeding further with deliberations of Bill 20-147. The goals of this legislation do not justify the extreme burden it would place on ANC's and the OANC, and the detrimental consequences that will result from such a bill. In the event that the Committee goes forward with the legislation, we ask that the reporting deadline be extended from 14 days to a minimum of 30 days.

On Behalf of the Commission,

Nicholas Alberti  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A