



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



December 14, 2018

Mr. Scott Pearson
Executive Director
DC Public Charter School Board
3333 14th St NW, Suite 210
Washington, DC 20010

RE: Proposed Revisions to the Advisory Neighborhood Commission Notification Policy

Dear Mr. Pearson:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on December 13, 2018, our Commission voted 7-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to express our concern regarding the DC Public Charter School Board's (DC PCSB) proposed changes to its Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) Notification Policy.

Our concerns hinge on two proposed changes to the existing policy: 1) that notification will be triggered only in the case of those actions that DC PCSB deems to "significantly affect the surrounding community" and 2) that notification occur thirty (30) business days before a public hearing or voting on any such action.

Instead, our Commission recommends that all DC PCSB actions requiring a public hearing or vote trigger notification to the ANC. We consider all of the Charter Amendment Request items listed in the current policy (under Item 2, Approval/Denial of Charter Amendment Requests) to be likely to "significantly affect the surrounding community" and therefore recommend that they be retained.

We also recommend that the DC PCSB consider notification of at least sixty (60) business days prior to a public hearing or vote as the minimum notification period. We believe an extended notification period is necessary to allow Commissioners to adequately review and communicate the proposed changes to our communities.

DC Public and Charter Schools operate in parallel, but not always in coordination. As authorized representatives of our communities, ANCs can help to communicate proposed changes, including the creation of new Charter Schools, Charter Amendment Requests, Renewals, Continuance and Revocations to our residents. ANC meetings are the most accessible means for communities to weigh in on DC PCSB actions: our meetings occur monthly, are publicly and properly noticed and are held in our neighborhoods. While

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc-6a@yahoogroups.com, and newhilleast@yahoogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.



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actions may have been deliberated for months by individual charter schools and the DC PCSB, ANC notification may well be the first indication of change to a particular neighborhood. Maintaining the current list of notification triggers and extending the time required for notification will permit our communities to have greater input, involvement and insight into the use of public funds.

Thank you giving great weight to the recommendations of ANC6A. Please be advised that Commissioner Amber Gove and I are authorized on behalf of ANC6A for the purposes of this request.

On behalf of the Commission,

Phil Toomajian
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Paul Kihn, Acting Deputy Mayor for Education
David Grosso, Chair, D.C. Council Committee on Education
Councilmember Robert White, Member, D.C. Council Committee on Education
Charles Allen, Councilmember, Ward 6, D.C. Council