



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



May 13, 2016

Phil Mendelson
Chair, Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504,
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on May 12, 2016, our Commission voted 8-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to request that the Council of the District of Columbia pass and fund the “Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Access to Sign-Language Interpreters Amendment Act of 2016”, B21-0737.

Our ANC is located adjacent to Gallaudet University and home to numerous residents who require sign language interpreters to participate in community meetings. Already this year, ANC6A has accumulated thousands of dollars in expenses accommodating reasonable requests from residents who wish to participate in our Commission and Committee meetings. Recently, additional residents with sign language interpretation needs have contacted our Commission to express an interest in participating in on a regular basis. Unfortunately, our current budget limits our ability to adequately accommodate our residents with these needs and the District’s Office of Disability Rights does not pay for these services for our meetings. The need to accommodate our residents by paying for sign language interpreters out of our existing budget is potentially crippling and necessitates prompt Council action to enact and fund this proposed pilot program.

The “Advisory Neighborhood Commission Access to Sign Language Interpreters Amendment Act of 2016” legislation drafted by Councilmembers Allen and McDuffie goes a long way to allowing our and other Commissions to accommodate all of our residents who wish to participate in our community. Our Commission fully supports the legislation and commends these Councilmembers and the rest of the eleven Councilmembers who have already cosponsored the legislation for their leadership. We ask that act expeditiously to authorize and fund the program so that we may reasonably accommodate our constituents when they seek to participate in ANC meetings.

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



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Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendation of ANC 6A. Should you wish to discuss this letter with the Commission, please do not hesitate to contact me at philanc6a@gmail.com.

On behalf of the Commission,

Phil Toomajian,
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Councilmember Charles Allen
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie
Councilmember Anita Bonds
ANC6C Chair Karen Wirt
ANC5D Chair Adam Roberts
OANC Director Gottlieb Simon