

# GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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May 2, 2024

Mayor Muriel Bowser Mayor Government of the District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20004 muriel.bowser@dc.gov Councilmember Brooke Pinto Ward 2 Councilmember Council of the District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106 Washington, DC 20004 bpinto@dccouncil.gov

Chairman Phil Mendelson Chair, Committee of the Whole Council of the District of Columbia 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504 Washington, DC 20004 pmendelson@dccouncil.gov

## **RE: The Mayor's Proposed FY25 Budget**

Dear Mayor Muriel Bowser, Chairman Phil Mendelson, and Councilmember Brooke Pinto,

On May 1st, 2024 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by eight commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-1) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E is pleased to see that the proposed FY25 budget prioritizes many items critical to our community and the city as a whole. However, some essential areas are not properly funded.

ANC 2E urges the Council and the Mayor to ensure funding for the four key items below. Per <u>ANC 2E's initial budget request</u>, these items are critical to our city's goals to improve education, promote green transportation, and make our roads safe.

### Education

1. *There should be no cuts to School staffing*. Based on very recent statistics, DC student achievement must be improved – it is at unacceptable levels. School staffing is critical to our goal of much stronger student achievement.

COMMISSIONERS:

Kishan Putta, District 1 Topher Mathews, District 2Paul Maysak, District 3Joe Massaua, District 4Mimsy Lindner, District 5Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6Daniel Chao, District 7John DiPierri, District 8

2. *Funding for MacArthur High School auditorium is essential.* This new school – the first new high school in this area in decades - must have the proper rooms required to operate a high school, thus the lack of an auditorium is a massive gap. Funding is also needed for college counseling (like at other high schools) and school field trips.

#### WMATA

3. Although Georgetown has over 12 million visitors per year, plus a significant number of the city's employees and residents, Georgetown's only two public transit options are Metrobus and Circulator. While we understand that the economics of the entire Circulator system are not sustainable, it makes sense to consider retaining the original route between Union Station and Georgetown – operated by WMATA – which stops at multiple commercial corridors. This route does not duplicate other east-west bus services.

Alternatively, should this one route or the Circulator system be ended, Georgetown's bus service must be replaced and improved before the Circulator is no longer available. A clear transition period is needed. Our tax revenue – sales and employee – depends on it. We urge the Council to ensure WMATA commits to replacing the routes to/from Georgetown with new WMATA routes, or keeping the route. Again, the replacement of these specific routes is even more essential given that Georgetown, unlike other areas, does not have a metro station.

#### DPW

4. *Parking Enforcement* is desperately needed throughout the city, and in Georgetown's commercial area and the residential areas. The current budget proposes only two more FTEs across the city. Two new staff members are insufficient to address the significant amount of illegal loading/unloading and illegal parking occurring on the city's roads. This illegal activity is causing congestion and safety issues for all who use the roads, especially pedestrians and bikers.

Chair Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) is the commissions representative in the matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gwendolyn Lohse Chair, ANC 2E

CC:

Grace Reeder, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services Brian Romanowski, Constituent Services Director for Councilmember Brooke Pinto