



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

"Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C."

June 24, 2020

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

RE: Relief for Impacted Workers as Part of DC's FY 2021 Budget

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on June 17, 2020, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**6-0-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Harnett, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, DC is home to over 30,000 residents who cannot access federal assistance through unemployment insurance and/or the federal stimulus. DC’s FY 2021 budget must include cash assistance for those excluded by the federal government so that they too can survive the prolonged health and economic crisis through next year,

WHEREAS, tens of thousands of DC residents are excluded from federal unemployment insurance (UI) relief efforts. Excluded workers are overwhelmingly black and immigrant residents who have also been among the hardest hit by COVID-19. The vast majority of these DC residents are low-income workers who do not have the savings needed to get by without work for many months,

WHEREAS, cash assistance is urgently needed for excluded workers. Unfortunately, undocumented workers are ineligible for direct payments, UI, and Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Congress also cruelly excluded those in families of mixed-immigration status from receiving the one-time federal payments. In a mixed-immigration household, some tax filers or their children may use an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN), which the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issues to those without social security numbers so that they can pay taxes. If anyone in the household uses an ITIN, no one in the household will qualify for the one-time federal payment, unless at least one spouse served in the military in 2019. This means that families with U.S. citizen children and authorized non-citizen workers are entirely excluded from federal stimulus payments,



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WHEREAS, residents who have lost their jobs through no fault of their own are in dire need of modest assistance so that they can afford the basics. Given exclusions at the federal level, the DC Government must find local dollars to ensure that all DC residents get the help they need. Leaving any of our neighbors behind is morally wrong and antithetical to our professed values as a sanctuary city,

WHEREAS, Events DC's \$5 million investment in cash assistance for undocumented residents is woefully inadequate; much more is needed. The current investment will not reach approximately 25,000 of DC's excluded workers, while the \$1,000 benefit is not enough to sustain families during an economic crisis that will span for many more months. Additionally, unfortunately, this limited fund does not cover non-immigrant cash economy workers at all,

WHEREAS, DC can afford to protect all of DC's excluded workers DC through using our reserves, raising additional revenue, or re-allocating non-essential funding. When assessing the actual needs of all of DC's excluded workers, \$30 million is a modest ask compared to \$250 million if DC were to provide comparable cash assistance to workers in the formal economy, and

WHEREAS, the city can afford to fund a temporary program to help stabilize families that call DC home. Before the pandemic began, DC had \$1.43 billion dollars in reserves, and under the newly-passed relief legislation, DC can borrow \$500 million in the 2020 fiscal year to help us meet cash flow needs and stay afloat. This better enables the DC Government to provide more adequate assistance for excluded workers beyond the funding that Events DC announced. The Mayor's budget uses the entire \$213 million Fiscal Stabilization Fund, but the other three reserves appear to be refilled by year's end. District policymakers rightly discuss how great it is that the city has been able to build up its reserves for a rainy day. They should be just as proud to use reserves when a rainy day comes. That time is now.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to reallocate money to support excluded workers in the Mayor's proposed budget that would have a limited effect on key services.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) and James Harnett (2A08@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.



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Sincerely,

James Harnett
Acting Chairperson