

	<p align="center">ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</p> <p align="center">CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS • CLEVELAND PARK MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS McLEAN GARDENS • WOODLEY PARK</p>
<p><i>Single Member District Commissioners</i> 01-Lee Brian Reba * 02-Gwendolyn Bole * 03-David Valdez 04-Arthur Barkmann * 05-Margaret Siegel * 06-Carl Roller 07- Victor Silveira * 08-Catherine May * 09-Nancy MacWood</p>	<p align="right">P.O. Box 4966 Washington, DC 20008 Website http://www.anc3c.org Email all@anc3c.org</p>

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Anita Bonds
Chairman, Committee on Housing and Community Development
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 110
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Bonds:

ANC 3C thanks you for your long and comprehensive efforts to revise the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) law to clarify notice requirements and to improve implementation of “great weight.” We have appreciated the opportunity to meet with you to discuss aspects of the current law and to testify on the ANC Omnibus Amendments Act of 2016. It is with great regret that ANC 3C now urges you to recommend to your Council colleagues that the substitute bill 21-697, which replaces the omnibus bill you introduced, be withdrawn from the consent calendar and not be scheduled for any vote for the remainder of this year.

ANCs have not been given the opportunity to review and comment on significant changes to the omnibus bill which are contained in the substitute bill and which seriously diminish the role of the ANC and the provisions for notice and “great weight”.

Notice requirements and response to “great weight” authority are the two most significant means by which an ANC functions to represent citizens. The substitute bill diminishes the notice requirement and thus, the ability of ANC’s to exercise “great weight” on potential decisions that could significantly affect the neighborhoods ANC 3C represents. The intentional exemption of the Council and the Mayor from the requirement to extend “great weight” to properly and publicly approved positions on matters initiated by the Council or the Mayor initiated matters which affect neighborhoods is both bizarre and an affront. It undermines the purpose of an Advisory Neighborhood Commission and diminishes the voice accorded to residents.

ANC commissioners are elected every two years, which affords residents the opportunity to continually evaluate how commissioners represent their interests and validate that commissioners are indeed representing their points of view. ANC commissioners represent the same residents as at-large and ward councilmembers do, but ANC commissioners are specifically charged with being the official voice of neighborhoods. Nonetheless, ANCs are advisory and cannot compel any decision maker to follow an ANC’s advice. The “great weight” required response to ANC positions has meant that the Council and Mayor - and agencies, boards, and commissions - must acknowledge that a recommendation comes from an ANC and then articulate why the Council or the Mayor has chosen not to follow the ANC recommendation on significant matters where the ANC was noticed

that the matter was important. It is a small requirement that informs ANC's and our neighborhood residents why elected Councilmembers and the Mayor didn't agree with the ANC's position.

Rather than validating the role of ANC's, the substitute bill diminishes the ANC role in civic decision making. **ANC 3C cannot support the substitute bill. We urge you to abandon its consideration by the Council and any vote on its passage.**¹ We realize that the omnibus bill will die at the end of 2016 and that your enormous efforts to empower ANC's may not include introducing a new bill in 2017. However, we hope that you will continue to seek clarity on ANC notice requirements and provide ANC's with "great weight" influence on the full range of civic matters that greatly affect our residents.

Best regards,



Catherine May
Chairman, ANC3C

CC: The Honorable Phil Mendelson, Chairman
The Honorable Brianne Nadeau, Ward 1
The honorable Jack Evans, Ward 2
The Honorable Mary Cheh, Ward 3
The Honorable Brandon Todd, Ward 4
The Honorable Kenyan McDuffie, Ward 5
The Honorable Charles Allen, Ward 6
The Honorable Yvette Alexander, Ward 7
The Honorable La Ruby May, Ward 8
The Honorable David Grosso, At Large
The Honorable Elisa Silverman, At Large
The Honorable Robert White, Jr. At Large

¹ This letter was not considered at an ANC 3C public meeting because the issue arose between meetings. This letter will be placed on ANC3C's agenda for a formal vote at the December 12, 2016 public meeting. Addendum: It was ratified by voice vote on December 12, 2016, at a properly noticed public meeting, at which a majority of ANC3C Commissioners were present.