



Government of the District of Columbia

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C

P.O. Box 77876 Washington, D.C. 20013, (202) 547-7168

January 24, 2018

The Hon. Mary M. Cheh
Council of the District of Columbia
Chair, Committee on Transportation and the Environment
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Community Use of School Facilities Task Force Establishment Act of 2017 (B22-39)
and Ensuring Community Access to Recreational Spaces Act of 2017 (B22-613)

Dear Councilmember Cheh,

On January 10, 2018 at a duly noticed regularly scheduled monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C, with a quorum of five out of six commissioners and the public present, ANC 6C considered the above-referenced legislative matters and resolved as follows:

The commissioners voted unanimously, 5:0:0, to support the Community Use of School Facilities Task Force Establishment Act of 2017 (B22-39) legislation as written.

The commissioners also voted unanimously, 5:0:0, to support the Ensuring Community Access to Recreational Spaces Act of 2017 (B22-613), but with the following qualifications:

Use Prioritization

ANC 6C supports the use prioritization regime set forth in lines 44 to 56. ANC 6C, however, does not believe that the mediation regime provided for in lines 61-67 is manageable. Instead, the Department of General Services (DGS) should promulgate regulations in the future to mediate between competing users.

Application Intake

The legislation should be amended to mandate that DGS/DCPS promulgate regulations to establish pre-defined, “open-call” windows for receipt of applications at all facilities. Such regulations should ensure that we do not have a “first come, first served” regime that effectively denies priority to youth sports, non-profits and other groups listed in lines 44 to 56. (Lines 57-60 address only the unusual case in which two applicants of the same

priority submit an application, but do not account for the more common scenario in which multiple applicants with different priority apply on different dates.)

Schedule of Uses

The legislation should be amended to require that DGS publish and maintain online an updated schedule for activities conducted at all DCPS school facilities/grounds. We also recommend that the language concerning “open community use” in lines 70 to 71 be strengthened to encourage and promote such use consistent with other demands on a given facility.

Morning use restrictions:

The legislation should be amended to establish that DCPS/DGS shall not grant any permit for the use of an outdoor DCPS facility or grounds, or otherwise provide for “open community use” at such DCPS location, to the extent that such use would (i) commence prior to 7:00 AM and (ii) occur within or immediately adjacent to a residentially zoned neighborhood. Unlike with indoor facilities, outdoor facility activities are likely to disrupt residents’ sleep and other quiet enjoyment of their homes in the early morning hours. (We also suggest the Council consider whether, and to what extent, similar restrictions on late-evening and nighttime use of outdoor facilities is warranted.)

Reporting

Finally, we recommend that the reporting required in lines 30-33 be performed quarterly, not annually, and that copies of all such reports be furnished to the relevant ANC(s) as well.

Thank you for giving great weight to the recommendations of ANC 6C.

cc: Charles Allen, Councilmember Ward 6

On behalf of ANC 6C,



Karen Wirt
ANC 6C chair

