March 16, 2018

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Chair, Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 404
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Providing American Sign Language interpreters at Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings

Dear Councilmember Bonds,

On March 14, 2018, at a regularly scheduled, duly noticed monthly meeting of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6C, with a quorum of six out of six commissioners and the public present, the above-mentioned matter came before us. The commissioners voted unanimously, 6:0:0, to send you this letter.

ANC 6C is located adjacent to Gallaudet University and is home to numerous residents who require sign language interpreters to participate in community meetings. Already this year, ANC 6C has accumulated thousands of dollars in expenses accommodating reasonable requests from residents who wish to participate in our meetings. The average interpreting costs to ANC Commissions in 2017 was $600 per meeting, which if requested monthly is more than the annual allocation for the District’s smallest ANC Commissions and one-third of the annual allocation of the District’s largest ANC Commissions. In ANC 6C the need to accommodate our residents by paying for sign language interpreters out of our existing budget compromises our ability to provide grants to deserving nonprofits, including human services and educational organizations, that are doing important work for hundreds of residents and students within our ANC. We are requesting that the Council provide funding in the amount of $15,000 in the FY2019 budget that will be accessible to all ANCs and will allow them to pay for sign language interpreters.

Thank you for giving weight to this ANC 6C recommendation.

On behalf of ANC 6C,

Karen Wirt
ANC 6C chair