



To Save DC Retailers and Restaurants \$7,500-14,500 by Limiting the Surcharge Credit-Card Companies and Banks Can Impose for Use of their Credit & Debit Cards

At a regularly scheduled, properly noticed, Executive Committee meeting on May 27th, 2025, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted (8-0-0) to support the following resolution:

WHEREAS, banks and credit-card companies charge retailers, including restaurants, a fee each time a customer uses a credit or debit card for a purchase, a fee based on a percentage of the total bill, commonly called a “swipe fee” or “interchange fee,” and

WHEREAS, the percentage is usually 2-4% of the total bill, and

WHEREAS, at restaurants the total bill includes both tax and tip, meaning that the swipe-fee amount depends on something unrelated to the retail price of the product or service, and varies depending on the jurisdiction’s sales tax, and

WHEREAS, restaurants keep neither the tax nor the tip portion of the bill, but must send the tax portion to the District of Columbia and the tip portion to waitstaff, making it unfair to require restaurants to bear that portion of the swipe fee, and

WHEREAS, DC restaurants pay an average of \$7,500-14,500 per year on swipe fees just on taxes and tips, with at least one restaurant paying an annual swipe fee of \$75,000 just on taxes and tips, and

WHEREAS, Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen and seven other councilmembers have introduced the Fair Swipe Act of 2025, B26-138, which would eliminate the portion of swipe fees that covers taxes and tips, and

WHEREAS, supporting local retailers helps keep communities vibrant, and

WHEREAS, swipe fees benefit national and international banks and credit-card companies, at the expense of local retailers and consumers,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 6B URGES THE DC COUNCIL TO ENACT THE FAIR SWIPE ACT AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.