



May 27, 2019

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Chairman Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

VIA EMAIL - pmendelson@dccouncil.us

Subject: Freedom of Information Clarification Amendment

Dear Mr. Chairman Mendelson,

At a regularly scheduled properly noticed meeting on May 14, 2019, with a quorum present Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 8-1-0 to write you regarding the Freedom of Information Clarification Amendment that is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget. ANC6B opposes the amendment.

The amendment limits the definition to public record, narrowing it to “information regarding the affairs of government and the official acts of public officials and employees.” Earlier this year, the public learned about efforts on the part of Councilmember Evans to solicit private business using his official Council of the District of Columbia email address. This information was shared pursuant to the current definition of “public record” and this transparency of action must remain.

But for transparency of information, we would not know about the \$ 3 million DC tax dollars used to pay sexual harassment and sexual assault settlement agreements and judgements involving DC agency employees. We would not know about the significant decline in parking enforcement on Capitol Hill nor MPD’s policies for reviewing body camera video.

We therefore respectfully request that the Freedom of Information Act Amendment be removed from the Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.

Please contact Commissioner Denise Krepp, at 6B10@anc.dc.gov if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,



Chander Jayaraman

Chair, ANC 6B

Cc:

Anita Bonds, At-Large Councilmember
David Grosso, At-Large Councilmember
Elissa Silverman, At-Large Councilmember
Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large Councilmember
Brianna K. Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember
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Trayon White, Sr., Ward 8 Councilmember