



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

RESOLUTION #4B-20-XXXX

ANC 4B Concerns Regarding the ReOpen DC Recommendations Regarding Phased Opening of Schools and Childcare Centers Adopted June 22, 2020

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (the Commission) takes note of the following:

- On March 11, 2020, the Mayor issued Order #2020-045 and Order #2020-046 declaring a public emergency and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - The intent of the Order was to temporarily cease all non-essential business activities in the District of Columbia (the District), other than those conducted safely at home, to include but not limited to schools and childcare centers.
 - The Mayor's Order became effective on March 25, 2020, through April 24, 2020.
- On April 15, 2020, the Mayor issued Order #2020-063 extending the public emergency and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This order became effective on April 17, 2020.
 - This Order extended the provisions of all previous COVID-19 related orders through May 15, 2020
- On April 23, 2020, during a press conference, the Mayor discussed the newly created advisory group, ReOpen DC, tasked with making recommendations for how to safely reopen the District, including but not limited to schools and childcare centers.
- On May 13, 2020, the Mayor issued Order #2020-066, which further extended the public emergency and public health emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This order became effective on May 16, 2020.

○ This Order extended the provisions of all previous COVID-19 related orders through June 8, 2020.

- The ReOpen DC committee and sub-committees issued their recommendations to the public on May 21, 2020, during the Mayor's press conference.

RESOLVED:

- The Commission appreciates the efforts of the ReOpen DC Advisory Committee and sub-committees but has some concerns and additional recommendations:
 - The overall make-up of the Education and Childcare sub-committees lacks anyone with a substantive background in educational best practices, experience in teaching within the District of Columbia Public School (DCPS) system or any members of the District of Columbia Public Charter School Board (DCPCSB), the District of Columbia State Board of Education (SBOE) or Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE).
 - This lack of diversity put the committee at a disadvantage of truly understanding the unique issues surrounding those who work in this field and those who rely substantially on educators to support their child's individual needs.
 - The lack of diversity of educators has not allowed for a robust discussion on the current inequities in education throughout the city and how this time as we work to enter stage one (1) of the re-open plan can be used to make systemic changes.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

- The Commission is extremely concerned with stage one (1) allowing for the limited reopening of childcare services for children of on-site critical workers, with a limit of ten (10) people per room.
- The Commission feels that opening any child care facility at stage 1, even with universal standards of physical distancing, appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE), personal hygiene and sanitation practices, and health screenings is not sufficient to ensure the health and safety of the employees or the children under their care.

- The ReOpen DC recommendations also call for partial reopening for children in preschool, K-12 and receiving adult education through stages two (2) and three (3) with a blended instruction model to include distance learning and in-person learning. Childcare centers and all schools should remain closed until at a minimum stage four (4) when a treatment protocol and/or vaccine is approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), after appropriate vetting, testing and approval based on approved scientific methodologies.
- Until such time as an approved treatment protocol and/or vaccine is available, the District must ensure that all students who do not have access to appropriate devices, e.g., a desktop, laptop or tablet with access to Hotspots, Wi-Fi or government subsidized broadband services, are provided with to them to complete their assignments. Use of these devices and the accompanying technology should continue until the District has reached stage four (4) of the ReOpen DC plan.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That Commissioner Tiffani Nichole Johnson, ANC 4B06, is hereby authorized to serve as the Commission’s representative in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, if the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out her representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code §1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by a voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of __ of nine members was present) on June 22, 2020, by a vote of _____yes, _____no, _____abstain.