



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

[DRAFT] RESOLUTION #4B-22-1010

**Calling for Coordinated Approach & Action by
DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment
to Address Downed Wires in Public Space
Adopted October 24, 2022**

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B takes note of the following:

- Residents within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B regularly raise concerns about downed wires in public space. Wires become dislodged and dangle from poles and other wires, creating live-wire hazards, tripping hazards, and choking hazards. Residents often take self-help measures like wrapping downed wires around or pinning them to utility poles. Photographs are attached to this Resolution showing some of the many issues with downed wires in public space.
- The District government does not meaningfully address downed wires in public space. Residents and Commissioners cannot submit 311 requests for downed wires in public space, and if they do so those requests are either ignored or there is a statement to avoid touching live wires. Commissioners have sought to expand 311 requests for city services to include requests related to downed wires in public space to no avail.
- Residents and Commissioners are sometimes instructed to determine which company owns a downed wire, which is often not possible. Residents and Commissioners can visit the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment's [cable provider map](#), and may be able to determine one or more companies that service a specific address. The resident or Commissioner can then contact each of those companies to try to determine who owns the wire. Often, the result of these efforts is that a company like Pepco can come tag a wire as not belonging to them, but that is only if the resident or Commissioner can get the company to respond and visit the location to take that action.
- If they are even aware they can do so, residents and Commissioners can contact the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment for assistance with downed wires in public space. To the Commission's knowledge, the Office's [public website](#) contains no information that they

can provide assistance with downed wires in public space. Commissioners have learned that there is one individual within the Office who can assist. That individual can somehow determine who owns downed wires and how to get them addressed. It is by pure luck – or maybe word of mouth – that a Commissioner or resident knows the right path to find the one individual who can provide assistance.

- It seems that at a minimum 311 requests for downed wires in public space could be sent to this one individual within the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment.
- Downed wires in public space – much like other requests for services in public spaces that rely on residents to take action – create equity concerns. Commissioners have noticed down wires in public space are a larger challenge in areas that are otherwise underserved by the DC government.

RESOLVED:

- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment to implement a proactive program to address downed wires in public space. Possible solutions include regulation for company responsibility that penalizes companies that allow their wires to become a nuisance and creates an incentive to remediate downed wires proactively and/or a user fee modeled on the [paint stewardship program](#) or the [911 fee](#) that could finance dedicated District staff to remediate wires, poles, and other related issues.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Office of Unified Communications, in coordination with the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment, to develop and implement a system for reporting downed wires in public space to 311. At a minimum, this system could do what already happens by email (when people have the information) of sending the request to the relevant individual within the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the DC Office of Cable Television, Film, Music and Entertainment to develop a clear and public explanation of how residents can address downed wires in public space.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their 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 voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of X members was present) on October 24, 2022, by a vote of X yes, X no, X abstentions.