Government of the District of Columbia
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

[DRAFT] RESOLUTION #4B-23-0802

Calling for the District Department of Public Works to Conduct More Regular Collection of Public Trash and Recycling Cans and for Greater Transparency Regarding Location of Cans and Frequency of Collection
Adopted August 28, 2023

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

- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B considers public trash cans and collection of trash from these cans essential public services. The Commission has repeatedly called for improved and expanded public trash cans and trash collection services:

  - Letter Requesting Information regarding DPW's Public Litter Can Collection & Zero Waste Efforts (Apr. 26, 2021) (requesting "the locations of public trash cans and public recycling cans throughout the District," "a map of routes and details regarding the dates and frequency of collection for public trash cans throughout the District," and "the volume of trash collected along specific routes across the District");

  - Letter Providing Feedback on the District Department of Public Works (DPW) Office of Waste Diversion's Zero Waste DC Plan Draft Framework (Sept. 28, 2022) ("Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B supports efforts to improve and expand public trash cans and collection to address litter and considers these essential public services.... Public trash cans and trash collection are a public service: If public trash cans are overburdened, the Commission would like to see additional public trash cans, changes in trash can design, and more frequent collection, and not the removal of public trash cans or reduction in collection.");

  - Resolution 4B-22-1101, Providing Additional Feedback on DPW Zero Waste Plan (Nov. 28, 2022) ("[I]t is essential to note that

public trash cans and trash collection are an essential service and should be implemented to meet need.");

- Resolution 4B-23-0302, Calling on District Department of Public Works to Install or Reinstall Public Trash Cans in Locations Within Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (Mar. 27, 2023) ("If public trash cans are overburdened, the Commission requests additional public trash cans and more frequent collection, and not the removal of public trash cans or reduction in collection.").

- Following Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B's successful advocacy for additional public trash cans throughout the Commission area, Commissioners communicated with representatives from the District Department of Public Works to ensure frequent collection from these and other public cans throughout the Commission area:

  - Commissioner Kevin Gilligan, ANC 4B05, asked for "the planned routine collection schedule for the locations." He noted, "[i]n the past, some cans were removed because they would overflow and attract rodents, upsetting nearby residents. Knowing the collection schedule would help immensely to ensure it is consistent with the actual use of the cans as time goes on. For example, if a certain trash can routinely overflows before collection, perhaps the collection can become more frequent."

  - Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02, asked for "the specific collection schedule for specific cans." She noted, "[f]rom our end, if people are complaining about overflowing, it's helpful to be able to tell them exactly how often it's collected and possibly ask for more frequent collection (if necessary and possible on DPW's end)."

  - A representative from the District Department of Public Works responded that the agency's "goal is to collect the cans nightly," but that the agency "sometimes fall short of that mark."

  - When Commissioner Gilligan asked about data regarding collection, the agency responded, "[u]nfortunately, we do not have data at this moment as we are in the process to upgrade data collection and technological systems."

  These communications are attached to this Resolution.

- Commissioners and residents regularly submit 311 requests for overflowing public trash and recycling cans. When the District Department of Public Works does not regularly collect from all public cans, these cans overflow and residents complain. The Department's past practice of removing public trash cans without notice appears to have been in response – at least in part – to its own collection deficiencies.

- The District Department of Public Works has repeatedly referenced a "tour" of public trash cans and an "assessment" of public trash can collection service but has not provided either to Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, despite past requests (see attachments). The Commission continues to lack transparent, public-facing information regarding locations of public trash and recycling cans, collection schedules, and responsible agencies.

- Other Advisory Neighborhood Commissions across the District have expressed similar interest in maintaining service levels for public trash and recycling can collection, as well as transparency around the locations of public trash and recycling cans, collection schedules, and responsible agencies. *See, e.g.*, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 5F, Resolution, Requesting Community Enforcement of Littering Laws and Trash Pick-Up for the Department of Public Works (DPW) (May 23, 2023) (requesting daily pickup from public trash cans); Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1E, Letter Asking DPW for Bins (Sept. 1, 2022) ("Public trash cans and trash collection are important public services for residents in the District."); Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2F, Resolution Regarding the Department of Public Works' Public Litter Can Program (Apr. 7, 2021) (calling for the Department to "update the map and roster of all public litter cans in the District currently available on opendata.dc.gov last updated 9/21/2017," share "[t]he collection schedule for each area of the city – days, time of day, frequency -- similar to the Trash Collection Days data available on opendata.dc.gov," and provide a "[c]lear indication within that data set of who is responsible for each can's collection – DPW, Clean Team, school staff, office/apartment building staff").

- As noted above, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B considers public trash cans and collection of trash from these cans essential public services. Daily collection and transparent, public-facing information regarding locations, collection routes and schedules, and agency responsibility will ensure our communities are litter free.

RESOLVED:

➢ That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Public Works to provide daily collection of all 6,700 public trash and recycling cans throughout the District, aligned with the Department's stated goal.

➢ That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Public Works to update the map and roster of all public trash cans in the District currently available on opendata.dc.gov last updated September 21, 2017, share the collection schedule for all public trash and recycling cans throughout the District, and provide a clear indication within that data set of which agency is responsible for each

can's collection. The Commission requests information about the Department's process to upgrade data collection and technological systems.

- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the District Department of Public Works to provide publicly any tours, assessments, reports or other documents it has created to determine if service adjustments are necessary for public trash cans throughout the District, as mentioned to the Commission by the Department around April 2021 and previously requested by formal Commission action.

- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on the DC Council, including the Committee on Public Works and Operations, to exercise oversight, including determining if the District Department of Public Works has sufficient staff and resources to provide fulsome trash collection services across the District and transparent, public-facing information regarding the locations of public trash and recycling cans, collection schedules, and responsible agencies.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02, Commissioner Alison Brooks, ANC 4B08, Commissioner Evan Yeats, ANC 4B04, and Commissioner Kevin Gilligan, ANC 4B05, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioners cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter 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 __ members was present) on August 28, 2023, by a vote of _ yes, _ no, _ abstentions.

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