Government of the District of Columbia
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

[DRAFT] RESOLUTION #4B-23-0905

Supporting B25-0258 the "Access to Home Amendment Act of 2023"
Adopted September 26, 2023

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

- On April 25, 2023, B25-0258, the "Access to Home Amendment Act of 2023," was introduced by Councilmembers Brianne Nadeau, Christina Henderson, Janeese Lewis George, Brooke Pinto, Vincent Gray, Zachary Parker, Robert White, and Trayon White. The bill was referred to the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and Environment on May 2, 2023, and a notice of intent to act was published in the DC Register three days later on May 5, 2023.

- Currently, the District Department of Transportation allows for one on-street parking space to be reserved for a DC resident who "holds a valid license plate or permit for a person with a physical disability." 18 DCMR § 2710.1(a). The regulations further provide that reserved parking is only for residents in single-family residences who "[do] not have off-street parking available in the form of a driveway, garage or private parking space immediately adjacent to or on the premise of the single-family dwelling where the individual with a disability resides." *Id.* at § 2710.1(e). Section 2710.1(e) limits disabled residents from receiving a reserved parking spot when their homes have a driveway, garage, or private parking space, without further analysis of the accessibility of the off-street parking.

- The bill proposes to amend eligibility for a reserved disability parking space to accommodate off-street parking under certain circumstances. It does so by allowing the District Department of Transportation to approve an application for a reserved disability parking space where the resident "[c]ertifies that a reserved parking space is reasonably necessary to accommodate the resident's access to the dwelling and, if ingress to the dwelling is also available from off-street parking in a driveway, garage, or other private area, further certifies that such off-street parking is less accessible than a reserved on-street parking space due to the resident's disability."

- The Commission seeks to strike the right balance in providing reserved disability parking in public spaces for residents who need such parking while encouraging and facilitating the use of off-street private parking, where available. Striking this balance is important where free parking has a significant cost. In some instances where off-street parking might be "less accessible," there may be relatively simple accommodations to make that parking accessible and bring it into use. The Safe at Home Program, administered by the Department of Aging and Community Living, which provides in-home adaptations for District residents aged 60 and older and adults 18 and over living with disabilities, might be well suited to connect residents with services to make their off-street parking accessible. These accommodations might include tree and shrub trimming, simple pathways, and ramps.

- In addition, the Commission has observed that the District Department of Transportation has not kept up-to-date records regarding reserved disability parking spaces, with several spaces recently revoked from deceased or otherwise ineligible residents after many years of misclassification. As such, the Commission seeks assurance that reserved disability parking spaces will be assigned and used based on verifiable needs and kept up to date.

RESOLVED:

➢ That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B supports B25-0258, the "Access to Home Amendment Act of 2023" and urges the DC Council's Committee on Transportation and Environment to hold a hearing on this bill as soon as practicable.

➢ That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B urges the DC Council to strengthen B25-0258, the "Access to Home Amendment Act of 2023" and prevent misuse of the disability parking program by replacing self-certification with a mechanism for independent verification that a reserved public parking space is needed where off-street parking exists. The Commission requests a more specific standard for what makes available off-street parking "less accessible," as well as an assessment of whether reasonable modifications to available off-street parking would make that off-street parking accessible.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Tiffani Nichole Johnson, ANC 4B06, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, if 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 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 September 26, 2023, by a vote of X yes, X no, X abstention.

DRAFT