

# Government of the District of Columbia

## Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B



### **[DRAFT] RESOLUTION #4B-24-0201**

#### **Authorizing Translation of the Commission's Website and Related Expenditures**

**Adopted February 26, 2024**

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

- Advisory Neighborhood Commissions receive allocated funding in the District's budget and may expend those funds as provided by statute. *See generally* [DC Code § 1-309.13\(l\)\(1\)](#) ("A Commission shall expend funds received through the annual allocation received pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, or other donated funds, for public purposes within the Commission area or for the functioning of the Commission office, including staff salaries, Commissioner training, property liability insurance, legal expenses for Commission representation by an attorney licensed in the District before an agency, board, or commission of the District government, and nominal refreshments at Commission meetings.").
- Expenditures must be authorized by the relevant Advisory Neighborhood Commission and such authorization may come in the form of the Commission's approved budget or a motion to approve a specific expense. Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B approved its [Fiscal Year 2024 Budget](#) at the Commission's September 26, 2023, meeting. The Commission has previously authorized the expenditure of Commission funds for the specific purpose of obtaining a Post Office box. *See* [Resolution 4B-19-0509](#), Authorizing the Lease of a Post Office Box and Related Expenditures (May 20, 2019).
- Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B seeks to professionally translate [the Commission's website](#) into Spanish and Amharic. These languages are [likely the most prevalent among "Limited and Non-English Proficient" individuals within the Commission area](#). Translation of the Commission's website would honor the spirit of the District's [language access program](#), which "is dedicated to removing language as a barrier to obtaining information and services from the District Government." Translation of the Commission's website is also consistent with the Commission's goals

of fostering an inclusive and accessible Commission. *See generally* [Resolution 4B-19-0403](#), Supporting Implicit and Unconscious Bias Training and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Initiatives for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (Apr. 22, 2019) (“Advisory Neighborhood Commissions play an important role in addressing the interests of residents and ensuring residents connect with government services, and Commission meetings should be accessible to all residents, regardless of which language they speak.”).

- The Commission seeks to focus translation on the website’s static pages and pages that can be easily updated to reflect changing Commissioner names and contact information, as well as meeting dates and times, so that this is a one-time expense. The Commission has secured estimates for the translation and related website expenses totaling approximately \$2,000. The Commission may seek at another time to translate the website into the other common languages in the District, including Chinese, French, Korean, and Vietnamese.
- While the District’s Office of Human Rights provides language access reimbursement in some circumstances, [DC Code § 1- 309.12\(d\)\(3\)\(c-i\)](#), including for documents like meeting agendas and minutes, this reimbursement program does not appear to apply to Commission websites.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B authorizes any Commission officer to secure translation of the Commission’s website into Spanish and Amharic and pay for such translation and any related necessary website technology up to but not exceeding \$2,000.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B encourages the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, in coordination with the District’s Office of Human Rights, to develop a centralized and comprehensive approach to Commission websites, including website translations, to meet Commission interest and needs, as well as to ensure compliance with the spirit of the DC Human Rights Act.

#### **FURTHER RESOLVED:**

That the Commission designates Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02, Commissioner Alison Brooks, ANC 4B08, Commissioner Zurick T. Smith, ANC 4B03, and Commissioner Evan Yeats, ANC 4B04, 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 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 \_ members was present) on February 26, 2024, by a vote of \_ yes, \_ no, \_ abstentions.