

**Government of the District of Columbia  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B**

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October 26, 2026

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Gabriel Robinson  
Director  
District of Columbia Department of Motor Vehicles  
95 M Street SW  
Washington, DC 20024

*Subject: Request for Increased Enforcement to Improve Vehicle Registration Compliance*

Dear Councilmembers and Directors:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (ANC4B) writes to express concern regarding ongoing challenges with improper vehicle registration and the long-term parking of out-of-state vehicles on District streets by individuals who appear to reside in Washington, DC but have not registered their vehicles locally. These practices undermine compliance with the District's Register Out-of-State Automobiles (ROSA) program and create inequities for residents who follow District law.

Under DC Code § 50-1501.02, nonresidents who keep a vehicle in the District for more than 30 consecutive days are required to register the vehicle in DC or obtain a valid ROSA exemption. Additionally, Department of Public Works (DPW) Parking Enforcement regulations authorize citations for improper vehicle registration, expired tags, and violations of residential parking requirements. See DC Code § 50-2441 et seq. Improper registration affects transportation planning, enforcement activities, public safety, and the District's ability to collect accurate revenue.

The District's transportation, safety, and infrastructure systems rely on accurate vehicle registration data to fund roadway maintenance, traffic safety programs, and neighborhood services. Ensuring compliance is fundamental to fairness, the equitable contribution towards public works projects, and effective neighborhood-level planning. For

these reasons, ANC 4B respectfully requests that DC DMV, and DPW collaborate on solutions to not only educate residents but also enforce compliance with existing vehicle registration laws.

DC DMV should strengthen its public outreach efforts to ensure that residents clearly understand ROSA requirements, residency rules, and their legal obligation to register a vehicle in the District when domiciled here. Strengthened outreach—through clearer guidance, community education, and improved communication channels—would help ensure that residents recognize both their responsibilities and the legal thresholds that determine when District registration is required. Such a campaign may include signage, digital materials, social media outreach, and community briefings.

Currently, DPW's management of ticketing and towing allows vehicle owners with out-of-state tags, permanent or temporary, to maintain their vehicles on District streets so long as they continue paying the fines, without ever being compelled to register in DC. While DPW is authorized under DC Code § 50-2441 et seq. to issue citations for improper registration and related violations, the payment of these fines closes each individual violation without triggering any requirement that the owner bring the vehicle into compliance with DC's registration laws. As a result, vehicles with long-term out-of-state plates can legally remain parked on DC streets indefinitely, provided the owner treats the recurring tickets as a cost of doing business. DPW Parking Enforcement should also increase targeted enforcement in areas where there are significant concentrations of long-term out-of-state vehicles, including neighborhoods within ANC 4B. DPW enhanced enforcement would help address chronic noncompliance. Focused enforcement in identified hotspots would support equitable use of curbside space, improve public safety, and ensure consistent compliance with existing laws.

Finally, ANC 4B requests that DC DMV, and DPW provide a joint briefing to the Commission and residents within 90 days. This briefing should outline current enforcement practices, identify existing gaps in compliance and program administration, and present opportunities for coordinated improvements. A multiagency briefing would allow the Commission and the community to better understand interagency responsibilities, assess program strengths and weaknesses, and collaboratively plan strategies to improve vehicle registration compliance throughout the District.

This request also aligns closely with ANC 4B's previously adopted Resolution #4B-25-0302, which called on the DC Department of Public Works to strengthen enforcement of ROSA regulations, particularly concerning vehicles with long-term temporary tags. That resolution emphasized that widespread evasion of registration requirements—through prolonged use of temporary tags or persistent parking of out-of-state vehicles—undermines the purpose of the ROSA program and diminishes parking availability and accountability within the community. The current letter builds on the Commission's earlier findings by seeking unified action from DC DMV, and DPW, recognizing that improved registration compliance requires not only enforcement but also public education, interagency coordination, and structural reforms that ensure violators cannot circumvent District registration laws simply by paying repeated fines.

ANC 4B supports policies that promote fairness, transparency, and consistent adherence to District laws. Improving compliance with vehicle registration requirements advances public safety, supports transportation planning, and helps ensure that all residents contribute equitably to the services they use.

Thank you for your attention and partnership in addressing this ongoing concern. We look forward to your response and to coordinate next steps.

Sincerely,

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Shamina Christian  
Chair, ANC 4B

\_\_\_\_\_/s/\_\_\_\_\_  
Tiffani Nicole Johnson  
Vice Chair & Treasurer, ANC 4B

Copies to:

ANC 4B Commissioners

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