



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

April 30, 2021

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chair, Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: The DC Essential Workers' Bill of Rights

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on April 21, 2021, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With five of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Causey, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, essential workers have risked their lives to keep all of us safe. It is critical that the DC Council allocate some of DC’s \$2.5 billion in federal funds to improve the lives of the workers who risked their lives to keep our city operational,

WHEREAS, the recommendations outlined by labor and community groups in the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights (EWBR) would ensure that essential workers receive increased pay and protections for the remainder of the pandemic and for any future emergencies,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that during a State of Emergency essential employers must provide 80 hours of sick leave to be used to isolate, quarantine, or take care of loved ones due to illness or childcare responsibilities related to school or daycare being closed due to the pandemic,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that during a State of Emergency an essential worker who earns less than \$100,000 per year would be provided with hazard pay, of \$3.00 per hour, for each pay period the essential worker works during the emergency,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that all essential workers will be provided with five days of paid bereavement leave by essential employers during a State of Emergency,

WHEREAS, the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights states that essential workers that contract COVID-19 would be eligible for COVID-19 workers compensation. This decreases the burden on workers who would have had to prove that they



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contracted COVID-19 at work, which is exceedingly difficult if not impossible given the continued lack of regular COVID-19 testing and contact tracing by employers and public health officials, and

WHEREAS, employers have the responsibility to ensure workplace safety, so DC therefore must require employers to provide workers with quality personal protective equipment (PPE). Employers should also be obligated to adopt protective policies regarding airborne, droplet, and contact transmission. Workers should be able to and encouraged to quarantine due to exposure and/or stay at home while waiting for a test result without adverse employment action taken against them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and Mayor Bowser to implement the recommendations outlined in the DC Essential Workers Bill of Rights as articulated in this resolution. This would provide support, prevent abuse, and offer protections to DC’s essential workers.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) and Jeri Epstein (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Jeri Epstein
Chairperson