April 28, 2025

Anita Bonds, Councilmember at-large of the District of Columbia,
Chair of the Committee on Labor and Executive Administration
Suite 404
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20004

RE: Department of Employment Services Performance Oversight Resolution 2025

At its regular meeting on April 15, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A ("ANC 2A" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With all six commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner DiCapo, adopted the following resolution by unanimous consent:

WHEREAS, The Department of Employment Services (DOES) faced immense scrutiny as the city agency was slow in doling out unemployment payments and offered conflicting information about their claims during the Covid crisis;

WHEREAS, the concerns grew so loud in the DOES Performance Oversight Hearing that by May 2021, after the District's Office of Inspector General (IG) announced that it planned to audit the agency's ability to process claims;

WHEREAS, the DOES audit report[1] released in April 2023 reviewed the surge in Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims during April 2020 through September 30, 2021 which was the height of the Covid 19 crisis;

WHEREAS , the audit objectives were to assess DOES responsiveness in processing unemployment insurance claims and internal controls over the accessibility, availability, and reliability of the UI system.

WHEREAS, In February 2024, ANC 2A voted on a resolution advising that DOES accept the 14 recommendations to meet it's own agency goals:

*to resolve UI claims needing adjudication
*make eligibility determinations.;

WHEREAS, the report noted that officials failed to live up to their own goals for distributing initial unemployment benefits and maintained inadequate documentation for some claims, and provided 14 recommendations to correct identified deficiencies;

[1] OIG Final Report No. 21-1-27CF -- DOES Struggled to Handle Surge in Unemployment Insurance Claims.pdf (dc.gov)

WHEREAS, Nearly 12,000 federal employees have filed initial unemployment claims in the District, according to DOES, since January 2025[2];

WHEREAS, D.C.'s employment services director, Unique Morris-Hughes, told reporters it's still unclear if and when federal workers would qualify for benefits, depending on their circumstances[3];

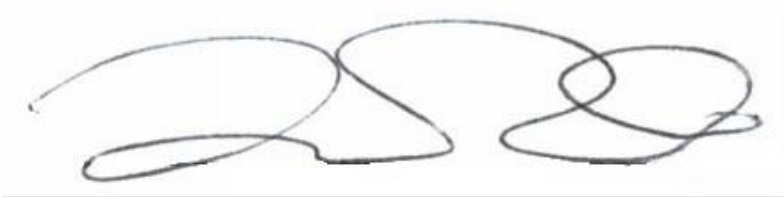
WHEREAS, DOES is now directing affected federal workers to dcfedsupport for assistance as the agency awaits guidance from the U.S. Department of Labor;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Commission reasserts the recommendation that DOES adopt all 14 recommendations outlined in the IG report for DOES, to meet the core goals and mission statement for its existence

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Chairperson Trupti J Patel (she/her)
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A
Historic Foggy Bottom
Single Member District 2A03

CC:
Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia

[2] Nearly 12,000 federal employees file unemployment claims in DC

[3] Will federal workers get unemployment? What a DC official said – NBC4 Washington

Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Dr. Unique N. Morris-Hughes, Director, D.C. Office of Employment Services
Tadai Abila, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services