June 25, 2025

TO: Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Council Member of the District of Columbia Chairperson-Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004

Re: Office of Attorney General Budget Performance Oversight Resolution 2025

At its regular meeting on June 18, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A ("ANC 2A" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With five 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 3-2-0:

WHEREAS, the mission of the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) is to enforce the laws of the District of Columbia, provide legal services to the District government, and independently and objectively pursue the public interest;

WHEREAS, on November 2, 2010, 76 percent of District voters, acting by referendum, approved a Council-enacted amendment to the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to make, for the first time, the Attorney General of the District of Columbia an elected office;

WHEREAS, the overall purpose of the Attorney General Act and the related amendments to the Home Rule Act was to elevate and strengthen the position of Attorney General, ensure the office's independence, and significantly enhance the Attorney General's ability to serve the interests of the District and its residents in an objective and independent fashion;

WHEREAS, the 2014 election marked the culmination of a grassroots effort to ensure that the Attorney General would be directly accountable to residents and bound to pursue the public interest, no longer subordinate to the Mayor;

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting in February 2024, ANC 2A adopted a resolution expressing concern over the Restaurant Revitalization and Dram Shop Clarification Amendment Act¹ ("Dram Shop Plus"), which weakened consumer protections and impaired workers' ability to identify wage theft;

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting in April 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A ("ANC 2A" or "Commission") adopted a <u>resolution</u>² addressed to the Council of the District of Columbia's Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety regarding the FY 2025 budget of the OAG;

¹ B25-0056 - Dram Shop Clarification Amendment Act of 2023 (now known as "Restaurant Revitalization and Dram Shop Clarification Amendment Act of 2023") (dccouncil.gov)

²CR-24-016.pdf

WHEREAS, the Mayor's³ proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Grow DC Budget called for a full repeal of Initiative 82, a voter-approved measure to gradually eliminate the tipped minimum wage system;

WHEREAS, on June 3, 2025 the DC Council subsequently voted 8-4 to delay the next scheduled minimum wage increase—from \$10 per hour to \$12 per hour—until October 1, 2025, rather than the original date of July 1, 2025, aligning it with the start of the new fiscal year;

WHEREAS, this delay, combined with growing public concern over pervasive service fees and potential wage theft, is expected to significantly increase the volume of complaints handled by OAG's Consumer Protection Division and the Workers' Rights and Anti-Fraud Section;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A strongly urges the Council of the District of Columbia to provide increased funding to the Office of the Attorney General, specifically for the expansion of its Consumer Protection Division and the Workers' Rights and Anti-Fraud Section, so that they may continue to robustly advocate for District residents.

Commissioner Trupti Patel (<u>2A03@anc.dc.gov</u>) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Trupti Patel Chairperson

CC:

Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, Washington DC Jenny Reed, Director, Office of Budget and Performance Management Jennifer Budoff, DC Council Budget Director Phil Mendelson, Chairman DC Council Anita Bonds, At-Large Member DC Council

³ Mayor Bowser Presents Fiscal Year 2026 Budget: Grow DC | mayormb

Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large Member DC Council Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember of the District of Columbia Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember of the District of Columbia Brian Schwalb, DC Attorney General Adam Teitelbaum, Director, Consumer Protection Division Graham Lake, Section Chief, Workers Right Division Juan Ulloa, Deputy Director of Community Engagement Tadai Abila, Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office Community Relations