



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

June 25, 2025

TO: Robert White Jr., At-Large, Council Member of the District of Columbia
Chairperson-Committee on Housing
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 107
Washington DC 20004

RE: Office of Tenant Advocate 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 3-1-1:

WHEREAS, the mission of the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA) is to provide technical advice and legal services to tenants in disputes with landlords; to educate and inform the tenant community about their rights and rental housing matters; and to advocate for the rights and interests of District renters in legislative, regulatory, and judicial contexts;

WHEREAS, OTA provides legal and technical assistance to tenants involved in rental housing disputes, including identifying legal issues, outlining the respective rights and responsibilities of tenants and landlords, and assisting with follow-up actions such as completing and filing tenant petitions and monitoring case hearings;

WHEREAS, OTA fulfills its statutory duty to represent tenants and tenant organizations by advocating for legislative, executive, and judicial changes that protect and enhance tenant rights;

WHEREAS, OTA tracks developments in rental housing legislation and regulations at both the local and federal levels and keeps stakeholders informed;

WHEREAS, OTA develops policy recommendations—including legislative and rulemaking proposals—and coordinates discussions with governmental and community partners, including regular stakeholder engagement;

WHEREAS, OTA provides expert statutory and regulatory guidance to tenants, advocates, attorneys, and government partners, serving as the District’s authoritative source on rental housing law;

WHEREAS, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) is currently the District’s only program aimed at preventing eviction and displacement due to rent arrears, and has been

historically underfunded—except during the pandemic when it received temporary federal support via the STAY DC program;

WHEREAS, there is clear and ongoing need for robust emergency rental assistance, as evidenced by the 3,500 ERAP applications received within just nine days in October 2023, and the rapid depletion of FY23 ERAP funding—\$43 million exhausted within six months—leading to the program’s shutdown in March 2023;

WHEREAS, eviction filings have dramatically increased, with Legal Aid DC reporting a 250% rise in cases between January 2022 and January 2023;

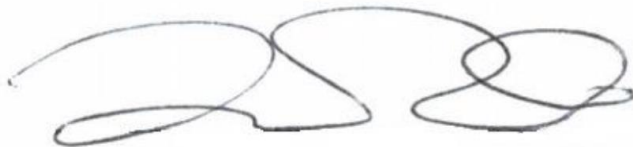
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A urges the DC Council to prioritize additional and sustained funding for the Office of the Tenant Advocate, an agency dedicated solely to protecting tenants’ rights and keeping District residents safe and housed;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A calls on the DC Council to not only increase OTA’s funding but also expand its capacity and resources in response to the growing need for tenant advocacy and emergency rental assistance.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Trupti Patel', with a stylized, cursive script.

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 of the Council of the District of Columbia
Anita Bonds, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Johanna Shreve, Chief Tenant Advocate

Tadai Abila, Ward 2 Manager, Mayor's Office of Community Relations