



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

RE: Resolution Concerning DOJ Memos Received by George Washington University

At its regular meeting on Wednesday, September 17, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With four of five commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**4-0-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Youngstone and seconded by Commissioner Patel, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS On July 29, 2025, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) addressed a memo¹ to institutions receiving federal funding—a category which includes George Washington University (GWU)—warning that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices may be prohibited as discriminatory by the federal government;

WHEREAS On August 12, 2025, the DOJ addressed a memo² to GWU alleging that they had failed to properly combat antisemitism on campus;

WHEREAS Both of these memos follow similar memos sent by President Donald Trump’s DOJ to other institutions of higher learning across the United States;

WHEREAS The memos sent by the DOJ to these universities appear to fit into a larger pattern of making exaggerated, politically motivated legal claims in order to extract financial concessions, erode campus freedoms, and force policy changes in line with Trump administration orthodoxy;

WHEREAS The faculty³, students⁴, and alumni⁵ of GWU have all published letters urging the university not to make concessions to the federal government that would threaten the safety, privacy, and rights to free speech of GWU students and staff;

WHEREAS ANC 2A counts many GWU faculty, students, and alumni among its constituents;

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/ag/media/1409486/dl>

² <https://www.justice.gov/crt/media/1410936/dl>

³ <https://www.aaup.org/news/george-washington-aaup-chapter-responds-trump-doj-threats-academic-freedom>

⁴ <https://mondoweiss.net/2025/08/students-urge-george-washington-university-not-to-capitulate-to-trump-threats-over-palestine-activism/>

⁵ https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdUj8D7IV4j7D0q6ZJhFyHFn3Q_AyGNXimK0NraRR-6P9C06Q/viewform



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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED That ANC 2A requests that the Office of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia and the Council of the District of Columbia both work to provide guidance to GWU expressing the concerns outlined in the following clauses;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That ANC 2A urges GWU not to be coerced into any actions as a result of these letters that would:

1. Result in invasive surveillance measures directed at residents of this ANC,
2. Discriminate against residents of this ANC based on their ethnic background or expression of political views contrary to those of the Trump administration,
3. Threaten the rights of residents of this ANC to peaceably assemble and express their right to free speech,
4. Enable cooperation or information sharing with ICE or other law enforcement agencies that could lead to residents of this ANC being targeted for deportation, or
5. Expand policing in ANC 2A at a time when it is already under extreme law enforcement scrutiny due to the federal takeover of policing in the District of Columbia;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED That ANC 2A urges GWU to shield all of its students and staff from being unfairly targeted by local or federal law enforcement due to their legal and protected political speech.

Commissioner Sean Youngstone (2A09@anc.dc.gov) and Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

CC:

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