



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

RE: Resolution Condemning the Lafayette Park Peace Vigil Tent Removal

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, after a motion made by Commissioner Malec and seconded by Commissioner Dicapó, adopted the following resolution by **(4-0-0)**:

WHEREAS, Lafayette Park lies within ANC 2A, in single-member district 2A07¹;

WHEREAS, ANC 2A has a direct and substantial interest in the management of public space and First Amendment activity within its boundaries;

WHEREAS, the Lafayette Park Peace Vigil (often referred to as the White House Peace Vigil) began on June 3, 1981², when activist William Thomas initiated a continuous anti-nuclear/anti-war demonstration opposite the White House;

WHEREAS, the vigil has since been maintained 24 hours a day by rotating volunteers for more than 44 years, relocating only when logistically required for major events such as the Presidential inauguration, making it widely regarded as the longest-running continuous political protest in U.S. history³;

WHEREAS, under National Park Service (NPS) regulations for the National Capital Region (36 C.F.R. § 7.96⁴), Lafayette Park is in the “White House area,” and demonstrations are permitted there subject to content-neutral time, place, and manner rules;

WHEREAS, 36 C.F.R. § 7.96 states that the placement of “structures” is generally prohibited in Lafayette Park and expressly defines “structure” to include tents (§ 7.96(g)(5)(ix)(A) & (A)(4));

WHEREAS, notwithstanding 36 C.F.R. § 7.96’s definition of tents as structures, the presidential administrations of Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Joseph Biden, as well as the first administration of Donald Trump, have all accommodated the vigil’s continuous expressive activity, and refrained from removing tents or other property;

¹ [OpenANC.org ANC 2A07 map](https://openanc.org/anc-2a07-map).

² “Nearly 41 Years In, The White House Peace Vigil Perseveres.” *The Georgetown Voice*, April 29 2022.

³ “Concepcion Picciotto, who held vigil outside the White House for decades, dies.” *The Washington Post*, January 25 2016.

⁴ [Code of Federal Regulations](#), Title 36, Chapter 1, Part 7, § 7.96.



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WHEREAS, in August 2025, Rep. Jeff Van Drew (R-NJ) urged the Interior Department to remove the vigil, citing it as a “24/7 eyesore,” and D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton publicly reaffirmed that the vigil is protected speech and that, had it posed genuine safety or legal problems, it would have been removed long ago⁵;

WHEREAS, on September 5, 2025, President Donald Trump publicly stated, in response to a reporter’s question about a tent in use by the Vigil: “Take it down, today, right now”⁶;

WHEREAS, on September 7, 2025, the U.S. Park Police removed the aforementioned tent;

WHEREAS, ANC 2A believes that the District should champion lawful, non-violent expression — especially in places of heightened democratic significance, such as Lafayette Park;

WHEREAS, Lafayette Park is among the nation’s most long-standing and treasured public forums, and suppressing peaceable expressive activity there would chill First Amendment rights, contradict decades of settled practice, and risk inconsistency with 36 C.F.R. § 7.96’s neutral permitting framework;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A strongly condemns the removal of the Lafayette Park Peace Vigil’s tent;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A affirms the vigil’s right to continuous, attended, small-group expressive activity in Lafayette Park consistent with 36 C.F.R. § 7.96, and urges the Department of the Interior, NPS, USPP, and the U.S. Secret Service to maintain the long-standing accommodation for this historic protest;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A opposes any further removal, dismantling, or disturbance of the vigil absent a written, content-neutral determination by NPS/U.S. Park Police (USPP) identifying specific and lawful grounds under 36 C.F.R. § 7.96 (e.g., clear, demonstrable safety or operational concerns), with all attendant due-process safeguards;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls upon Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, the Council of the District of Columbia, and Mayor Muriel Bowser to support the vigil’s continued operation, publicly oppose any content-based or arbitrary removal, and, where appropriate, to intercede with federal counterparts to ensure continued protection of lawful First Amendment activity at this location.

⁵ [“A peace vigil sits near the White House. A congressman wants it gone.”](#) *The Washington Post*. August 11 2025.

⁶ [“Decades-long peace vigil near White House is dismantled after Trump’s order.”](#) *Politico*. September 7 2025.



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Commissioner Jim Malec (2A08@anc.dc.gov) and Commissioner Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

Submitted to:

Congresswoman Elanor Holmes Norton, DC Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives
Jessica M. E. Taylor, Chief of Police, United States Park Police
Muriel Bowser, Mayor, The District of Columbia
Phil Mendelson, Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia
Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Robert White, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Christina Henderson, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Anita Bonds, At-Large Council Member, Council of the District of Columbia
Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 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
Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Charles Allen, Ward 6 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Trayon White, Ward 8 Councilmember of the District of Columbia