

by electronic mail

February 21, 2023

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Chair Phil Mendelson
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Subject: Champion DC Statehood and Local Governance

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chair Mendelson:

We are writing as local Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and other elected leaders — those who are closest to the people of DC and dedicated, unpaid public servants — to call on you to recommit to unequivocally and relentlessly supporting and advocating for DC Statehood and self-determination for the people of DC.

We are and represent the real DC: the neighbors, families, workers, students, seniors, native and new Washingtonians, and community members of all kinds who are the beating heart of a metropolis that is unique and separate from the federal city. For too long, Congress has denied DC residents full civic participation and self-determination, a decision [rooted in racism that continues today](#). [Recent local actions](#) have undermined our local government's fulsome dedication to DC Statehood, opening the door to further Congressional interference and creating grave risk in our quest for self-determination.

While we may have diverging views on the issues that animate our local politics, our passion for local politics, good government and local government accountability, and DC Statehood is why we ran for local elected office. However deeply we feel about a particular issue — be it the [height of developments in our community](#), the [proper sentencing guidelines for criminal defendants](#), the [ability to fund abortions](#), the [disposition of public buildings](#), who [can vote in local elections](#), or the [regulation and taxation of cannabis](#) — we agree that these decisions should be made through our robust local procedures by the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the DC Council, as well as the people of DC in exercising their voting rights.

All elected officials in DC must commit to the primary goal of local autonomy through DC Statehood, whether they are Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, members of the DC Council or the DC State Board of Education, or Mayor of the District of Columbia. As the District of Columbia Democratic Party has [stated](#), "It is time for all Democrats to join

with one voice to ... legislate our own laws.” That commitment should involve fighting every effort to usurp local control and lobbying proactively against every budget rider, disapproval resolution, and Congressional act of interference — both those that are new and those that are already in existence — without limitation. That also includes fully funding DC Statehood efforts, supporting and helping to coordinate DC Statehood advocacy among various groups, and educating DC residents to be statehood advocates. Our right to self-determination demands nothing less.

The time has come for all of our elected leaders to rise to the moment and commit ourselves with renewed vigor in the fight for our rights as equal participants in our democracy. [Any equivocation](#) on this most important and fundamental quest for rights undermines our efforts for DC Statehood. Join us.

Sincerely,

Chioma Iwuoha, At-Large Committeewoman, DC Democratic State Committee
Elizabeth Mitchell, Ward 3 Committeewoman, DC Democratic State Committee
Michael Haresign, Ward 3 Committeeman, DC Democratic State Committee
Ethan Arnheim, Ward 1 Committeeman, DC Democratic State Committee
Maxine Davis, Vice President, DC Young Democrats
Howard Garrett, National Committeeman, DC Young Democrats
Liv Birnstad, Student Member, DC State Board of Education
Robert Henderson, Ward 5 Member, DC State Board of Education
Ben Williams, Ward 1 Member, DC State Board of Education
Paul Trantham, Commissioner, ANC 8B02
Rev. Wendy Hamilton, Commissioner, ANC 8D06
Lakiah Williams, Commissioner, ANC 8D08
Kelly Mikel Williams, Commissioner, ANC 8E03
Dolores Bryant, Commissioner, ANC 8E06
Clayton Rosenberg, Commissioner, ANC 8F05
Travis R. Swanson, Commissioner, ANC 7B03
Anthony Lorenzo Green, Commissioner, ANC 7C04
Patricia Stamper, Commissioner, ANC 7C06
Kimberly Martin, Commissioner, ANC 7C08
Ashley Ruff, Commissioner, ANC 7F02
Keya Chatterjee, Commissioner, ANC 6A01
Amber Gove, Commissioner, ANC 6A04
Frank Avery, Commissioner, ANC 6B01
David Sobelsohn, Commissioner, ANC 6B03
Francis D’Andrea, Commissioner, ANC 6B04
Kasie Durkit, Commissioner, ANC 6B05
Chander Jayaraman, Commissioner, ANC 6B06
Corey Holman, Commissioner, ANC 6B06 (2019-2022)
Vince Mareino, Commissioner, ANC 6B07

Edward Ryder, Commissioner, ANC 6B08
Matt LaFortune, Commissioner, ANC 6B09
Alison Horn, Commissioner, ANC 6B09 (2021-2022)
Christy Kwan, Commissioner, ANC 6C01
Patricia Eguino, Commissioner, ANC 6C06
Ashton Rohmer, Commissioner, ANC 6D05
Bruce Levine, Commissioner, ANC 6D06
Chris Hart, Commissioner, ANC 6E01
Ritanch Hans, Commissioner, ANC 6E09
Duvalier Malone, Commissioner, ANC 5A01
Zachary Ammerman, Commissioner, ANC 5A09
Edward Borrego, Commissioner, ANC 5B01
VJ Kapur, Commissioner, ANC 5C07
Sebrena Rhodes, Commissioner, ANC 5D02
Anna Roblin, Commissioner, ANC 5D03
Stephen Cobb, Commissioner, ANC 5D04
Reid May, Commissioner, ANC 5D08
Joyce Robinson-Paul, Commissioner, ANC 5E01
Huma Imtiaz, Commissioner, ANC 5E04
Anthony Hurst, Commissioner, ANC 5F01
Aru Sahni, Commissioner, ANC 5F02
Jennifer Anderson, Commissioner, ANC 5F05
T. Michelle Colson, Commissioner, ANC 4B01
Erin Palmer, Commissioner, ANC 4B02
Zurick Smith, Commissioner, ANC 4B03
Evan Yeats, Commissioner, ANC 4B04
Kevin Gilligan, Commissioner, ANC 4B05
Tiffani Nichole Johnson, Commissioner, ANC 4B06
Michael Cohen, Commissioner, ANC 4B07
Alison Brooks, Commissioner, ANC 4B08
LaRoya Huff, Commissioner, ANC 4B10
Daniel Alexander, Commissioner, ANC 4C04
Brittany Kademian, Commissioner, ANC 4C05
Jonah Goodman, Commissioner, ANC 4C10 (2016-2022)
Carson C. Lucarelli, Commissioner, ANC 4D03
Chrysanthe Cournotes, Commissioner, ANC 4D04
Stephen Marencic, Commissioner, ANC 4D05
Aman T. George, Commissioner, ANC 4D06
Clark Weigel, Commissioner, ANC 4D07
Carla Ferris, Commissioner, ANC 4E04
Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis, Commissioner, ANC 3A01
Kevin Lavezzo, Commissioner, ANC 3B01
Melissa Lane, Commissioner, ANC 3B03
Gupi Howie, Commissioner, ANC 3B05
Hayden Gise, Commissioner, ANC 3C01
Adam Prinzo, Commissioner, ANC 3C02

Janell Pagats, Commissioner, ANC 3C03
Roric McCorristin, Commissioner, ANC 3C04
Sauleh Siddiqui, Commissioner, ANC 3C05
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Alexandra Gianinno, Commissioner, ANC 3E06
Rohin Ghosh, Commissioner, ANC 3E08
Ryan Cudemus-Brunoli, Commissioner, ANC 3F01
James Tandaric, Commissioner, ANC 3F05
Lisa R. Gore, Commissioner, ANC 3/4G01
Peter Lynch, Commissioner, ANC 3/4G05
Zachary Ferguson, Commissioner, ANC 3/4G07
Yannik Omictin, Commissioner, ANC 2A01
Trupti J. Patel, Commissioner, ANC 2A03
Meg Roggensack, Commissioner, ANC 2B01
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China Dickerson, Commissioner, ANC 2B04
Zach Adams, Commissioner, ANC 2B08
Christopher Davis, Commissioner, ANC 2B09
Becky Strauss, Commissioner, ANC 2C02
Ashley Warren, Commissioner, ANC 2D01
Kishan Putta, Commissioner, ANC 2E01
Joe Massaua, Commissioner, ANC 2E04
Alex Lopez, Commissioner, ANC 2G03
Sheena Berry, Commissioner, ANC 2G05
Max Ewart, Commissioner, ANC 1A01
Dieter Lehmann Morales, Commissioner, ANC 1A02
Jeremy Sherman, Commissioner, ANC 1A04
Stephen Coleman Kenny, Commissioner, ANC 1A05
Mukta Ghorpadey, Commissioner, ANC 1A07
Dave Segall, Commissioner, ANC 1A08
Billy Easley, Commissioner, ANC 1A10
Larry Handerhan, Commissioner, ANC 1B01
Sabel Harris, Commissioner, ANC 1B08
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Lee Dixon, Commissioner, ANC 1C02
Peter Wood, Commissioner, ANC 1C03
Joe Van Wye, Commissioner, ANC 1C04
Jake Faleschini, Commissioner, ANC 1C07
Angela Allison, Commissioner, ANC 1D06
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cc: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia

Brian L. Schwalb, Attorney General, District of Columbia

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton

Michael D. Brown, Shadow Senator, District of Columbia

Paul Strauss, Shadow Senator, District of Columbia

Oye Owolewa, Shadow Member, U.S. House of Representatives, District of Columbia