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## Public Discussion Resolution

*Passed by unanimous voice vote at the legally noticed, public monthly meeting of May 3, 2005, with a quorum present*

ANC1D resolves that each regular business meeting include a period of time for informative & useful public discussion, with the following guidelines:

This period be referred to on agendas as "Public Discussion Period" or as "Public Discussion".

The time allocated for the period be up to twenty minutes, with the responses and questions by commissioners not counted within this time.

Neighborhood individuals may speak during this period on whatever topic concerns them, for a maximum of three minutes. "Neighborhood individuals" means residents, people who work or volunteer, owners of businesses or property, or anyone who is directly affected by a DC government action or proposed action, all within the ANC1D area. Individuals should state their name and relationship to the ANC1D area.

Representatives of established neighborhood organizations may speak for up to five minutes, if content and logic of their statements are explicitly authorized by the governing boards of said organizations, and the statements open with that assurance. "Established neighborhood organizations" means those (1) that have their principal membership here, or (2) that have many members here, and their principal membership is in a neighboring ANC, or (3) that are an agency or service group that serves many people in the ANC1D area, or (4) that are an elected DC public official.

Additional short periods of Public Discussion may be called at the explicitly resolved discretion of the Commission, solely for the expression of new views, not repetitions of those previously stated. An extension of a previous period will be for five minutes, unless otherwise resolved. A new period associated with a separate agenda item will be for five minutes, unless otherwise resolved. There may be multiple extensions.

### Why

The intent of this resolution is to balance the need for the commission to complete its business within a time comfortable for its members and for the attending public, and at the same time invite interest and engagement by neighbors in the commission's work: providing influential advice to the DC government.

ANC1D intends to develop an array of means for discussion and collaboration in the formulation and expression of its advisories. At business meetings, most matters have already been discussed via the other means, so that discussion on matters ready for resolution is most productively used to introduce significantly better and different ideas that might have been missed.

Business meetings are held in public, but not necessarily with the public: There is no legal requirement that any of the commission's discussions be opened to public participation. It has been ANC1D's practice to do so because of the benefits noted in the above paragraph.

The period for general Public Discussion is intended to invite the new complaints, ideas, and issues not yet considered so that they can be prepared for later resolution.

There is a legal requirement that there be a time period where the relevant public can introduce their views. Relevant public is defined by law as "residents within the Commission area and other affected persons on problems or issues of concern within the Commission area and on proposed District government actions that affect the Commission area".