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Statement on DC Fiscal Policy Institute's Untie DC's Hands letter

Resolved , that ANC 1D advises the DC Council to consider the recommendations raised by the DC Fiscal Policy Institute's "Untie DC's Hands" letter, to reinvest current and future surpluses wisely in education, mass transit, and housing, so as to ensure more DC residents become financially resilient, and to implement only a portion of the automatic tax cuts anticipated for 2018.

Why: DC's economy remains strong, as does the DC government's balance sheet, but the temporary hiring freeze put in place by the federal government, proposed cuts to the federal workforce and budget, and threatened withholding of federal funds to sanctuary cities all raise great uncertainty about the local economy's immediate future. While taxes in DC are high, so, too, is its level of economic disparity, and tax cuts, once implemented, are difficult to roll back.

Without greater investment in education, transportation, and affordable housing, many DC residents will be hard hit the next time the regional economy cools. DC's elected officials would be foolish to squander the current opportunity to continue such investments and make significant gains in combatting homelessness and poverty.

At the same time, the automatic tax cuts represent sound policy generated by a sound process, and they should be phased in over the next few years, in the recommended order. The first several tax cuts scheduled would benefit our more vulnerable residents in Mount Pleasant now, as well as our many small and local businesses. The tax cuts coming later on the schedule also make sense in order to narrow the gap between DC's tax regime and those of surrounding states, but a prudent, temporary delay in their implementation will not have as harmful an impact on our community.

Passed by 5 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on May 23, 2017, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Stewart, Romero-Latin, Karrer, McKay, Karaffa. A quorum for this commission is three; five commissioners were present.