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Provide Adequate Time to Review Office of Planning Staff Reports

Resolved, that ANC1D advises the Office of Planning (OP) to publish staff reports for zoning relief and cases at least five business days in advance of the hearing at the relevant District of Columbia board or commission (including but not limited to hearings before the Board of Zoning Adjustment and the Zoning Commission).

Why:

As ANC Commissioners, we are members of the community who serve our neighbors as representatives to the District of Columbia government. Although each of us brings a diverse array of experience to the ANC, we are not experts in zoning law. Therefore, we often rely on the staff reports published by the Office of Planning to provide background on zoning relief cases. The ANC uses these reports to inform our resolutions that advise relevant District agencies.

The ANC deeply appreciates the hard work that goes into producing each staff report from OP. However, for some recent cases, the OP has not released the staff reports until only days before the associated hearing. For instance, in March 2018 the OP published a staff report on March 19 for case 19629, which the Board of Zoning Adjustment was scheduled to hear on March 21, 2018.

The fact that ANC Commissioners and community members typically only have two or three days to review OP staff reports reduces our ability to knowledgeably comment on applications. The lack of time to review the OP reports places an undue burden on commissioners and community members alike, as we all rush to familiarize ourselves with the report before the relevant hearing occurs. If OP is unable to publish reports at least five business days before hearings, then OP should require that applicants submit their paperwork earlier or automatically postpone hearings. Both options would ensure that ANC commissioners and community members have adequate time to review the reports.

Resolution passed, 5 to 0 vote, at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANC1D on May 22, 2018, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Karaffa, Stewart, Karrer, McKay, Romero-Latin. A quorum for this commission is three; five commissioners were present.