

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

DRAFT

TO: All Councilmembers

FROM: Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole

DATE: November 17, 2015

SUBJECT: Report on PR 21-302, “Sense of the Council in Support of a ‘Statehood or Else’ Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 21-302, “Sense of the Council in Support of a ‘Statehood or Else’ Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015” was referred, reports favorably thereon and recommends approval by the Council.

CONTENTS

I.	Background and Need.....	1
II.	Legislative Chronology.....	3
III.	Position of the Executive	3
IV.	Comments of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions	4
V.	Summary of Testimony.....	4
VI.	Impact on Existing Law	5
VII.	Fiscal Impact.....	6
VIII.	Section-by-Section Analysis	6
IX.	Committee Action.....	6
X.	Attachments	6

I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

On July 14, 2014, PR 21-302, “Sense of the Council in Support of a ‘Statehood or Else’ Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015” was introduced by Councilmember Vincent Orange. The purpose of PR 21-302 is to declare the sense of the Council in support of developing a ‘Statehood or Else’ multi-media campaign with the express goals of producing a petition supporting District of Columbia statehood, collecting one million signatures for the petition, and delivering the one million signature petition to the White House, to all 535 members of Congress, as well as leadership at both the 2016 Republican and the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

In the 200 years since Congress rescinded voting rights from the last group of Washington residents who had previously voted in Maryland and Virginia, citizens residing in the District of Columbia have been denied the right of a vote in Congress. Full and fair federal representation and participation in our national democracy for the over 658,000 citizens residing in the District of Columbia is only possible through statehood. Furthermore, independent governance reflecting the will of the people locally is fundamental to our system of democracy. Self-governance reflects community values and priorities. Self-governance is more sensitive to constituents. Self-

governance is the essence of every town hall, city council, county board, and state legislature in the United States of America. The only option to achieve full voting representation and full self-governance, as enjoyed by residents of the 50 states, is statehood for the District.

To date, actions of community advocates and elected leaders in the District have not achieved our ultimate goal of statehood, despite the overwhelming arguments in favor of the need for statehood for the District. In the 113th Congress, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) and Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE) introduced the “New Columbia Admissions Act” in the House of Representatives¹ and the Senate², respectively. That legislation would grant, through congressional approval, statehood for the non-federal core areas of the current District. The new state created under these bills would be New Columbia. Both bills were reintroduced in 2015 during the 114th Congress and to date have garnered 18 cosponsors for the Senate bill³ and 126 cosponsors on the House bill.⁴ Unfortunately, neither has attracted sufficient support to come to a vote in either chamber.

In 2014, the Senate held a hearing⁵ on the New Columbia Admissions Act, the first hearing in over 20 years on statehood for the District. At that hearing, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson, Mayor Vincent Gray, Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, Senator Paul Strauss, Senator Michael Brown, and several policy experts and community leaders testified in support of the bill. Chairman Mendelson provided extensive testimony,⁶ which was summarized as follows:

“Statehood is the most practical solution to right the historical wrong of denying voting rights to citizens of the District and to guarantee the right to local self-governance. The District of Columbia has a proven track record of prudent fiscal management spanning two decades. The State of New Columbia would enter the Union as a 51st state with an economy envied by other jurisdictions. Politics must be set aside and all of the excuses used to justify denial of our inalienable rights must be shelved. Our limited home-rule power delegated by Congress is appreciated, but too tenuous and too often a bargaining chip in political battles. Limited home-rule cannot make up for all of the other rights withheld by Congress that we could have only with statehood.”

Unfortunately, those in Congress most opposed to statehood cite shaky legal arguments, erroneous claims about special benefits derived by the District from the federal government, and the loss of congressional control over the local affairs of citizens that don’t have a role in their election.⁷ It is clear that the strong statehood message is necessary to right the disenfranchisement of hundreds of thousands of United State citizens is not getting through to most Members of Congress. It is also clear that more must be done to advance that message.

¹ H.R.292, 113th Cong. (2013).

² S.132, 113th Cong. (2014).

³ S.1688, 114th Cong. (2015).

⁴ H.R.317, 114th Cong. (2015).

⁵ Equality for the District of Columbia: Discussing the Implications of S. 132, the New Columbia Admission Act of 2014, S. HRG. NO. 113-713 (2014)

⁶ *Id* at 62.

⁷ *Id* at 173.

One tactic now being employed by a coalition of statehood advocates in the District is the “Statehood or Else” signature campaign to collect at least one million signatures supporting statehood. The purpose of the campaign is to deliver the petition to the White House, all Members of Congress, and the 2016 Democratic and Republican National Conventions. Unlike some past efforts in this vein, the ‘Statehood or Else’ campaign is seeking to gather signatures from citizens across the United States to show our leaders that there is broad support amongst their own constituents for finally moving forward on statehood. The coalition has already received thousands of signatures supporting the petition, many of which were gathered at the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March, dubbed “Justice or Else,” on October 10, 2015.

Specifically, the proposed resolution supports creation of a working group after adoption of the resolution to create a “Statehood or Else” multimedia campaign with a goal of coordinating the petition to be delivered to aforementioned parties. It also points out the significance of the timing of this effort due to the confluence of a Presidential election year with two nominating conventions, celebration of Emancipation Day in the District which this year will be on April 15, and “tax day” on the same day. The committee print for this resolution reflects all of the elements of the resolution, as introduced, with one change. Because the Council previously created a the New Columbia Statehood Commission to support the work of the statehood delegation and focus statehood efforts, the committee print substitutes that commission in place of a new working group to support the “Statehood or Else” effort.

The Committee believes that this newest effort will contribute to the overall efforts of statehood advocates and local leaders to elevate the fight for statehood to a more national stage. It is with this idea in mind that the Committee recommends that the full Council should express its support for the “Statehood or Else” signature campaign. Therefore, the Committee finds it fitting that the Council adopt this resolution which expresses that support.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| July 14, 2015 | PR 21-302, “Sense of the Council in Support of a ‘Statehood or Else’ Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015” is introduced by Councilmember Vincent Orange. |
| July 24, 2015 | Notice of Intent to Act on PR 21-302 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| September 25, 2015 | Notice of Public Hearing on PR 21-302 is published in the <i>DC Register</i> . |
| October 27, 2015 | A Public Hearing is held on PR 21-302 by the Committee of the Whole. |
| November 17, 2015 | The Committee of the Whole marks up PR 21-302. |

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Committee received no testimony or comments from the Executive.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received no testimony or comments from any Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 21-302 on Tuesday, October 27, 2015. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. A copy of the written testimony is attached to this report.

Hon. Paul Strauss, United States Senator, District of Columbia, testified in support of the resolution. He testified to past efforts around advocacy at the Democratic National Convention and the need to expand to the Republican National Convention. He also recommended utilizing the Statehood Commission in place of the working group recommended in the resolution for coordinating the Statehood or Else multi-media campaign.

Hon. Michael D. Brown, United States Senator, District of Columbia, testified in support of the resolution. He also expressed support for additional funding for this and other statehood efforts through the shadow delegation.

Hon. Franklin Garcia, United States Representative, District of Columbia, testified in support of the resolution. He also testified to the current strength of the statehood movement and the need to engage ANC and civic associations to support the effort.

Ann Loikow, D.C. Statehood – Yes We Can!, testified in support of the resolution and for her support of increased funding for the statehood delegation.

David Schwartzman, D.C. Statehood Green Party, testified in support of the resolution. He also explained the need to focus on the “or else” idea behind the campaign to educate the public on our second class status as citizens and income inequality.

Jerry Clark, D.C. Statehood Coalition, testified in support of the resolution. He noted that statehood will require a sustained effort, funding, structure, and clear goals on the part of advocates.

Elinor Hart, Public Witness, testified that she supports taking advantage of Emancipation Day to highlight our statehood goals, but expressed concern that over the role of the petition, and that too little focus is paid to advancing the New Columbia Admissions Act.

V. Hector Rodriguez, President, National Latino Alliance for DC Statehood, testified in support of the resolution and read a prepared message for the American people regarding the injustice of District disenfranchisement.

Donald Haines, Public Witness, testified about the history of using the “Tennessee Plan” to create a shadow delegation to support statehood in 1980 and that the “Statehood or Else” effort should be coordinated in conjunction with the shadow delegation. He also expressed his dissatisfaction with the Council’s financial support of the shadow delegation.

Anise Jenkins, Stand Up! For Democracy in DC (Free DC), testified in support of the resolution. She described her organizations efforts in conjunction with the 20th Anniversary of the March on Washington to collect signatures for the petition.

Cliff Smith, Public Witness, testified in support of the resolution. He compared the District's effort with regard to statehood to his home state of Alaska. He also suggested focusing Emancipation Day on statehood advocacy.

Evanna Powell, Public Witness, testified in support of the resolution and to the importance of engaging a wide swath of the American people in the signature campaign.

Doug Sloan, Vice Chair, ANC 4B, testified in support of the statehood. He also described a legal strategy under which residents of the District may be able to vote in Maryland Senate elections while remaining District residents in order to gain a constituency under Maryland Senators beholden to District residents to effectuate statehood from the inside.

Mary Eva Candon DC Resident, Democratic National Committeewoman, testified in support of the resolution. She also encouraged building the support of more national organizations to support statehood to raise the profile of the District with Congress.

Bernadette Tolson, Public Witness, testified in support of the resolution. She also compared this effort to a past effort of the League of Women Voters in 1972 which was able to gather 1.2 million signatures in support of statehood.

Robert Brannum, Former Chair, Ward 5 Democrats, testified in support of the resolution. He pointed out that the federal government relies heavily on the services of the District government while at the same time denying representation for District residents that provide resources for those services.

James Bubar, Co-Chair Staehood and Self Determination Committee, DC Democratic State Committee, testified in support of the resolution. He expressed the support of the DC Democratic State Committee which would be involved in delivering the petitions on the District's behalf to the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia.

Valencia Mohammed, Public Witness, testified in support of the resolution. She discussed her work in engaging school students nationwide with regards to statehood, as well as forming a coalition with other advocacy organizations that support statehood in addition to their own causes.

The Committee also received testimony for the record in support of the resolution from Glenda Richmond, Founder/President of the D.C. Statehood Leadership Coalition, Inc., and Joyce Robinson-Paul, Stand Up! For Democracy Ambassador, which are attached. The Committee received no other testimony or comments in opposition to PR 21-302.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

PR 21-302 has no impact on existing law. It is a statement of the Council providing support for the "Statehood or Else" signature campaign and related efforts.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

According to District of Columbia Official Code § 1-301.47a, fiscal impact statements are not needed for emergency declaration, ceremonial, or sense of the Council resolutions.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 21-302.
- Section 2 Sets forth findings of the Council regarding the development of a “Statehood or Else” multimedia campaign.
- Section 3 Declares the sense of the Council that the District should further its efforts of achieving statehood with the creation of “Statehood or Else” multimedia campaign.
- Section 4 Requires that a copy of the resolution, upon adoption, be transmitted to the Mayor, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, the President of the United States Senate, the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee, and the District of Columbia Republican Party.
- Section 5 Provides that PR 21-302 shall take effect immediately.

IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 21-302 as introduced.
2. Written testimony and comments.
3. Legal Sufficiency Review.
4. Committee Print for PR 21-302.

Testimony of

Michael D. Brown
United States Senator
District of Columbia

Before

The Committee of the Whole
October 27, 2015

Mr. Chairman thank you for allowing me to testify today on the Sense of the Council Resolution PR21-302 in support of a "Statehood or Else" signature campaign. I would just like to read a brief statement.

I want to start by thanking Councilman Vincent Orange who came up with the idea for the signature campaign. Councilman Orange has always been a strong supporter of our statehood efforts and of our delegation. His reestablishment and nurturing of DC Emancipation Day, has provided an annual platform to highlight and remind America and our collective and unfair indenture to the federal government. Our delegation considers the Councilman's continued guidance and support a valuable resource in our fight for equality for District residents.

One million signatures in support of DC statehood -- put before Congress and the leadership of both major political parties during a Presidential election year would certainly be a dramatic way to show support for DC statehood. If we prepared a document with fifty signatures on each page for example, each copy would be 20,000 pages or take up 12 volumes of 1,250 pages each. This would certainly garner attention and demonstrate support for our cause. Although the cost would be expensive approximately \$ 269,000.00 just for copying, it could have great impact. To reduce cost we could of course transmit signatures electronically or consolidated them on some medium like a set of CD's; not as dramatic but much more cost effective however. In addition, collecting over 30,000 signatures a week between now and the conventions will, of course, take

additional funding, promotion and organization. Consequently, I encourage the Council to make sure that any initiative put forth in this regard is adequately funded.

A lot of what goes on in our movement is ad hoc and is consequently ineffective. Not bad ideas, un-sustained ideas, un-coordinated ideas, under funded ideas. For example, my billboards at the last convention in 2012 changed the conversation in Charlotte from budget autonomy to statehood, they were a good idea. However we couldn't sustain the momentum due to lack of funding, and budget autonomy returned as the strategy of the day. In the end neither the billboards or the strategy for budget autonomy have been effective. We still have no budget autonomy and we continue to struggle to get our message of statehood before the American public. A million signatures of support would certainly help our cause as long as it is integrated into a larger strategy and is provided with adequate resources. Unfortunately, lack of funding has kept us from developing such a strategy and usually results in stand alone efforts, like the billboards, whose impact fades quickly. As a rule we have had many good ideas, but very little follow through due to inadequate resources and as a result our efforts often fall short. Therefore, we must make sure that any campaign to collect a million signatures gets the support it needs to be successful.

Ultimately what we need to do is put real resources into the fight for statehood. There was legislation introduced, also by Councilman Orange, to fund our delegation more than 2 ½ years ago. A hearing was held where almost all the testimony was in support of this bill, still, Mr. Chairman, you refuse to move that legislation and as a result we continue to struggle and our efforts continue to be ineffective. Instead of providing the funding to develop an effective strategy and build an infrastructure to fight for statehood the Council opts to dole out a meager amount of money filtered through a Commission that you oversee. As a result, our efforts are stifled, with little follow-through and limited impact.

I think new ideas to help the movement are important. If the council passes this resolution and funds this work, I will work hard to help achieve the goal of one million signatures. I appreciated Councilman Orange including me in the resolution as a member of "working

group". and as always, I will do all I can to help make this project successful.

However I am compelled by virtue of my office to point out that Senator Strauss, Representative Garcia and I were elected and empowered by the voters of the District of Columbia to lead the fight for statehood. Until our work is fully funded. Until our positions are compensated and recognized as legitimate. And until our delegation is allowed to lead the fight for statehood we will have good ideas with little impact because, I fear, they will continue to be ad hoc, unsustainable, under funded un-coordinated and as a consequence, ineffective.

Let us lead -- that's what we were elected to do.

Thank you.

Testimony of US Shadow Representative (DC) Franklin Garcia
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
October 27, 2015

Good morning. My name is Franklin Garcia, the US Shadow Representative for the District of Columbia and I am testifying in support of: PR 21-302, the Sense of the Council in Support of a 'Statehood or Else' Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015.

In my commitment to support and promote DC Statehood, since taking office on January 2, 2015, I have done a lot of outreach to the community, locally and out of state. And my contributions to the DC Statehood movement are just a tiny fraction of all the great work for DC Statehood that many others are doing. But my perception is that we need to do more to end the more than 200 years of injustice and unequal treatment for the people of the District of Columbia. Anyone that's paying attention to the DC Statehood movement now can see that our movement is as strong as it ever has been. The failures to get us voting rights and the other challenges not addressed by voting rights, has made the coalition for DC Statehood strong. For the most part, all the entities are working together and are concentrating on DC Statehood, not DC Voting rights, because we know that voting rights alone will not bring equality to the citizens of the District of Columbia. I am in strong support of this initiative that through 1 million signatures or more, will give us the voice of the people to go to the President, the US Congress, and the Political Parties and demand that the citizens of the District of Columbia get the same treatment and representation that all other tax-paying citizens have in all other states. This signature-gathering drive will not only be useful locally to get more people engaged in their cause for equality, but it will also serve to bring much needed national attention to the DC Statehood movement. I look forward to continue to attend ANC, Civic Association and many other community meetings and bringing with me sheets to get DC Statehood supporters to sign on to this important initiative that will help us get closer to achieving DC Statehood. Thank you for the opportunity.

Testimony Before the Committee of the Whole of the Council of the District of Columbia on

PR 21-302, Sense of the Council in Support of a “Statehood or Else” Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015

October 27, 2015

I am Ann Hume Loikow and am here to testify on behalf of D.C. Statehood – Yes We Can! on PR 21-302, Sense of the Council in Support of a “Statehood or Else” Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015.

Councilmembers Orange, Grosso, Bonds, and Alexander introduced this resolution to declare that the Council supports developing a ‘State of Else’ multi-media campaign with the goal of collecting one million signatures on a petition supporting D.C. statehood.

As someone who has been working most of my adult life for the rights of the people of the District of Columbia to full self-government and the rights enjoyed by other Americans, which under our Constitution can only be achieved through statehood, I welcome the Council’s interest in statehood.

The way to become a state is for Congress to pass a law shrinking the District of Columbia, as the Seat of Government of the United States, to the Federal monumental core and admit the residential and commercial areas of the current District as the State of New Columbia.

The people of the District have long affirmed their support for statehood. In 1980, in one of the first initiatives approved under home rule, District voters voted overwhelmingly to hold a statehood constitutional convention. We elected delegates, held a convention that wrote a constitution that the voters approved in 1982. Since then, we have been petitioning Congress to admit the State of New Columbia to the union. The voters also authorized the election of a statehood or “shadow” delegation to lobby Congress on our behalf and elected the first delegation in 1990. Inspired by the practice of the appointing shadow cabinets in parliamentary systems, a number of states, beginning with Tennessee in 1796, and including Michigan, California, Minnesota, Oregon and Alaska, have elected and funded shadow Congressional delegations to assist in gaining statehood.

However, instead of an unfunded mandate to do an expensive million person petition, D.C. Statehood - Yes We Can! wants you and the Mayor to help us to get statehood by having Congress to pass the New Columbia Admission Act.

Thanks to the efforts of Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton, our volunteer *elected* statehood delegation, and many residents of the District, there is a D.C. statehood bill in the House of Representatives with 125 cosponsors, including six from Maryland and three from Virginia, and eighteen cosponsors on the Senate bill, including both Senators from Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont and Delaware. Delegate Norton introduced the House bill and Senator Thomas Carper of Delaware, the chairman of the committee with jurisdiction over the bill, introduced the Senate bill. We expect several more cosponsors to be added to both bills in the near future. This has only happened, though, because Delegate Norton, our statehood delegation and District residents have been working together to educate Congress and ASK them to support statehood. We need YOU to join us.

PR 21-302 clearly sets out why the State of New Columbia should be admitted to the union, although the findings need to make clear that it is the residential and commercial areas of the current District that will be the new state and that its name, as chosen by the Statehood Constitutional Convention and approved by the voters, is the State of New Columbia. In addition, the second finding should be amended to make clear that statehood would give us the full right to self-government at the Federal, *State* and local level. Statehood would grant us a full vote for President, unlike the 23rd amendment, and as a state we would automatically get full representation in both houses of Congress, all the powers the 10th Amendment reserves to the states and the people and Article IV’s guarantee of Republican form of government. In other words, Congress would no longer be both our unelected national legislature AND state legislature and we would no longer be treated as a federal agency for budgetary purposes.

However, if the Council is really serious about statehood, we need you to properly fund and compensate our elected statehood delegation. Pretty words and the suggestion that citizens undertake a massive and expensive petitioning effort are just lip service.

We urge you to consider the statehood consensus substitute bill, which a citywide group of statehood advocates developed in 2013 as a draft bill in the nature of a substitute for Bill 20-0171, which was introduced by Council members Orange, Graham, Barry, Bonds, and Alexander, and cosponsored by Council member McDuffie.

If our statehood delegation is to be effective, it must be funded. Unfortunately, thanks to explicit Congressional prohibitions, now lifted, and a lack of action by *our* elected officials, our statehood delegation has never been properly funded. If we are serious about statehood, we need to finally fund our delegation, including paying each member a reasonable stipend so they can afford to do the job they were elected to do, and giving *them* sufficient funds for staff and programming.

President Obama publicly endorsed D.C. statehood at a town meeting on July 21, 2014. We need you and the Mayor to formally request (1) that he put passage of the New Columbia Admission Act on his legislative agenda, recognizing that when he speaks about the importance of “voting rights,” that he understands that the people of D.C. lack the underlying right to self-government, without which a “vote” is not really meaningful; (2) that he urge the Democratic National Committee to include statehood in the 2016 Democratic platform; and (3) that he explicitly discuss the need for passage of the New Columbia Admission Act in his 2016 State of the Union Address.

Under the Constitution, so long as we are not citizens of a state, we lack liberty and are not truly free Americans with the right to govern ourselves. The history of our nation has been one of extending the franchise and the right to self-government to various portions of the population who were left out of the original document. The people of the D.C. are the only Americans who have *lost* their right to self-government because of where they live, a 214 year old stain on the oldest democracy in the world. People around the world, including some D.C. residents who in the armed services, put their lives on the line to achieve or preserve liberty for themselves or others. However, liberty is still denied to over 660,000 residents of the District of Columbia.

Please take meaningful action to achieve statehood, as I have described, to make our home a place of freedom and democracy, not just the hypocritical monumental colonial backdrop for politicians who have no idea what those words really mean.

3404 Rodman St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20008
July 24, 2013

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chairman, Council of the District
of Columbia
Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

Re: Bill 20-0171, the District of
Columbia Statehood Advocacy Act of 2013

Attached is a draft bill in the nature of a substitute for Bill 20-0171, the District of Columbia Statehood Advocacy Act of 2013, which was drafted by a committee of statehood supporters who testified at the July 11, 2013 roundtable held by the Committee of the Whole. The draft bill is accompanied by an explanation of the changes.

We, the undersigned District of Columbia voters and statehood supporters, thank Councilmembers Orange, Graham, Alexander, Barry, Bonds and McDuffie, who either introduced or cosponsored Bill 20-0171, for recognizing that it is a necessity, if the District of Columbia and its elected officials are serious about statehood, to finally fund our *elected* statehood Congressional delegation. Although the Committee of the Whole's roundtable on the bill was held at the height of the summer vacation season, our entire statehood delegation and a number of statehood supporters from across the District of Columbia testified in favor of funding the work of our elected statehood delegation.

The time for taking action on funding our statehood delegation is *now*. For the first time since 1993 The New Columbia Admission Act has been introduced in both Houses of Congress. D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton introduced H.R. 292 on January 15, 2013 with 15 co-sponsors, including a co-chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. Senator Thomas Carper, chair of the Senate committee with jurisdiction over the bill, introduced S. 132 on January 25, 2013 with three senior senators as co-sponsors (Durbin, Boxer, and Murray). Due to the efforts of our statehood delegation and D.C. statehood activists, there are now 52 co-sponsors on the House bill, including the Chair of the House Hispanic Caucus and representatives from Maryland and Virginia, and nine on the Senate bill, including both Senators from Maryland and the Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

This work was largely done by our volunteer statehood delegation and citizen volunteers. In contrast, H.R. 2000, the Puerto Rico Status Resolution Act, was introduced on May 15, 2013 and already has *99 cosponsors* (almost a quarter of the House) even though Puerto Ricans haven't yet definitively said they want statehood. This bill would require that Puerto Rico hold a ratification vote on whether Puerto Ricans want it to be a state. If a majority of Puerto Rican voters vote yes, then the President is *required* to submit statehood legislation for Puerto Rico to the Congress within 180 days of certification of the vote and *Congress deems the passage of H.R. 2000 as "a commitment by Congress to act, through legislation, to admit Puerto Rico as a State of the Union...."* (emphasis added)

In contrast to Puerto Rico, which has had numerous ambiguous referenda over the years on what status the people preferred, District voters have overwhelmingly supported statehood. In 1980, 60% of District voters voted to hold a statehood constitutional convention. We elected delegates, held a convention that wrote a constitution that the voters approved in 1982. Since then, we have been petitioning Congress to admit the State of New Columbia to the union.

The voters also authorized the election of a statehood Congressional delegation to lobby Congress on our behalf. The first statehood senators and representative were elected in 1990. Unfortunately, thanks to explicit Congressional prohibitions, now lifted, and a lack of action by *our* elected officials, our delegation has never been funded, except by donations from the public. Other states that have used statehood delegations to assist in gaining statehood funded those delegations, just as Puerto Rico is funding its effort now. The effect of support by elected officials and funding is clear in how quickly Puerto Rico is lining up cosponsors for H.R. 2000.

Unless you and the Council step up to the plate and support and fund our *elected* statehood delegation, Puerto Rico will become the 51st state and the District of Columbia will again be at the back of the line, the least free colony of the United States. The people of the District of Columbia are looking for leadership from our elected officials.

We appreciate Mayor Gray's leadership on this issue, beginning with his 2011 inaugural address, in which he stated that: "in many ways, Washington is the greatest symbol of our nation's democracy. Yet, we, as Washingtonians continue to be the only people in our nation that remain shut out of that democracy ... That is why we cannot rest until we achieve true self-determination and become our nation's 51st state." We also appreciate Delegate Norton's introduction of H.R. 292 and her recognition that statehood would resolve almost all of the legislative struggles she faces in Congress. Now, we are asking the Council to act and demonstrate that statehood and the liberty of the people of the District of Columbia are a priority to them, too.

The total we are asking the Council to appropriate to fund our Statehood Delegation is \$1.465 million, an increase of \$360,000 over Bill 20-0171 as introduced. This is, however, only a little more than 1/100th of a penny for every dollar in the District of Columbia's fiscal year 2014 budget and is a small price to pay for our right to liberty and self-government.

As Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said last month at the dedication of the District of Columbia's gift of the statue of Frederick Douglass to the Capitol, "(t)he District deserves statehood" and if it is to happen we have to be serious and act. "To show how serious I am on this, I signed my name as sponsor to legislation in the United States Senate." The Council needs to show how serious it is and adequately fund our Statehood Delegation for fiscal year 2014.

Cc: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia

Sincerely, (organizations for identification only)

Ann Hume Loikow, D.C. Statehood - Yes We Can! representative]
Wallace Dickson, Ward One - D.C., Statehood -
Yes We Can!
Ann Hughes Hargrove, Ward 1
John Lawrence Hargrove, Ward 1
David Schwartzman, DC Statehood Green Party
John D. Loikow, Ward 3
V. Hector Rodriguez, National Latino Alliance for DC
Statehood
Dvorah Russak, DC 4 Democracy
Peter Espenschied, Ward 3 Democratic Committee
Shelley Tomkin, Ward 3
Glenda Richmond, DC Statehood Leadership Coalition
Wilfred Gray
Fred Allen, Metropolitan Washington Council,
AFL-CIO
Henry B. Taylor, H.O.M.E.
Sabra N. Witcher, Ward 4
Janice H. Davis, National Federation of Democratic
Women, DC DSC
Evanna Powell, Ward 4
Tom N. Brown, Ward 7
Susan Woodard, Ward 7 (Free DC Statehood)
Robert Michael Vanzart
Anise Jenkins
Asantewaa Nkrumah-Ture
Maia Yeleoah, Retiree Activist Hurry up!!!
Chuck Hicks
Stanley Williams
Charles J. Moreland [D.C.'s first statehood

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

A bill in the nature of a substitute for Bill 20-0171 introduced by At-Large Councilmember, Vincent Bernard Orange, Sr., Councilmember Yvette Alexander, Councilmember Marion Barry, Councilmember Anita Bonds, and Councilmember Jim Graham, and cosponsored by Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, which was referred to the Committee of the Whole on March 5, 2013.

To fund the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation to further the goal of promoting statehood for the citizens of the District of Columbia, to implement programs, an annual conference and/or symposium and develop a website in furtherance of this goal, to provide compensation for members of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation and staff members of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation, and to fund lobbying services and a media campaign by the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Statehood Advocacy Act of 2013".

Sec. 2. Definitions.

- (1) "District of Columbia Statehood Delegation" means the two United States Senators and the United States Representative holding office pursuant to section 4 of the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiative of 1979, effective March 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-1 171, as amended; D.C. Official Code § 1-123).
- (2) "Statehood Fund" means the fund as defined in section 11(4) of the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiative of 1979, effective March 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-171, as amended; D.C. Official Code § 1-129.01(4)).
- (3) "United States Representative" means the District of Columbia public official elected pursuant to section 4 of the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiative of 1979, effective March 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-171 as amended; D.C. Official Code § 1-123).
- (4) "United States Senator" means either of the District of Columbia public officials elected pursuant to section 4 of the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiative of 1979, effective March 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-171, as amended; D.C. Official Code § 1-123).

Sec. 3. Establishment of a Statehood Fund appropriation.

- (a) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation, shall receive compensation, as provided in section 1108 of the Merit Personnel Act, approved Mar. 3, 1979 12 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-601.01) while actually holding elected office as a member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation, for a sum of \$75,000 per annum. Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation shall receive said compensation in equal bi-weekly installments at the address or payment location that shall from time to time be provided by the respective member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation.
- (b) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation shall receive an annual appropriation to their respective Statehood Fund of \$175,000 per annum for the purpose of selecting, employing, and fixing the compensation of such staff, as the Delegation member considers necessary to further the goal of promoting statehood for the citizens of the District of Columbia. Delegation members may jointly fund staff who serve the Delegation as a whole.
- (c) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation shall receive an annual appropriation to their respective statehood fund, of a sum of \$105,000 per annum, for the purpose of:
 - (1) planning, developing and implementing a national education and outreach program, including any travel expenses closely and directly related to such program, that furthers the goal of promoting statehood for the citizens of the District of Columbia;

(2) planning, developing and implementing a local ward based, "grass-roots" education and outreach program that furthers the goal of promoting statehood for the citizens of the District of Columbia;

(3) planning, developing and implementing a program to educate students in the District of Columbia about statehood;

(4) planning, developing and implementing a joint delegation website to further the goal of promoting statehood for the citizens of the District of Columbia; and

(5) planning and hosting a joint delegation annual conference and/or symposium to further the goal of promoting statehood for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

(d) Media Advocacy.

The Council of the District of Columbia shall appropriate \$400,000 for the purpose of funding the D.C. Statehood Delegation to execute a local and national media campaign to promote District of Columbia statehood.

(e) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation shall prepare and submit to the Mayor, for inclusion in the annual budget of the District of Columbia for the year, annual estimates of the expenditures and appropriations necessary for the operation of the Statehood Delegation for the year. All such estimates shall be forwarded by the Mayor to the Council for its action pursuant to sections 446 and 603(c) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §§ 446 and 603(c)) in addition to the Mayor's recommendations.

Sec. 4 Conforming Amendments.

(a) Conforming amendments to section 4 of the District of Columbia Statehood Constitutional Convention Initiative of 1979, effective March 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-171, as amended; D.C. Official Code § 1-123):

(1) D.C. Code § 1-123(f)(4) is amended by inserting "funds appropriated to such Representative or Senator, or to the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation as a whole, to promote statehood and" after "may employ staff and expend";

(2) D.C. Code § 1-123(4)(g)(1) is amended by inserting "In addition to receiving appropriated funds, a" at the beginning of the first sentence before "Representative or Senator may solicit and receive contributions";

(3) D.C. Code § 1-123(4)(g)(1) is amended by inserting "any appropriations, other than compensation paid directly to such Representative or Senator," in the fourth sentence after "There shall be deposited in each fund";

(4) D.C. Code § 1-123(4)(g)(1) is amended by inserting "other" after "any" and before "monies not included in annual Congressional appropriations."

(5) D.C. Code § 1-123(4)(g)(3) is amended by inserting in the first sentence "appropriated funds and" after "Each Representative or Senator shall file with the Director of Campaign Finance a quarterly report of all"; and

(6) D.C. Code § 1-123(g)(5) is amended by deleting from the second sentence after "Any remaining funds shall be" the phrase "donated to an organization operating in the District of Columbia as a not-for-profit organization within the meaning of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, approved October 22, 1986 (100 Stat. 2085; 26 U.S.C. 501(c))" and inserting in its place "transferred to the statehood fund of his or her successor, or if Congress has admitted the State of New Columbia to the union, to the General Fund of the District of Columbia".

Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 6. Effective date.

Although this act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register, the appropriations authorized by this act shall apply to Fiscal Year 2014 which begins October 1, 2013.

Explanation of Changes Made by the Substitute for Bill 20-0171

The changes made by the bill consist of the following:

Since the D.C. Statehood Delegation was specifically created to promote statehood, and only statehood, references to “voting rights” or “other related issues” were removed. To the extent those terms are relevant to the Statehood Delegation’s mission, it is because they result from the admission of the State of New Columbia to the union. In other words, with statehood, New Columbia would automatically get to elect a full, voting Congressional delegation (two Senators and as many House members as allowed for our population). Similarly, with statehood, New Columbia would have state sovereignty and the people of New Columbia would elect their own state legislature, rather than have the 535 members of Congress, none of whom we currently elect, filling that role. New Columbia would also automatically and permanently have “legislative autonomy” and “budget autonomy,” and the 10th Amendment to the Constitution *would* finally apply to us.

Section 2’s definitions of “Commission” and “Fund” were deleted since they are not otherwise used in the bill.

Section 3(a) of bill as originally introduced authorized \$150,000 for “retaining the services of a Congressional Affairs firm to lobby Congress on the issue of District of Columbia statehood and other related issues.” This section was deleted because the D.C. Statehood Delegation is elected to be our primary lobbyists for statehood. They may be assisted by the District of Columbia’s Congressional liaison in the Executive Branch’s Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs. The Mayor has also requested that this provision be deleted as unnecessary.

All the sections regarding appropriations to fund the D.C. Statehood Delegation’s activities are collected into a new section 3 entitled “Establishment of a Statehood Fund appropriation.”

Subsection 3(a) deals with compensation for the Statehood Delegation. The amount of annual compensation authorized for each member of the D.C. Statehood Delegation was increased from \$35,000 per annum to \$75,000 per annum. It is important that the members of our Statehood Delegation be paid enough to allow them to be able to afford to fully perform the job to which they were elected. Increasing the amount also says that statehood is a *priority* for the people of the District of Columbia and for their government. One hundred twenty thousand of the \$150,000 saved by deleting the provision authorizing the hiring of an outside lobbying firm will be applied to compensating our Statehood Delegation.

Subsection (b) increases the appropriation for staffing and office expenses for each member of the Statehood Delegation from \$75,000 to \$ 175,000. This will allow members of the delegation to hire professional staff as well as administrative/clerical staff and to provide small stipends for interns. The bill specifically authorizes the Delegation members to jointly hire staff who will serve entire Delegation.

Subsection (c) appropriates \$105,000 for each member of the Delegation to be used for five statehood program areas. The first three focus on planning, developing and implementing statehood education and outreach programs nationally, locally across the District of Columbia, and for District of Columbia students. It is particularly important that our young people understand that the fundamental unit of government under our Constitution is the state. The states were created by and with the consent of the people, and, as a result, state citizenship is the building block on which our right to self-government is based and full rights flow. Without state citizenship we are just colonists. The other program areas are the planning, developing and implementing of a joint delegation website and the planning and hosting of a joint delegation annual statehood conference or symposium. The latter two items were addressed in section 5(b) and (c) of the original bill.

Subsection (d) appropriates \$400,000 to fund the Statehood Delegation’s local and national statehood media campaigns. In order to add some flexibility and efficiency to the planning and expenditure of these funds, the requirement that the media campaign be contracted out has been removed. Thus, the Statehood Delegation has the option of directly hiring staff to handle all or part of the media work in-house rather than being required to contract out the entire program.

Subsection (e) is the former subsection 5(f) and is unchanged. This subsection requires the statehood delegation to prepare and submit an annual budget and estimate of expenditures and necessary appropriations to the Mayor for inclusion in the District of Columbia’s annual budget.

Section 4 adds six conforming amendments to sections 1-123(f) and (g) of the D.C. Code to clearly authorize the statehood delegation to receive, expend, and properly account for appropriated, as well as donated, funds. In addition, the amendment to D.C. Code § 1-123(g)(5) removes language allowing the Statehood Representative and Senators, when they leave office, to donate any unused appropriated funds or any statehood donations to a District non-profit and requires instead that they be

transferred to his or her successor, or if the State of New Columbia has been admitted to the union, to the General Fund of the District of Columbia. This change would ensure that the funds remain dedicated to the purpose for which they were appropriated or donated and prevents someone who is no longer a public official from donating unused appropriated funds to a private entity. Although the members of the statehood delegation have not in the past received appropriated funds, retiring members have donated unused donations in their statehood fund to their successors.

Section 5 is the fiscal impact statement and is unchanged from the version in section 6 of the original bill.

Section 6 is the effective date provision and tracks the language of section 7 of the original bill, but with the addition that the appropriations authorized by this act shall apply to fiscal year 2014 which begins October 1, 2013.

The total this bill would authorize to be appropriated to fund our Statehood Delegation would be \$1.465 million, an increase of \$360,000 over Bill 20-0171 as introduced. This is, however, only a little more than 1/100th of a penny for every dollar in the District of Columbia's fiscal year 2014 budget and is a small price to pay for our right to liberty and self-government.

As Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said last month at the dedication of the District of Columbia's gift of the statue of Frederick Douglass to the Capitol, "(t)he District deserves statehood" and if it is to happen we have to be serious and act. "To show how serious I am on this, I signed my name as sponsor to legislation in the United States Senate." The Council needs to show how serious it is and adequately fund our Statehood Delegation for fiscal year 2014.

Proposed Conforming Amendments to D.C. Code §§ 1-123(f)(4) and (g)

Existing sections of the D.C. Code as amended by the bill in the nature of a substitute for Bill 20-0171 (language added in italics; language deleted crossed out):

D.C. Code § 1-123(f):

"(f) A Representative of Senator:

...

(4) In accordance with subsection (g) of this section, may employ staff and expend *funds appropriated to such Representative or Senator, or to the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation as a whole, to promote statehood and funds donated by private sources for public purposes related to the achievement of statehood*; and

D.C. Code § 1-123(g)(1):

(g)(1) *In addition to receiving appropriated funds, a Representative or Senator may solicit and receive contributions to support the purposes and operations of the Representative's or Senator's public office. A Representative or Senator may accept services, monies, gifts, endowments, donations, or bequests. A Representative or Senator shall establish a District of Columbia statehood fund in 1 or more financial institutions in the District of Columbia. There shall be deposited in each fund any appropriations, other than compensation directly to such Representative or Senator, any gift or contribution in whatever form, and any other monies not included in annual Congressional appropriations. A Representative or Senator is authorized to administer the Representative's or Senator's respective fund in any manner the Representative or Senator deems wise and prudent, provided that the administration is lawful, in accordance with the fiduciary responsibilities of public office, and does not impose any financial burden on the District of Columbia.*

D.C. Code § 1-123(g)(3):

(g)(3) Each Representative or Senator shall file with the Director of Campaign Finance a quarterly report of all *appropriated funds and contributions received and expenditures made in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection. No campaign activities related to election or re-election to the office of Representative or Senator shall be conducted nor shall expenditures for campaign literature or paraphernalia be authorized under paragraph (1) of this subsection.*

D.C. Code § 1-123(g)(5):

(g)(5) Upon expiration of a Representative's or Senator's term of office and where the Representative or Senator has not been re-elected, the Representative's or Senator's statehood fund, established in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection, shall be dissolved and any excess funds shall be used to retire the Representative's or Senator's debts for salary, office, or other expenses necessary to support the purposes and operation of the public office of the Representative or Senator. Any remaining funds shall be ~~donated to an organization operating in the District of Columbia as a not for profit organization within the meaning of section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, approved October 22, 1986 (100 Stat. 2085; 26 U.S.C. 501(c))~~ *transferred to the statehood fund of his or her successor, or if Congress has admitted the State of New Columbia to the union, to the General Fund of the District of Columbia.*

1 (a) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation shall receive an
2 annual appropriation to their respective Statehood Fund, of a sum of \$75,000 per annum, for the
3 purpose of implementing programming that furthers the goals of promoting statehood and voting
4 rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

5 (b) The District of Columbia Statehood Delegation is responsible for using a portion of
6 its budget for planning and hosting an annual conference and/or symposium to further the goals
7 of promoting statehood and voting rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

8 (c) The District of Columbia Statehood Delegation is responsible for using a portion of its
9 budget for the development of a website to further the goals of promoting statehood and voting
10 rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

11 (d) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation, shall receive
12 compensation, as provided in section 1108 of the Merit Personnel Act, approved Mar. 3, 1979
13 (D.C. Law 2-139; D.C. Official Code § 1-601.01) while actually holding elected office as a
14 member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation, for a sum of \$35,000 per annum.

15 (e) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation shall receive a sum of
16 \$75,000 per annum for the purpose selecting, employing, and fixing the compensation of such
17 staff as the Delegation member considers necessary to further the goals of promoting statehood
18 and voting rights for the citizens of the District of Columbia.

19 (f) Each member of the District of Columbia Statehood Delegation shall prepare and
20 submit to the Mayor, for inclusion in the annual budget of the District of Columbia for the year,
21 annual estimates of the expenditures and appropriations necessary for the operation of the
22 Statehood Delegation for the year. All such estimates shall be forwarded by the Mayor to the
23 Council for its action pursuant to sections 446 and 603(c) of the District of Columbia Home Rule

1 Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code §§ 446 and 603(c)) in
2 addition to the Mayor's recommendations.

3 Sec. 6. Fiscal impact statement.

4 The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal
5 impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act,
6 approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

7 Sec. 7. Effective date.

8 This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the
9 Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as
10 provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December
11 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of
12 Columbia Register.

Testimony of Jerry N Clark on behalf of the DC Statehood Coalition
before the Committee of the Whole on PR 21-302, the
“Sense of the Council in Support of a ‘Statehood or Else’ Signature Campaign
Resolution of 2015”
October 27, 2015

Thank you Chairman Mendelson for the opportunity to testify before the Committee of the Whole on this very interesting “Sense of the Council Resolution” proposed by Council Members Orange, Bonds, Grosso, and Alexander.

My name is Jerry Clark and I am Chair of the DC Statehood Coalition. The Coalition was formed among a number of local statehood organizations in advance of the two major parties’ national conventions in 2012 for the express purpose of working together to collect signatures and key data elements from Delegates in support of Statehood for the people of the District. Due to a shortage of time and funds, we were unable to go to the earlier Republican Convention in Tampa, but we were able to send 25 volunteers to the Democratic Convention in Charlotte. It was by all accounts a very successful venture; we only wish we’d had many more volunteers to meet the demand from the enthusiastic Delegates we approached (or were approached by). In Charlotte and at a number of conventions and national meetings in Washington, hundreds upon hundreds of names of these state and local activists were entered into our database and have been used in a number of instances to help persuade congressmen and senators to co-sponsor the relevant bill, the New Columbia Admission Act, introduced in the House by Delegate Norton, and in the Senate by Senator Carper.

Our work has continued. We now have 125 co-sponsors in the House and 19 co-sponsors in the Senate due primarily to the leadership of these two great legislators and the hard work of members of the DC Statehood Coalition, which includes, among others, DC for Democracy, Stand Up for Democracy-Free DC, Neighbors United for DC Statehood, DC Vote, and members of the Shadow Delegation.

Finally getting Statehood for the people of DC requires a majority vote in each House and the signature of the President on the above referenced bill. By whatever means we proceed to accomplish this, it is critical that we keep our eyes on this objective. Accordingly, we commend Councilmember Orange and his colleagues for submitting this Resolution and we ask that the comments and questions that follow not be construed as opposing their overall efforts, but as questions and comments on what they have so boldly proposed.

Sustainability: No one can be sure when Statehood will be achieved. By some miracle, it could be soon. More likely, it will take more efforts by the District's leadership and by community and grassroots organizations such as ourselves over a period of years. We cannot trust in rosy scenarios, but must plan prudently how we invest our time and resources. It is very important that we avoid "one shot" efforts that do not allow us to build and utilize data over time. Useless data sitting "on the shelf" has to be avoided. For this reason, we encourage the collection of data from all 50 states, focusing to the degree possible on states and districts where we are especially in need of co-sponsors, and the inclusion of those data elements essential to following up with supporters at later dates. It would also be helpful to be able to make data available to allied local grass roots partners.

Costs: There is no reference to the costs of this proposal, and that may be appropriate at this stage. But some overall informed estimate would be valuable

before proceeding much further. Likewise, it would be helpful to distinguish the key parts of such an effort: developing the petition, promoting it through a multi-media campaign, collecting the data, and attempting to structure the data for maximum usefulness as discussed above.

Structure: It appears that the proposed Resolution would create a whole new “working group” that would further plan and presumably oversee the project. Some clarification about how this group would work would be helpful, especially as to how it would relate to other bodies.

Petition Goals: We suggest that the goal of one million signatures be revisited. We do not doubt that there are a huge number of supporters out there but we need to be cautious about publicly setting a goal that we could fail to meet due to circumstances unforeseen. In this context, we should consider whether smaller overall numbers of targeted signatures might be as effective or more so.

We note also that in recent years some members of congress have reacted to the deluge of petitions they are getting by paying less attention to them than in earlier periods even in the computer age when there were not so many. At a minimum, special communications and design efforts may be necessary to make sure the delivery of petitions get adequate attention.

Emancipation Day: Clearly, Emancipation Day and the National Tax Filing Extensions are great opportunities to promote DC Statehood on a national basis. It is not clear from the proposed petition, however, how these events link to the development of the petition. Among other things, they presumably have quite different timelines. We wonder whether it might be better to distinguish them for separate consideration as two equally important projects.

Thank You.

**PR 21-302, Sense of the Council in Support of a “Statehood or Else”
Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015
Presented on October 27, 2015 by Elinor Hart**

Good morning, Chairman Mendelson. I appreciate the time and attention that you and the Committee of the Whole are giving to ending the second class citizenship of DC residents. I also appreciate the enthusiasm of Councilmember Orange for DC Statehood . My name is Elinor Hart. I have been a Statehood advocate since 2009 and active in the DC Statehood Coalition since its inception. I am very impressed by Councilmember Orange’s recommendation that we take advantage of the tax filing extension resulting from our Emancipation Day holiday to advocate for Statehood. I can see how this can advance our cause. However, I do not have a clear picture of what the one million signatures he proposes to gather will accomplish.

I was surprised that Councilmember Orange’s resolution did not mention the New Columbia Admission Act. I know that you, Chairman Mendelson, are aware of this statehood legislation, because you testified at a hearing on the New Columbia Admission Act a little over a year ago. However, since our elected officials, apart from our shadow delegation, rarely mention the New Columbia Admission Act, I decided it would be a good idea to put on the record where we are in our effort to make the residential and commercial areas of the District of Columbia the 51st state of New Columbia.

New Columbia will become a state in the same way every other state except the original 13 has done so—an admission act passed by a majority of both houses of Congress and signed by the President. While the current legislation is very similar to statehood bills during the 80s and 90s, now it has many more cosponsors—record numbers in both the House and the Senate.

Emancipation Day is the time when we recall that 3100 enslaved Washingtonians were freed through compensated emancipation and remember what makes us proud of our unique history. It is also a time when we focus on our hopes for DC’s future and when Statehood advocates seek support on Capitol Hill for the New Columbia Admission Act.

My experience in advocating for Statehood has convinced me that we will achieve it by getting enough people in the 50 states to urge their Congressional Representatives and Senators to support the New Columbia Admission Act. Next April 16th provides a rare opportunity to ask people in the 50 states for their help at a time when we can say we are giving them something.

In April of 2016, we should have a project that will inform people in the 50 states that we are glad that our holiday is providing them with a tax filing extension and invite them to join us in commemorating Emancipation Day by advocating for the legislation that will give us all the rights that they enjoy—the New Columbia Admission Act.

Testimony of V. Hector Rodriguez
President, National Latino Alliance for DC Statehood
Before the Council of the District of Columbia, Committee of the Whole
Reference: Hearing on PR 21-302: Sense of the Council on Statehood Signature Campaign

America: Tear down this wall!

(A message to the American People from the residents of The District of Columbia:
From Hector Rodriguez, National Latino Alliance for DC Statehood-October 27, 2015)

America: Tear down this wall!

A wall that denies your fellow District Americans
Equal citizenship and full representation
In the U.S. Congress:
The forger of the American Dream
The economic centrum of our Democratic nation.

America: Tear down this wall!

A wall that has stood for over 200 years
As a bastion of injustice and segregation.
From generation upon generation
We continue to be political prisoners
In the very capital of our nation!

America: Tear down this wall!

We are your brothers and sisters from Washington DC
And citizens too.
Did you know we pay the highest taxes?
Have you forgotten our patriots who die for you?
America: Tear down this wall!
Can you hear our plea?
How many years must it take?
For you to set us free?

America: Tear down this wall!

This is our clarion call
We yearn for our freedom
Our cause is liberty
America tear down this wall
That oppresses and imprisons
Your people in Washington DC.

America: Tear down this wall!
We are the capital of freedom
The world symbol of liberty
Yet all the world's capital citizens vote
But not your citizens of Washington, DC.

America: Tear down this wall!
Our economic and political destinies
Are in the hands of strangers
Unknown to DC
This is not the legacy of my America
For you promised liberty.

America: Tear down this wall!
This wall of injustice
This wall of shame and agony
From your very world capital we reach out to thee
Your proud and loyal trustees
For we are the American Eagles
Of Washington DC!

America: Tear down this wall!
You have the power to free the prisoner
To insure equality and freedom for all
America you have the moral imperative
For this bastion of injustice to fall!

America: Tear down this wall!
We are 700,000 American political prisoners
In Washington, DC
With your "signature vote" for "New Columbia"
You can set us free!

Our freedom is now up to you.
We voted for "New Columbia"
As the 51st State in 1982
Tell your honorable Congressman
Tell your noble Senator
And tell our esteemed President too!



America: We the people of the District of Columbia are counting on you!

Respectfully, V. Hector Rodriguez, Former Captain Viet Nam Era, United States Army

Honorably Discharged



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

This is to certify that

RODRIGUEZ HECTOR E

██████████ CPT SC USAR

was Honorably Discharged from the

United States Army

on the 31ST *day of* MAY 1971

This certificate is awarded

as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service

LOUIS J. PROST
BRIGADIER GENERAL, USA

committee to support the charter

Suite 316
666 - 11th Street, N. W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 393-6000

On May 7th VOTE
For the Charter

On May 7th VOTE
For Advisory
Neighborhood Councils

*FIGHTING FOR
Home Rule
Vice Chairmen
OF THE Committee
TO SUPPORT THE CHARTER*

HONORARY CHAIRMEN

Mayor Walter E. Washington
Congressman Walter E. Fauntroy
John A. Neivus, Chairman, D. C.
City Council

HONORARY VICE CHAIRMEN

Sterling Tucker, Vice Chairman,
D. C. City Council
Marion Barry, President,
D. C. School Board

CHAIRMAN

John B. Duncan, President, VOICE
(Voice of Informed
Community Expression)

VICE CHAIRMEN

Melvin M. Burton, Jr.,
Vice Chairman, D. C. Republican
Central Committee
Ronald H. Brown, Director, Washington
Bureau, National Urban League
David Carlner
Dr. William Chin-Lee
Richard Clark, Chairman, National
Board of Directors, Self-
Determination for D. C.
Joan Czarnecki, President, League
of Women Voters of D. C.
Leonard B. Doggett, President,
Doggett's Parking
Carthur L. M. Drake, Secretary D. C.
Chamber of Commerce
Jan Eichhorn, Executive Director,
Self-Determination for D. C.
Robert Ewell, President, D. C.
Federation of Civic Associations
Connie Fortune, Chairman, Washington
Home Rule Committee
Rockwood H. Foster, D. C.
City Council
Edwin K. Hoffman, President,
Metropolitan Washington
Board of Trade
Marnie Hornblower, Vice Chairman,
Coalition for Self-Determination
William Lucy, Chairman, D. C.
Democratic Central Committee
Richard K. Lyon, Past Chairman,
Washington Home Rule Committee
Bobbie McMahon, Chairman,
Area 17 Neighborhood
Planning Council
Rev. Jerry A. Moore, Jr., D. C.
City Council
Arline M. Neal, Treasurer, Greater
Washington Central Labor Council,
AFL-CIO
Jason I. Newman, Director,
Georgetown Law Center, D. C.
Project on Community Legal
Assistance
Sarah H. Newman
Dr. Marjorie Parker, D. C.
City Council
Edmund E. Pendleton, Chairman,
D. C. Republican
Central Committee
Yvonne Price, Executive Assistant,
Leadership Conference on
Civil Rights
Joseph L. Rauh, Former Chairman,
D. C. Democratic
Central Committee
Hector Rodriguez, Assistant
Director, Field Operations,
National Urban Coalition
Carlos M. Rosario, Director, D. C.
Office of Spanish Affairs
Rev. Stephen G. Spottswood,
Chairman, Board of Directors,
NAACP
Harriet Taylor, President, Greater
Washington Chapter, Americans
for Democratic Action
John A. Wilson, Associate Director,
National Sharecroppers Fund
Nadine Winter, Director,
Hospitality House, Inc.

TREASURER

J. C. Turner, General Secretary-
Treasurer, International Union of
Operating Engineers

SECRETARY

Ben D. Segal, Special Assistant
to the Mayor

Mr. V. Hector Rodriguez
2121 P Street, N. W.
Washington, D. C. 20037

Dear Hector:

The Committee to Support the Charter is extremely proud of its contribution to the restoration of local elected self-government to the citizens of the District of Columbia. In no small measure, the intensive campaign of the Committee to Support the Charter helped to secure approval of the Home Rule Charter and Advisory Neighborhood Councils by the overwhelming majority of those citizens voting in the May 7th Referendum.

While many individuals and organizations contributed to the success of our campaign, the Committee to Support the Charter is especially grateful to you for your splendid cooperation and support.

Your outstanding assistance enabled the Committee to succeed in making a strong and significant impact upon the voters of our community, and we are deeply in your debt.

With personal best wishes,

Sincerely,

John B. Duncan
Chairman

CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen
Richard K. Lyon
John A. Wilson

LEGAL COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen
William Becker
Ronald H. Brown

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen
William H. Press
J. C. Turner

MEMBERSHIP & VOLUNTEERS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen
Gladys J. Duncan
Barbara Morgan

INTER-RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen
Msgr. Ralph Kuehner
Daniel Mann
Rev. B. Cortez Tipton

STAFF SELECTION COMMITTEE

Co-Chairmen
William Lucy
R. Grayson McGuire



**PR021-302, SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF A 'STATEHOOD OR ELSE'
 SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN RESOLUTION OF 2015
 HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL
 27 OCTOBER 2015**

Statement for the Record
by
Donald Haines

I have been a resident of Ward 6 in the District of Columbia since 1975. I regularly vote, even in special elections, and have been a volunteer in many campaigns and on election day for many candidates, including then Sharon Pratt Dixon when she successfully sought to become mayor, for Jack Evans in his first election campaign (when I was an openly gay man opposing the Gertrude Stein Democratic Club's endorsed candidate) and for four campaigns of Mr. Mendelson for Council at Large and Chairman, among others. I am frequently consulted by residents in my building and other neighbors for my perspective on District issues and officeholders and actively supported the election of David Grosso and Elissa Silverman, again among others.

I will do the Committee and the Council the courtesy, with all due respect, of speaking frankly.

I suggest it is important to consider this resolution, as I did, in the full context of the District's efforts to obtain statehood and exactly how D.C. Voters have already decided that should proceed.

Last Session's Statehood Advocacy Act Bill B020-171

I last testified before the Committee of the Whole on July 11, 2013 on Councilmember Orange's Bill B020-171, The Statehood Advocacy Act, which would have provided minimal funding for the Statehood Delegation and Statehood Advocacy Efforts. In fact it was Councilmember Orange's activism on behalf of statehood that led me to be one of those supporting endorsement of him for mayor at the Gertrude Stein mayoral endorsement meeting last election.

I am also grateful to Councilmembers Yvette Alexander, Anita Bonds and Kenyan McDuffie for cosponsoring this bill funding the Statehood Delegation and Statehood Advocacy. (Former Councilmembers Jim Graham and Marion Barry were also cosponsors.) Thus, the Orange bill garnered council support sufficient to be just one vote shy of a majority; meaning that any other single councilmember could have ensured passage and thereby end the starvation of funding for the statehood delegation and statehood advocacy.

Candor compels me to confess that I felt quite differently about those councilmembers who blocked that funding, even if I had supported their candidacies earlier: namely, Chairman Phil Mendelson and Councilmembers Jack Evans, Mary Cheh, Muriel Bowser (now mayor, of course), Tommy Wells, David Grosso, David Catania. I realize several of the councilmembers merely deferred to the opposition of Chairman Mendelson, or at least claimed that was the case. I'll have more to say about this later.

A working group of statehood supporters met under the leadership of Charles J. Moreland, the District's first Shadow (Statehood) Representative, and *D.C. Statehood—Yes We Can!* leader Ann Hume Loikow. We thought that Bill 020-0171 would benefit by certain changes to focus and improve its provisions for statehood (it is always easier to edit than to create, and we were hopeful that its supporters would welcome these improvements). Our efforts yielded the Consensus Substitute Amendment, which was sent to all Councilmembers. I also personally sent those materials to each of the councilmembers and several of their staff.

I refer in this statement to the Consensus Substitute Amendment, the Explanatory Memo on the proposed changes, and the Transmittal Letter sent to Chairman Mendelson and copied to all candidates., attached to Ann Loikow's testimony. I urge the introduction and adoption of the Consensus Substitute as a freestanding bill, modified to include actual funding as soon as possible, given that the Council has sadly seen fit not include such funding in its current budget.

The 'Statehood or Else' Petition and Resolution PR021-302

Frankly, I was first dismayed by this 'Statehood or Else' Petition effort and intended to oppose it outright. I feared that this was another ad-hoc effort, uncoordinated with the statehood delegation and doomed to fail without the assurance of adequate funding. I also noted that it attracted as cosponsors many who have opposed funding the statehood delegation and meaningful statehood advocacy efforts, and I feared this was simply another effort like last session's Statehood Commission Funding—effectively meaningless minimal funding designed more as a political fig leaf (*e.g.*, "*Of course*, I support statehood—I supported the Statehood Commission" neglecting of course to admit his or her efforts to 'sabotage'—a term increasingly being used—statehood.)

However, I must say that I was very impressed by Councilmember's Orange's speech on behalf of statehood to the 20th Anniversary Million Man March, and I hope it can be broadly disseminated to church, service, library, labor, business, and community groups.

I now support resolution PR021-302 (with a couple of suggested changes) and hope the Council will approve it as a genuine and meaningful pro-statehood action, an effort that must be adequately funded and fully coordinated with the Statehood Delegation.

I associate myself with the testimony and remarks of Shadow Senator Michael Brown and D.C. Statehood—Yes We Can! leader Ann Loikow on the “Statehood or Else!” petition and with those of Elinor Hart on Councilmember Orange’s bringing Emancipation Day to greater prominence and to focus it on obtaining D.C. Statehood.

I have seen suggested amendments and I support them:

In Section 2 of PR021-302, insert the italicized text between brackets:

Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

(1) Without statehood, the District of Columbia will continue to be denied democratic equality, and its citizens will continue to *[be denied of local and state control over local, including state-level, matters and funding and]* suffer taxation without representation;

(2) Statehood is the most appropriate mechanism to grant the United States citizens who reside in the *[commercial and residential neighborhoods of the]* District of Columbia *[to be called, as decided by D.C. voters, the State of New Columbia—while leaving the White House, Capitol, Supreme Court, National Mall, Washington Monument, Lincoln, Jefferson, WWII, Korea War, Vietnam War Memorials, in a federal District of Columbia controlled by Congress]* the full rights and privileges of American citizenship, which include not only equal representation in the United States House of Representatives and the United States but also *[self-government at the Federal, state and local levels, including]* full control over local affairs and budget autonomy;

D.C. Voters Have Already Decided How to Get Statehood

D.C. Voters decided that D.C. Statehood should be the District's objective in obtaining equality with other United States citizens, chose the name New Columbia for the new state to be made out of the residential neighborhoods and commercial areas of D.C. (while leaving a smaller federal District of Columbia controlled by Congress, which would continue to include the White House, Capitol, Supreme Court, National Mall, etc.).

In mandating Statehood, D.C. Voters rejected so-called ‘piecemeal approaches’ like retrocession or the so-called ‘retrocession-lite’ that would drown D.C. Voters for a U.S. Senate seat in much larger Maryland while doing nothing about securing local control over local matters and budgets. Nonetheless, just as Senate Majority Leader Reid, House Speaker/Democratic Leader Pelosi and President Obama announced their support for statehood, D.C. Vote’s executive director Kim Perry announced in the *Washington Post* she was ‘open’ to retrocession. See https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/new-dc-vote-leader-urges-patience-open-mind/2013/07/03/a19f6a42-e426-11e2-80eb-3145e2994a55_story.html.

Moreover, D.C. Voters (by over 59%) have already chosen to use the so-called ‘Tennessee Plan’ of a Shadow Statehood Delegation to obtain statehood. Six states became states because (in part) they used this system, with paid Shadow Senators (and in the case of Alaska, a paid Shadow Representative as well. The first shadow senators were chosen in 1796; the most recent were those of Alaska. All such shadow representatives eventually ended up serving in the U.S. Congress (except for one who became governor of the new state instead). Although born in North Dakota, I grew up in Minnesota, one of the six states using the Shadow Statehood Senator system. (Michigan and California are two others.)

Congress, however, remained determined to continue its despotic rule over the District and barred use of District funds to support the statehood delegation and statehood advocacy—despite the expressed intention of D.C. Voters and the Statehood Convention that the Statehood Delegation would be paid and would lead the statehood efforts. Sadly, a bare majority of D.C. councilmembers (despite the best efforts of Councilmember Orange and his cosponsors), has so far decided to be Congress’s accomplice in thwarting D.C. Statehood—often while loudly proclaiming their supposed dedication to statehood.

Similarly, Chairman Mendelson last year gave excellent testimony on statehood to the Senate hearing on The New Columbia Admissions Act, while being silent about the fact he worked hard to prevent the voter-chosen D.C. Shadow Senators from even appearing. Remember, it was the aim of the Statehood Convention (and intrinsic to the Tennessee Plan of Shadow Statehood Representation) that D.C.’s shadow senators should endeavor as far as possible to be treated by U.S. senators as their peers in waiting. Even the Senate Committee, would have none of Mendelson’s sabotage and both D.C. Shadow Senators Paul Strauss and Michael D. Brown appeared and gave worthwhile testimony.

Indeed, Statehood Senator Michael D. Brown has provided one of the examples of why we deserve Statehood: In 2012, D.C. Senator Michael D. Brown was re-elected as shadow senator with more votes (206,911) than the senators elected that year in **Wyoming (Barrasso: 184,531)** and **North Dakota (Heitkamp: 161,337)**. He also received more votes than the sitting or later Senators from **Alaska (Begich: 151,767 votes in 2008; Murkowski: 101,091 votes in 2010; Sullivan, replacing Begich:, 119,579 in 2014)**, **Wyoming (Enzi: 189,046 votes in 2008)**, **North Dakota (Hoeven: 181,689 votes in 2010)**, **Vermont (Leahy: 151,281 votes in 2010)**, and **Delaware (Coons: 174,012 votes in 2010 and 130,645 in 2014)** **South Dakota (Rounds: 140,721 in 2014)** **Wyoming (Enzi: 119,534 in 2014)** and nearly as many as **Montana (Daines: 210,853 in 2014)** and **Rhode Island (Reed: 222,776 in 2014)**.

So that’s 12 sitting U.S. senators who were elected with roughly the same or fewer votes than Statehood Senator Brown but Mr. Mendelson tried to keep the Senate from hearing him.

[Those who know the situation realize that in seeking to silence the Statehood Delegation and refusing to fund them as intended by D.C. Voters, Chairman Mendelson is simply pursuing a purely personal political peeve—and I say this as someone who worked four elections for Phil. Mendelson resents that Brown ran against him in the council-at-large primary because Phil was thwarting statehood efforts. (in fact, I actually remonstrated with Brown personally—to his face—while working the Eastern Market poll for Phil.) Brown had been and continues to be, in my opinion, an excellent statehood senator, but I strongly thought he ought not to have challenged Mendelson who I viewed as one of the Council’s leading legislators. Continuing sabotage of statehood, however, is very serious.]

Tennessee, Michigan, California, Minnesota, Oregon and Alaska all paid their shadow statehood delegations and all became states. The D.C. Council blocks such payment and D.C. does not become a

state. Is this accidental? If pay is insignificant, then let's save the District the salaries, staff and office expenses of the Mayor and Councilmember—they can do their jobs just as well without resources as the statehood delegation can.

Last session, the Council found the funds to include \$12.5 billion in that budget but refused to spend the measly \$1.1 million in this bill for the Statehood Advocacy offices established by D.C. Voters. D.C. Statehood is the official policy of the District of Columbia. Our shadow delegation is the group the people of D.C. have elected to represent us and spearhead our statehood effort. They need to be funded—both the members and their staff and projects they support. This is what we haven't ever done and what Puerto Rico is doing—even though they don't have the definitive endorsement of statehood by their citizens.

In what can only be seen as a *rebuke to the D.C. Council's lack of support for D.C. Statehood*, the tardy effort (compared to D.C.'s) on behalf of Puerto Rico, even before sentiment on the island settles clearly in favor of statehood, has yielded more immediate attention, including the support of Republican presidential candidates. Puerto Rico, of course, has spent millions on its statehood efforts even though there is not a clear mandate for statehood, while Chairman Mendelson and his followers on the Council deny statehood funding.

As I noted in my 2013 testimony, the Consensus Substitute Amendment for Councilmember Orange's Statehood Advocacy Act, Bill B020-171:

A penny is of course one one-hundredth of a dollar. The small sum involved here—ultimately inadequate but progress since funding starts at zero—amounts to less than **one one-hundredth of a penny** to statehood efforts for every dollar in the FY2014 D.C. Budget. So D.C. Councilmembers refused to come up even with one one-hundredth of a penny for D.C. Statehood. That stands as a powerful indictment of every member of the Council. It raises the question of whether many Councilmembers, regardless of their lip service for the District's policy of D.C. Statehood, deserve more to be regarded as genuine supporters of D.C. Statehood or, in fact and in effect, 'Statehood *Saboteurs*.'

Last session, the Council found the funds to include \$12.5 billion in that budget but refused to spend the measly \$1.1 million in this bill for the Statehood Advocacy offices established by D.C. Voters. D.C. Statehood is the official policy of the District of Columbia. Our shadow delegation is the group the people of D.C. have elected to represent us and spearhead our statehood effort. They need to be funded—both the members and their staff and projects they support. This is what we haven't ever done and what Puerto Rico is doing—even though they don't have the definitive endorsement of statehood by their citizens.

I commend to you my 2013 Prepared Statement on Bill B020-171 before the Committee of the Whole, July 11.

The Undercurrent of Seething Anger at Statehood Sabotage

In the District, every politician (virtually) claims to be pro-statehood. But in fact, many officials give only lip service to statehood while actually doing things to sabotage statehood. Statehood activists are not stupid or unseeing, however. There is an undercurrent of seething anger in some statehood circles against these *Statehood Saboteurs*. I am absolutely one of those D.C. voters.

D.C. voters backed legalizing, regulating and taxing marijuana—yet that law remains in limbo because the mayor and councilmembers continue to sabotage statehood.

D.C. voters back budget autonomy (and back the permanent, genuine autonomy possible only from statehood)—yet are denied that because the mayor and councilmembers continue to sabotage statehood.

D.C. voters back our gun laws, full-service reproductive rights, adequate health and anti-HIV measures—yet are denied them because the mayor and councilmembers continue to sabotage statehood.

A first indication of this anger—probably too gentle— was the bumpersticker/bookmark

PM: SOS

I understand hundreds were printed and distributed at events like ward meetings, the Palisades Fourth of July Parade, etc. I've seen it in at least seven wards (I include photos from three of them). I've heard that fed-up statehood activists are debating whether to print thousands more or do something more visible and direct. Of course, everyone hopes that D.C. councilmembers will simply decide to stop sabotaging the voter-approved and voter-chose statehood delegation and their statehood efforts by funding them.

Absent such a change, I personally have concluded that I favor a more direct approach, as reflected by the three text boxes on the following pages. (I'd insert an image of the named councilmember in lieu of just the name in large-font.)





D.C. STATEHOOD

*Saboteur
in Chief*

PHIL
MENDELSON

Singlehandedly
sabotaged and sabotages still
(for petty personal political passions)
our Voter-Approved/Voter-Chosen
Statehood Delegation and
full Statehood Advocacy.

Only one councilmember shy of a
funding majority while a Democratic
House, Senate and President,
Phil sabotaged funding—
wasting House, Senate
and 7/8 of Pres. Obama's years.

Pissed we still don't have control over our
budget & laws, U.S. Senators/Rep,
legalized/taxed/regulated pot,
women's reproductive freedom,
full-scale anti-HIV health measures, protection
against any whim in Congress?

We lack all of those—and people die—
because we are denied
Statehood for New Columbia

'Blame Phil First.'

D.C. STATEHOOD

Saboteur

(blind follower type)

DAVID GROSSO

Singlehandedly
sabotaged and sabotages still
(by blindly following Phil M.)
our Voter-Approved/Voter-Chosen
Statehood Delegation and
full Statehood Advocacy.

Only one councilmember shy of a
funding majority while a Democratic
House, Senate and President,
David *sabotaged* funding—
wasting House, Senate
and 7/8 of Pres. Obama's years.

*Pissed we still don't have control over our
budget & laws, U.S. Senators/Rep,
legalized/taxed/regulated pot,
women's reproductive freedom,
full-scale anti-HIV health measures, protection
from any whim in Congress?*

We lack all of those—and *people die*—
because we are denied
Statehood for New Columbia.

'Blame Grosso.'



D.C. STATEHOOD

Saboteur

(blind follower type)

**JACK
EVANS**

Singlehandedly
sabotaged and sabotages still
(by blindly following Phil M.)
our Voter-Approved/Voter-Chosen
Statehood Delegation and
full Statehood Advocacy.

Only one councilmember shy of a
funding majority while a Democratic
House, Senate and President,
Jack sabotaged funding—
wasting House, Senate
and 7/8 of Pres. Obama's years.

Pissed we still don't have control over our
budget & laws, U.S. Senators/Rep,
legalized/taxed/regulated pot,
women's reproductive freedom,
full-scale anti-HIV health measures, protection
from any whim in Congress?

We lack all of those—and people die—
because we are denied
Statehood for New Columbia.

'Blame Evans.'







MENDELSON

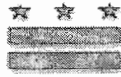
D.C. STATEHOOD

*Saboteur
in Chief*

Pissed we *still* don't have control over our budget & laws, U.S. Senators/Rep, legalized/taxed/regulated pot, women's reproductive freedom, full-scale anti-HIV health measures, protection against any whim in Congress?

We lack all of those—and *people die*—because we are denied Statehood for New Columbia

'Blame Phil First.'



Stand Up! for Democracy in D.C. (Free DC)
 1715 4th Street, NW – Washington, DC 20001
 Dorothy Height Station – PO Box 2152, Washington, DC 20013
www.FreeDC.org ❖ (202) 232-2500 ❖

**Testimony before the Council of the District of Columbia
 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20004**

**“Sense of the Council in Support of a “Statehood or Else” Signature Campaign,
 Resolution of 2015”, PR21-0302 – October 27, 2015**

I am Anise Jenkins, executive director of Stand Up! For Democracy in DC (Free DC), a nonprofit organization, founded in 1997 to educate, advocate, organize and mobilize for the achievement of full citizenship rights for the people living in the nonfederal part of the nation’s capital, Washington, DC. Over these years, our organization has supported many efforts and projects that will make D.C. the 51st state finally guaranteeing the now more than 655,000 people living here voting representation in the U.S. House and Senate, final say over our local budget and local laws; the right to elect or appoint our local judges and more control over our everyday lives.

Over these years, Stand Up! – Free DC has consistent through our actions and projects by protesting, being arrested for civil disobediences many times, establishing a Free DC Freedom School to reach out to the local community, and participated in numerous radio and television programs to reach out to the nation at large to spread the word about our plight. We conducted the only national survey on DC Statehood – which showed that when made aware of our lack of rights, over 73% of respondents support DC becoming the 51st state! That’s why we continue to work! We have recently, through the funding of the DC government, launched “Ambassadors for DC Statehood”, a group of ordinary DC residents, committed to achieving our equal civil rights. When the Ambassadors learned of the Statehood or Else Signature Campaign, we immediately pledged our support. Our latest project committed Stand Up! – Free DC! to continue to actively do outreach to large national events (such as the CBC Legislative Conference and the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March – officially called “Justice or Else”. Our project committed us to continue distributing DC Statehood educational literature to the thousands of visitors who come to Washington, DC from all over the nation and to collect their information in order to help build a database of pro-DC Statehood supporters from around the country. **Well, lo and behold, our plans are in perfect sync with the “Statehood or Else” Signature Campaign!**

Our Ambassadors advocated the inclusion of DC Statehood at the many Justice or Else organizing meetings we attended, again in sync (without our knowledge) with the efforts of Councilmember Orange, Anita Bonds, Yvette Alexander and David Grosso . We celebrated when we learned that Mr. Orange would be allowed to make a major speech at the Justice or Else gathering on 10-10-15. We produced this palm card displaying letters that spell out “Statehood or Else” with clear reasons for DC Statehood on the reverse side. We had the petition downloaded on our new tablets to collect signatures that day and used the paper petitions and clipboards we got from Mr. Orange’s office before 10-10 and were happy we got them because WiFi was down on the Mall. **To date, our Ambassadors have collected hundreds of signatures thus far and continue to collect them every day.**

I conclude by saying simply that our support for the “Statehood or Else” Signature and Media Campaign is unequivocal. **We say yes, yes, yes.** We will only get our full rights when DC residents DC do everything and all that is necessary to appeal to the nation and the world for support for full statehood for DC residents! **On our palm card we state: “DC must have “Statehood or Else ... U.S. Democracy is Hypocrisy!”** Our 2013 survey proved that when the American people are told about our plight they will give their support to right this incredible and un-American wrong! Thank you!

Anise Jenkins, Executive Director - @StandUp_FreeDC – @MsFreeDC - 202-232-2500 - 202-361-9739
 Stand Up! For Democracy in DC (Free DC) – www.FreeDC.org – standup_freedom@yahoo.com

* Do not quibble over funding, our ancestors gave their lives for these rights – please fund this as well!

Before the
Committee of the Whole

Public Hearing
on

"Sense of the Council in Support of a 'Statehood or Else'
Signature Campaign of 2015"
PR 21-0302

Evanna Powell

Good morning, Mr. Mendelson and ^{MR. ORANGE} Councilmembers. I am Evanna Powell, citizen, taxpayer and voter of the District of Columbia, and more importantly, I am a citizen of the United States of America. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to testify about "Sense of the Council in Support of 'Statehood or Else' Signature Campaign of 2015."

The purpose of this Campaign is to produce petitions supporting DC statehood and delivering 1 million signatures to the President, all 535 members of Congress and to leadership of the 2016 Republican and Democratic Conventions.

With the petitions, Congress, the President and leaderships of both the Republican and Democratic Conventions will see the support for DC statehood, and can move forward in doing what is required to grant DC statehood.

However, prior to the Campaign moving forward with Congress and the President, this Council must indicate its sense of approval of this Campaign, as well as, its support of statehood.

Councilmembers are employed by the citizens of the District to ask for when asked, among other things, for all the rights, privileges and immunities afforded under the Constitution to other citizens of the United States, and for this reason, the Council should grant its approval of the "Sense of the Council in Support of 'Statehood or Else' Signature Campaign of 2015," so that DC citizens can move forward with their efforts to ~~become~~ ^{make DC} a state.

As a side but important matter, in 1980, in an election, 60% of DC voters supported statehood, and as recently as October 10, 2015 during the commeration of the 20th Anniversary of the Million Man March, DC residents and non-residents of DC supported DC statehood as indicated by petitions signed during the event. Also in 2013, in a national survey of non-residents of DC, 73% supported DC statehood.

Thank you again.

STATEMENT
OF
DOUGLASS SLOAN
VICE CHAIR, ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 4B,
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER, DC BRANCH NAACP
BEFORE THE
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
ON
PR-21-302
“SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF A ‘STATEHOOD
OR ELSE’ SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN RESOLUTION OF 2015”

OCTOBER 27, 2015

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, I AM PLEASED TO APPEAR BEFORE YOU TO GIVE MY VIEWS ON THE ISSUE OF STATEHOOD. I AM A NATIVE WASHINGTONIAN AND I LIVE IN THE RIGGS PARK NEIGHBORHOOD OF WARD 4.

I SUPPORT STATEHOOD FOR NEW COLUMBIA AND/OR VOTING REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS. THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT HAVE NEVER ACCEPTED THE DENIAL OF VOTING REPRESENTATION SINCE 1800 WHEN THE DISTRICT RELOCATED TO ITS CURRENT LOCATION TO ESTABLISH THE NATION'S CAPITAL. SINCE THAT TIME WE HAVE BEEN TREATED AS SECOND CLASS CITIZENS EVEN THOUGH THIS IS NOT PERMITTED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION.

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION WAS FOUGHT OVER THIS ISSUE. KING GEORGE TOLD OUR FOUNDING FATHERS THAT WE WERE REPRESENTED BY THE PARLIAMENT IN ENGLAND OR VIRTUAL REPRESENTATION. OUR FOUNDING FATHERS DID NOT ACCEPT THIS AND INSISTED ON DIRECT REPRESENTATION SO THAT WE COULD GOVERN OURSELVES – THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED. SO, IT IS SOMEWHAT IRONIC THAT THE CURRENT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT UNDER WHICH WE LIVE MIRRORS THAT FOR WHICH WE FOUGHT A WAR WITH ENGLAND. WE WANT TO BE TREATED LIKE EVERY OTHER AMERICAN CITIZEN. WE PAY TAXES, FIGHT IN OUR NATION'S WARS, SERVE ON FEDERAL JURIES AND YET ARE DENIED THE FULL MEASURE OF DEMOCRACY.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST A NEW COMPLEMENTARY STRATEGY TO ACHIEVE FEDERAL VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT. ACCORDING TO PETER RAVEN-HANSEN, A PROFESSOR OF CONSTITUTIONAL LAW AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW, "DC RESIDENTS MAY VOTE FOR FEDERAL LEGISLATORS IN MARYLAND ELECTIONS, AS THEY DID FROM 1791 TO 1800 BECAUSE THE 1800 FEDERAL STATUTE THAT FOR OVER 200 YEARS DISENFRANCHISED DISTRICT RESIDENTS DID NOT ACTUALLY HAVE THAT PURPOSE OR EFFECT."

(ACT OF FEB. 27, 1801, CH 15, 2 STAT. 103 (1801)).

THE TEXT OF THE BILL DOES NOT REFERENCE VOTING RIGHTS OF DC RESIDENTS IN MARYLAND ELECTIONS. THEREFORE, IT APPEARS THAT THE DENIAL OF VOTING RIGHTS WAS BASED ON A MISTAKE OR AN ADMINISTRATIVE ERROR "THAT STILL COULD BE REMEDIED BY THE COURTS." THEORETICALLY, A DC RESIDENT COULD ATTEMPT TO REGISTER TO VOTE FOR A FEDERAL OFFICIAL IN MARYLAND AND

THEN FILE A TEST CASE IN THE FEDERAL COURT. I BELIEVE SUCH A TEST CASE WOULD SUCCEED.

THIS EFFORT WOULD NOT IN ANY WAY INTERFERE WITH THE MATTER PROPOSED HERE TODAY. WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO VIGOROUSLY PURSUE STATE HOOD AND VOTING RIGHTS. BUT, WE SHOULD ALSO IMPLEMENT ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES TOWARDS THAT GOAL. WE HAVEN'T VOTED IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS FOR OVER 200 YEARS, EXCEPT FOR PRESIDENT UNDER THE 23RD AMENDMENT OF 1961. I BELIEVE OUR INTERESTS WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY PURSUING A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT STRATEGIES TOWARDS OUR GOAL OF STATEHOOD AS LONG AS THE STRATEGIES DON'T COMPETE WITH EACH OTHER.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I REALIZE THAT THIS STRATEGY REQUIRES ADDITIONAL WORK AND FOCUS, BUT IN MY OPINION IT IS ONE WORTH PURSUING.

- GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN MENDELSON AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. I AM BERNADETTE TOLSON, A NATIVE WASHINGTONIAN, LONGTIME WARD 8 RESIDENT AND FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE LATE WARD 8 COUNCILMEMBER AND MAYOR-FOR-LIFE MARION BARRY, JR.
- AND, IT IS AN EXTREME PLEASURE TO SPEAK BEFORE THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TO URGE YOU TO VOTE FOR AND APPROVE THE SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF STATEHOOD OR ELSE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN.
- IN THE 1960'S, WE WATCHED WASHINGTONIANS LIKE JULIUS HOBSON AND LAWRENCE GUYOT FIGHT FOR THE DISTRICT'S RIGHT TO VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.
- IN THE 1970'S, WE WATCHED THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS AND HUNDREDS AND THOUSANDS OF WASHINGTONIANS FIGHT FOR HOME-RULE AND SELF-DETERMINATION.

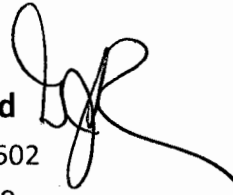
- IN THE 1980'S, WE SAW JESSE JACKSON AND COUNTLESS STUDENTS PROTEST THE RETRACTION OF THE DISTRICT'S VOTING PRIVILEGE ON THE FLOOR OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
- IN THE 1990'S, WE WITNESSED THE 42ND PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES—WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON—CALL FOR DEMOCRACY TO BE RESTORED IN THE CAPITOL OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.
- IN THE EARLY 2000'S, I WAS DELIGHTED TO BE A PART OF A DC DELEGATION THAT TRAVELED TO BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS DURING THE 2004 DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION AND REENACTED THE BOSTON TEA PARTY.
- THAT SAME YEAR, I HEARD OUR DELEGATE ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON DELIVER A SOUL STIRRING SPEECH ON THE CONVENTION FLOOR, AS FULL CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATION FOR THE DISTRICT WAS FINALLY ADDED TO THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY PLATFORM.

- AND HERE, IN 2015, I WATCHED VINCENT ORANGE DELIVER A SPEECH ON THE STEPS OF THE US CAPITAL DURING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILLION MAN MARCH—EDUCATING VISITORS ABOUT OUR PLIGHT AND DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR ALL DISTRICT RESIDENTS FOR THE DENIAL OF THE MOST BASIC LIBERTIES GRANTED TO ALL AMERICANS—EXCEPT US.
- TODAY I ASK THAT WE NOT LET OUR NAME BE OUR TRUTH, AND MOVE BEYOND THE STIGMA OF BEING A DISTRICT AND PRESS FORWARD TOWARD AN IDENTITY AS A STATE.
- IN 1972, THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS ACCOMPLISHED THE VERY TASK THAT MIRRORS THE INTENT OF THIS RESOLUTION. EXCEPT, THERE WAS A SOUTHERN CONSERVATIVE CONGRESS, RICHARD NIXON WAS PRESIDENT, THERE WAS NO INTERNET AND RESOURCES WERE LIMITED.

- STILL, THEY WERE ABLE TO COLLECT 1.2 MILLION SIGNATURES IN SUPPORT OF DC STATEHOOD. AGAIN, WITHOUT INTERNET, WITH LIMITED RESOURCES AND LITTLE TO NO MONEY.
- AS A \$13 BILLION DOLLAR GOVERNMENT AND MORE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR OUR USE THAN EVER BEFORE, IMAGINE WHAT WE COULD ACCOMPLISH.
- TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL THAT COSPONSORED THIS RESOLUTION—I COMMEND YOU. TO THOSE THAT HAVE EVEN AN OUNCE OF DISAPPROVAL WITHIN THEM, I ASK—ARE YOU NOT DISTRICT RESIDENT TOO?
- DO YOU NOT LACK THE SAME REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESS AS ME.
- AND WOULD YOU NOT LIKE TO PROVIDE OUR CHILDREN WITH A NEW OPPORTUNITY—TO BE THE A SENATOR OF THE 51ST STATE.

- I URGE THE COUNCIL TO AID IN OUR FIGHT FOR STATEHOOD, APPROVE THIS RESOLUTION RIGHT AWAY.
- THANK YOU FOR LISTENING TO MY TESTIMONY.

Glenda J. Richmond
2001 15th Street, NW, #602
Washington, DC 20009
Telephone: (202) 367-5527
Email: seascy2002@yahoo.com



Written Testimony November 3, 2015

TO: Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Ref: **PR 21-302, "Sense of the Council in Support of a Statehood or Else' Signature Campaign of 2015".**

Good afternoon, Council Chairman Phil Mendelson and other members of the City Council. My name is Glenda J. Richmond. I am a resident of the District of Columbia, and the proud daughter of a World War II Army veteran and the sibling of 4 brothers who were (deceased) also veterans. Three of my brothers enlisted in the Army while one enlisted in the Air Force. Furthermore, 2 of my brothers served during the conflict in Korea, one of which was aged 15 at the time of his enlistment. Still, one served in Vietnam and another in Tripoli, Algeria in North Africa. They fought for the right to freedom, "democracy" and for self-determination for people and for countries who they did not know! We, the District's military veterans and families earned our right to statehood for the District. We deserve to be a state because of the sacrifices made by my family members and so many other DC residents who have done the same.

My family alone has sacrificed 5 members in defense of this nation and this city. Imagine how many thousands of other residents in the District have made similar sacrifices and have to live with the insult of not having state representation, budget autonomy and our own legislative body. We require better and will tirelessly, pursue better until Statehood becomes a reality. This information is important because

I come to you today speaking as a statehood advocate. I come to you today speaking on behalf of the many individual veterans and local veterans organizations in the District and its surrounding areas who are also supporters of statehood. WE RISE IN SUPPORT OF PR 21-302,

“SENSE OF THE COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF A STATEHOOD OR ELSE’S SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN OF 2015”.

In the words of one of our veteran organization leaders:

“Veterans and Military Families for Progress support the District of Columbia becoming a state. This issue is of major importance to DC veterans and their families because our men and women who have met their duty to protect our country and are required to pay federal taxes upon their return are denied their constitutional right to equal representation with the other states. DC has no voting representation in the U S. Congress with 2 Senators and 1 member of the House of Representatives. (The District of Columbia has more population than the state of Wyoming and almost the same as the states of Alaska, North Dakota, and Vermont which have 2 Senators and 1 House Member.) The community must take the leading role on the statehood issue.”

Noteworthy, me and the late Mrs. Barbara Let-Simmons, DC Statehood Constitutional Convention Delegate have been working with the veteran community on the statehood issue since 2008. Since that time, we had planned and presented events which were supported and funded by veterans and their families as well as local and national veteran organizations. To mention a few:

- DC Military Veterans and their Families for Statehood Rally and March,” (July 2010),
- Veterans and their families for D.C. Statehood. "Commemorating the 47th Anniversary of the March on Washington" (August 2010),
- A proclamation day event honoring "Women of the Modern DC Statehood Movement," for Women's History Month on behalf of the National Capital Veterans Coalition (March 2011),
- The veteran contingent for DC Statehood will be participating in the 2016 MLK Peace March on January 18, 2016.

Furthermore, I would like to mention on a personal note as a District tax payer. I am not in support of paying salaries to “shadow” Senators and Representatives. I raise this question, Are Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) being paid to lobby the City Council for community services and programs? ANCs are community activist volunteers. When asked why Shadow Representatives were not being paid salaries, Mrs. Simmons (DCSCC) replied, “They are’t Senators and Representatives.” “They are volunteers elected to lobby Congress for statehood on behalf of District residents.”

Before ending my testimony, there are two points I will make and these points are based on policy according to the Office of Campaign Finance: 1) "shadow" representatives are not exempted from fund-raising and 2); there is a limited salary amount which they can pay themselves from funds which they raise. If I were you, a member of the City Council, I would encourage those elected "shadow" representatives to fund-raise. They will be joining the ranks of the many DC Statehood organizations, which for many decades, have and still are tapping into community support, resources and funds. My experience has shown that it is not easy garnering community resources, support and funds. Furthermore, it's good for the residents when they see capable leaders advocating and lobbying out there on their behalf.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony. I am available should you have questions. Also, please find enclosed 15 copies of my testimony to be distributed to other members of the DC City Council.

See attached:

*Glenda J. Richmond, Founder/President
DC Statehood Leadership Coalition,
Inc.*

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
CORPORATIONS DIVISION



C E R T I F I C A T E

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that all applicable provisions of the District of Columbia Business Organizations Code have been complied with and accordingly, this ***CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION*** is hereby issued to:

DC STATEHOOD LEADERSHIP COALITION, INC. (THE)

Effective Date: 5/21/2013

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of this office to be affixed as of 5/21/2013 3:29 PM



Business and Professional Licensing Administration

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Patricia E. Grays'.

PATRICIA E. GRAYS
Superintendent of Corporations
Corporations Division

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

Tracking #: ccoK1AT6

**Testimony of Joyce Robinson-Paul, Stand Up! For Democracy Ambassador, OCTOBER 28, 2015
Testimony before the Council of the District of Columbia Proposed Resolution to declare "Sense
of the Council in Support of a Statehood or Else" signature Campaign of 2015 in the Council.**

Good Morning, As a strong advocate for Statehood, I have enjoyed collecting signatures and talking to thousands of Americans during the Million Man March Activities and other national events. Developing and passing out literature on Statehood or Else for DC. During the month of October 2015. The ambassadors collected over one thousand signatures for the Statehood Petition Drive.

Many of the signatures represented over half of the 50 States. Many of the persons who signed the petition were unaware that the District of Columbia has no voting House Representatives or Senators. Others were happy to sign the petition and know that there is a movement to secure Statehood for the District of Columbia. Each received extensive educational materials and literatures as to how to move forward with Statehood after 215 years.

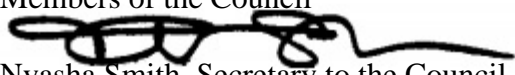
Many current DC residents were unaware that we did not have voting representative in Congress. For new DC residents, the majority was outraged that once moving here and registering to vote, they lost their voting representatives in the House and Senate. They lost their right to spend city money without a Congressional review. Many were concerned about paying billions in Federal taxes and not having a say in where their tax money will go. Family members who had Veterans fight and die for the country were concerned about being treated as second class citizens, not having voting representation in Congress. Many remarked "It's about time we do something about it"

It is duly noted that STATEHOOD is the method that will give District of Columbia citizens full voting representation in Congress. The Ambassadors are willing to do their part and we need more citizens to circulate the petitions and educate thousands of American citizens. DC let's get busy and approve this resolution. Our Delegate to Congress should receive full support to keep this message alive. Taxation with No representation for over 600,000 DC RESIDENTS is an atrosity and a hypocrisy. "STATEHOOD OR ELSE" SHOULD and MUST GO FORTH WITH EXPEDIENCY.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20004

Memorandum

To : Members of the Council

From : 
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council

Date : July 15, 2015

Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Committee of the Whole on Tuesday, July 14, 2015. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Sense of the Council in Support of a 'Statehood or Else' Signature Campaign Resolution of 2015", PR21-0302

INTRODUCED BY: Councilmembers Orange, Bonds, Alexander, and Grosso

CO-SPONSORED BY: Councilmembers Allen, May, Nadeau, Todd, and Evans

The Chairman is referring this legislation to the Committee of the Whole.

Attachment

cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services

1
2
3
4 Councilmember David Grosso
5
6 Councilmember Yvette Alexander
7
8
9

Councilmember Vincent Orange
Councilmember Anita Bonds

10 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
11
12
13
14

15 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
16
17
18

19 To declare the sense of the Council in support of developing a ‘Statehood or Else’ multi-media
20 campaign with the express goals of producing a petition supporting District of Columbia
21 statehood, collecting one million signatures for the petition, and delivering the one
22 million signatures strong petition to the White House, to all 535 members of Congress,
23 as well as leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016
24 Democratic National Convention.
25

26 RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this
27 resolution may be cited as the “Sense of the Council in Support of a ‘Statehood or Else’
28 Signature Campaign of 2015”.
29

30 Sec. 2. The Council finds that:

31 (1) Without statehood, the District of Columbia will continue to be denied
32 democratic equality, and its citizens will continue to suffer taxation without
33 representation;

34 (2) Statehood is the most appropriate mechanism to grant the United
35 States citizens who reside in the District of Columbia the full rights and privileges of
36 American citizenship, which include not only equal representation in the United States
37 House of Representatives and the United States Senate but also full control over local
38 affairs and budget autonomy;

1 (3) The District of Columbia, with 658,893 residents, has a larger
2 population than both Vermont and Wyoming;

3 (4) The District of Columbia's gross domestic product (“GDP”) is larger
4 than that of New Mexico, Hawaii, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Idaho, Delaware,
5 North Dakota, Alaska, Maine, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Rhode Island and
6 Vermont;

7 (5) District of Columbia residents pay \$1.6 billion a year in federal taxes,
8 more per person than the residents of any other state in the United States;

9 (6) District of Columbia’s local economy is one of the strongest in the
10 nation at \$12.5 billion, larger than the budgets of 12 states;

11 (7) The Mayor should form a “Statehood or Else” Working Group within 30 days
12 of the adoption of this resolution, or as soon as feasible, to explore creating a “Statehood or Else”
13 multi-media campaign, and that along with the Mayor, the group should include members of the
14 Council, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Senators Paul Strauss and Michael D. Brown,
15 Representative Franklin Garcia and other individuals from public and government spheres that the
16 Mayor considers necessary or appropriate;

17 (8) The goal of the ‘Statehood or Else’ multi-media campaign is to produce a petition
18 supporting District of Columbia statehood, collecting over one million signatures for the petition,
19 and delivering those signatures to the White House and to all 535 members of Congress, as well as
20 leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016 Democratic National
21 Convention;

22 (9) The 2016 Republican National Convention will convene in Cleveland,
23 Ohio on July 18-21, 2016 and the 2016 Democratic National Convention will convene
24 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on July 25–28, 2016;

1 (10) Copies of the petitions supporting District of Columbia statehood
2 should be delivered to the White House, to all 535 members of Congress, and to
3 leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016 Democratic
4 National Convention to demonstrate the importance of statehood in the District of
5 Columbia before each party chooses their nominees for President of the United States
6 and Vice President of the United States in the 2016 national election;

7 (11) President Barack Obama, on July 21, 2014 at a town hall meeting on
8 the My Brother's Keeper Initiative at Walker Jones Education Campus in Washington,
9 D.C., publicly endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia;

10 (12) District of Columbia Emancipation Day is the District of Columbia's
11 only legal public holiday and commemorates the signing of the District of Columbia
12 Compensated Emancipation Act" on April 16, 1862 which ended slavery in
13 Washington, DC, and freed 3,100 individuals;

14 (13) District of Columbia Emancipation Day is recognized annually on
15 April 16th, and reminds us to reaffirm our commitment to forge a more just and united
16 country that truly reflects the ideals of its founders and instills in its people a broad
17 sense of duty to be responsible and conscientious stewards of freedom and democracy;

18 (14) In 2016, the entire nation will receive a three day tax-filing extension
19 to Monday, April 18 because District of Columbia Emancipation Day falls on a
20 Saturday, which means the District will officially celebrate the holiday on Friday, April
21 15 — also known as Tax Day. Maine and Massachusetts will get an additional day on
22 top of the three-day extension, until Tuesday, April 19, to file their taxes due to Patriots'
23 Day — a holiday commemorating the battles of Lexington and Concord in 1775 — on

1 Monday, April 18. This nationally recognized tax-filing extension is an opportunity to
2 educate the nation on the importance of Emancipation Day;

3 (15) President Barack Obama's last day as president will be January 20,
4 2017, and he should serve as the keynote speaker for the Emancipation Day Prayer
5 Breakfast on Saturday, April 16, 2016, the final Emancipation Day celebration prior to
6 his departure from office.

7 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the District should further its efforts of
8 achieving statehood with the creation of a "Statehood or Else" multi-media campaign that
9 produces a petition supporting District of Columbia statehood, collecting one million signatures
10 for the petition, and delivering the one million signatures to the White House, to all 535
11 members of Congress, and leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the
12 2016 Democratic National Convention.

13 Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Council shall transmit copies of this resolution, upon
14 its adoption, to the Mayor.

15 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 **Committee of the Whole**
3 **November 17, 2015**
4
5
6

7 **A PROPOSED RESOLUTION**
8

9
10 PR 21-302
11

12
13 **IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**
14
15 _____
16

17
18 To declare the sense of the Council in support of developing a “Statehood or Else” multimedia
19 campaign with the express goals of producing a petition supporting District of Columbia
20 statehood, collecting one million signatures for the petition, and delivering the one
21 million signatures strong petition to the White House, to all 535 members of Congress, as
22 well as leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016
23 Democratic National Convention.
24

25 **RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, that this**
26 resolution may be cited as the "Sense of the Council in Support of a ‘Statehood or Else’
27 Signature Campaign of 2015".

28 **Sec. 2. The Council finds that:**

29 (1) Without statehood, the District of Columbia will continue to be denied
30 democratic equality, and its citizens will continue to suffer taxation without representation;

31 (2) Statehood is the most appropriate mechanism to grant the United States
32 citizens who reside in the District of Columbia the full rights and privileges of American
33 citizenship, which include not only equal representation in the United States House of
34 Representatives and the United States Senate, but also full control over local affairs and budget
35 autonomy;

36
37
38
39
40
41
42
43
44
45
46
47
48
49
50
51
52
53
54
55
56
57
58

(3) The District of Columbia, with 658,893 residents, has a larger population than both Vermont and Wyoming;

(4) The District of Columbia's gross domestic product is larger than that of New Mexico, Hawaii, West Virginia, New Hampshire, Idaho, Delaware, North Dakota, Alaska, Maine, South Dakota, Wyoming, Montana, Rhode Island and Vermont;

(5) The District of Columbia's local economy is one of the strongest in the nation with excellent credit ratings from Wall Street;

(6) District of Columbia residents pay \$1.6 billion a year in federal taxes, more per person than the residents of any other state in the United States;

(7) The District of Columbia has a \$12.5 billion budget, larger than that of 12 states;

(8) The New Columbia Statehood Commission, consisting of the Mayor, the Chairman of the Council, and the statehood delegation, should, within 30 days of the adoption of this resolution, or as soon as feasible, create a "Statehood or Else" multimedia campaign, and should work with Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and other individuals from public and government spheres that the Commission considers necessary or appropriate;

(9) The goal of the "Statehood or Else" multimedia campaign is to produce a petition supporting District of Columbia statehood by collecting over one million signatures for the petition;

(10) The 2016 Republican National Convention will convene in Cleveland, Ohio from July 18-21, 2016 and the 2016 Democratic National Convention will convene in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from July 25-28, 2016;

59 (11) Copies of the petitions supporting District of Columbia statehood should be
60 delivered to the White House, to all 535 members of Congress, and to leadership at both the
61 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016 Democratic National Convention to
62 demonstrate the importance of statehood in the District of Columbia before each party chooses
63 their nominees for President of the United States and Vice President of the United States for the
64 2016 presidential election;

65 (12) At a July 21, 2014 town hall meeting on the My Brother's Keeper Initiative
66 at Walker Jones Education Campus in Washington, D.C., President Barack Obama publicly
67 endorsed statehood for the District of Columbia;

68 (13) District of Columbia Emancipation Day is the District of Columbia's only
69 legal public holiday and commemorates the signing of the “District of Columbia Compensated
70 Emancipation Act” on April 16, 1862 which ended slavery in Washington, D.C. and freed 3,100
71 individuals;

72 (14) District of Columbia Emancipation Day is recognized annually on April
73 16th, and reminds us to reaffirm our commitment to forge a more just and united country that
74 truly reflects the ideals of its founders and instills in its people a broad sense of duty to be
75 responsible and conscientious stewards of freedom and democracy;

76 (15) In 2016, the entire nation will receive a three day tax filing extension to
77 Monday, April 18th because District of Columbia Emancipation Day falls on a Saturday, which
78 means the District will officially celebrate the holiday on Friday, April 15, 2016, which is also
79 known as “Tax Day.” Maine and Massachusetts will get an additional day on top of the three-
80 day extension, until Tuesday, April 19, 2016, to file their taxes due to their state holidays on
81 April 18th, known as Patriots’ Day, which commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord

82 in 1775. This nationally recognized tax-filing extension is an opportunity to educate the nation
83 on the importance of Emancipation Day;

84 (16) President Barack Obama's last day as president will be January 20, 2017,
85 and he should serve as the keynote speaker for the Emancipation Day Prayer Breakfast on
86 Saturday, April 16, 2016, the final Emancipation Day celebration prior to his departure from
87 office.

88 Sec. 3. It is the sense of the Council that the District should further its efforts of achieving
89 statehood with the creation of a "Statehood or Else" multimedia campaign that produces a
90 petition supporting District of Columbia statehood, collecting one million signatures for the
91 petition, and delivering the one million signatures to the White House, to all 535 members of
92 Congress, and leadership at both the 2016 Republican National Convention and the 2016
93 Democratic National Convention.

94 Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Council shall transmit copies of this resolution, upon its
95 adoption, to the Mayor, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House, the
96 President of the United States Senate, the District of Columbia Democratic State Committee, and
97 the District of Columbia Republican Party.

98 Sec. 5. This resolution shall take effect immediately.