

**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 1, 2022
SUBJECT: Report on PR 24-932 “Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022”

The Committee of the Whole, to which PR 24-932, “Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022” was referred, reports favorably thereon, and recommends approval by the Council.

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I. BACKGROUND AND NEED

Proposed Resolution 24-932, the “Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022,” was introduced by Chairman Mendelson on September 19, 2022. The purpose of PR 24-932 is to approve the appointment of Mr. Kent Boese as the Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, replacing Interim Executive Director Schantette Grant, on an at-will basis.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANCs) were established by the United States Congress in section 738 of the Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 803; DC Official Code § 1-207.38). The role of ANCs is to advise the District government on matters of public policy including decisions regarding planning, streets, recreation, social services

programs, health, safety, and sanitation in a neighborhood commission area.”¹ In 1999, the Council adopted the Comprehensive Advisory Neighborhood Commission Reform Amendment Act of 1999² establishing the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) headed by an Executive Director appointed by the Council. The role of the OANC is to provide technical, administrative, and financial reporting assistance to ANCs, support the efforts of ANCs, review Commission quarterly financial reports, and approve or disapprove the release of Commission quarterly allotments as appropriated in the annual budget.³

Since October 5, 2021, Ms. Schannette Grant has served as the Interim Executive Director of OANC. She replaced Gottlieb Simon who previously served in the role. In the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, the Council provided a substantial funding increase for OANC for more OANC staff and a strategic plan. In addition, the budget significantly increased ANC allotments beginning on October 1, 2022. Selection of a new visionary permanent director at this time will equip OANC to empower ANCs with these new services and supports.

The Executive Director of OANC is appointed by resolution of the full Council based on the recommendation of the Chairman of the Council. In late 2012, Councilmember Robert White, chair of the Committee on Government Operations and Facilities which has oversight of OANC, held a hearing where it heard from Commissioners about what they wanted to see in the next OANC Executive Director. Earlier this year, that committee held another hearing focused on a new vision for OANC. After the Council solicited prospective candidates to lead OANC, Councilmember Robert White interviewed a number of candidates and made a recommendation to Chairman Mendelson. Chairman Mendelson recommended appointment of Mr. Kent Boese as Executive Director of OANC in the excepted service.

Mr. Boese is currently a resident of Ward 1 and has served as an ANC Commissioner for 12 years. He has a Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Illinois, a Master’s of Science in Design from Arizona State University, and a Master’s of Information and Library Science from the Catholic University of America. Mr. Boese has worked as a Cataloging Librarian at the Smithsonian, Manager of Technical Services for the law firm Greenberg Traurig, and most recently as Manager of Library Services for the law firm Wiley Rein, LLP. In total, Mr. Boese has 15 years of professional management experience and 27 years of library experience. This experience will be vital to ODCA as the office seeks to modernize its services, including document management.

During a hearing on his appointment, Mr. Boese said that he would leverage his experience as a Commissioner to provide supports to ANCs including help with websites and accounting. He wants to provide additional training to ANCs, not only on the role of the ANCs, but also on issues such as zoning regulations that ANCs often weigh in on. He also believes that there is a gap in independent legal advice that he wants to explore with regard to what services the OANC can provide.

¹ D.C Official Code § 1-207.38(c)(1).

² D.C. Law 13-135, effective June 27, 2000 (D.C. Official Code §

³ D.C Official Code § 1-309.15(a).

Mr. Boese has a strong background in managing a team and has a long record of service as a Commissioner. The Committee believes that Mr. Boese has the potential to reinvigorate OANC and provide collaborative support to the ANCs. Thus, the Committee recommends his appointment.

II. LEGISLATIVE CHRONOLOGY

- September 19, 2022 PR 24-932, “Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022” is introduced by Chairman Mendelson.
- September 20, 2022 PR 24-932 is “read” at a legislative meeting and the referral to the Committee of the Whole is official.
- September 23, 2022 Notice of Intent to Act on PR 24-932 is published in the *DC Register*.
- September 23, 2022 Notice of a Public Hearing on PR 24-932 is published in the *DC Register*.
- October 12, 2022 The Committee of the Whole holds a public hearing on PR 24-932.
- November 1, 2022 The Committee of the Whole marks-up PR 24-932.

III. POSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE

The OANC is subordinate to the Legislative Branch and therefore the Executive has not commented on this nomination.

IV. COMMENTS OF ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS

The Committee received testimony and comments from a number of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and individual Commissioners, summarized below.

V. SUMMARY OF TESTIMONY

The Committee of the Whole held a public hearing on PR 24-932 on Wednesday, October 12, 2022. The testimony summarized below is from that hearing. Submitted copies of testimony are attached to this report.

Robert Vinson Brannum, Commissioner, ANC 5E08, testified that he does not oppose Mr. Boese’s appointment, and expressed his expectation that OANC will upgrade OANC and Office of the Chief Technology Officer technical support to Commissions, and that OANC will provide greater support to Commissioners who are District employees.

Zachary Israel, Commissioner, ANC 4D04, testified in support of the appointment and noted the importance of OANC providing additional training for new Commissioners, the need to reexamine certain policies such as the child care reimbursement for Commissioners, and additional training on District government operations.

Michael Wray, Chair, ANC 1A, testified in support of the appointment on behalf of ANC 1A, outlined several reasons for the support, and expounded on needed near and mid-term goals for OANC.

Chuck Elkins, Commissioner, ANC 3D01, testified in support of the appointment and described the challenges facing ANCs and OANC as found by the Advisory Committee to OANC for Services (ACTOS), of which he serves as chair.

James Shabazz, Chairman, Organized Vendors for Economic Cooperation, testified in opposition to the appointment criticized the selection process undertaken to identify an Executive Director and added that Mr. Boese does not reflect District residents.

Jeremiah Montague, Jr., Commissioner, ANC 5C07, testified in support of the appointment and described his personal and professional knowledge of Mr. Boese confirming that he is most suited to shepherd OANC to the next level.

Gordon Chaffin, Public Witness, testified in support of the appointment and described the need for greater logistical support for ANCs including contracting and vendor support.

Robert Becker, Board Member, D.C. Open Government Coalition, testified in support of the appointment and spoke of the need for more transparency and retention of Commission documents.

Reginald Black, Candidate, ANC 5C07, testified in opposition to the appointment and the search process, stating that Mr. Boese doesn't represent the ANC community.

Kent Boese, Nominee, testified regarding his background as a Commissioner and his extensive management experience in his current professional career. He discussed his vision for OANC including more technology support for Commissions.

The Committee received additional testimony for the record which is also attached to this report.

VI. IMPACT ON EXISTING LAW

PR 24-932 fulfills the Council's responsibility to appoint the District of Columbia Auditor, pursuant to § D.C Official Code § 1-309.15(b) of the District of Columbia Official Code.

VII. FISCAL IMPACT

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer indicates that a Fiscal Impact Statement is not needed for a confirmation. The Executive Director of the OANC will have a salary of \$150,000.

VIII. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

- Section 1 States the short title of PR 24-932.
- Section 2 Confirms the appointment of Kent Boese on an at-will basis.
- Section 3 Directs the Chairman to transmit a copy of this resolution to the appointee.
- Section 4 Provides that PR 24-932 shall take effect immediately.

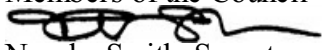
IX. COMMITTEE ACTION

X. ATTACHMENTS

1. PR 24-932 as introduced.
2. Nominee's response to pre-hearing questions.
3. Written testimony.
4. Legal Sufficiency Review.
5. Committee Print for PR 24-932.

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 : Monday, September 19, 2022
Subject : Referral of Proposed Legislation

Notice is given that the attached proposed legislation was introduced in the Office of the Secretary on Monday, September 19, 2022. Copies are available in Room 10, the Legislative Services Division.

TITLE: "Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022", PR24-0932

INTRODUCED BY: Chairman Mendelson

The Chairman is referring this legislation to Committee of the Whole with comments from the Committee on Government Operations and Facilities.

Attachment
cc: General Counsel
Budget Director
Legislative Services


Chairman Phil Mendelson

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A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To approve the appointment of Mr. Kent Boese as the Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022”.

Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia appoints:

Mr. Kent Boese
Rock Creek Church Road, NW
Washington, DC 20010
(Ward 1)

as the Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, established by section 18(a) of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975, effective March 28, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-135; D.C. Official Code § 1-309.15(a)), replacing Ms. Schannette Grant, on an at-will basis.

Sec. 3. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the appointee and to the Office of the Mayor.

Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Kent Charles Boese

Government Experience

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A
Commissioner, Single Member District 1A08 1/2011-
Chair 7/2013-1/2022
Secretary 1/2011-7/2013

Areas of Expertise

- Zoning & Planning (Recognized expert in historic architecture with BZA)
- Historic Preservation
 - Author of 12 successful landmark nominations

Boards/ Commissions

Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs 2020-
D.C. Police Reform Commission 8/2020-3/2021

Work Experience

Wiley Rein, LLP 10/2008-Present
Washington DC

Law Librarian

Manager of Technical Services 10/2008-5/2010
Manager of Library Services 5/2010-Present

Duties of the Technical Services manager included database maintenance, password maintenance, and oversight of all acquisitions functions. A large part of the position required negotiating with vendors to find the right balance for access to the libraries online databases. Upon the retirement of the library director in the Spring, 2010, I was promoted to manage all library services including reference. In this role I have reviewed and updated policies and procedures emphasizing the importance of customer service. I have performed these expanded duties as well as department budget functions and contract negotiations with our many service vendors successfully and to the satisfaction of the Firm.

**Greenberg Traurig
Washington, DC**

2/2006-10/2008

Manager of Technical Services

The Manager of Technical Services was a new position at Greenberg Traurig (GT), and it required me to establish policies, prioritize work, and develop procedures. I was in charge of cataloging and acquisitions. I worked closely with the other managers to support the work they needed done from my staff. The biggest accomplishment I implemented during my tenure was replacing the old ILS, which was a non-MARC product, to the Voyager ILS, and selecting the ERM. Because of the depth of my library experience, I also had to serve in the role of System Administrator for the system. Lastly, I had GT join OCLC so that we could take advantage of resource sharing.

**Smithsonian Institution Libraries
Washington, DC**

6/2000-2/2006

Cataloging Librarian

My primary duty was as an original cataloger. While subject expertise was the fine arts, I supported all subjects in the collection. Cataloging materials in all formats was part of the position. The Smithsonian is a BIBCO library, and I was fully trained to produce records of that level, as well as the authority records needed to support them.

Education

Catholic University of America

Washington, DC

Master's of Information and Library Science

6/2000

Arizona State University

Tempe, AZ

Master's of Science in Design

12/1993

University of Illinois

Urbana, IL

Bachelor's Degree

1/1988

Organizations

American Association of Law Librarians
Capital Stonewall Democrats
Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of DC
Committee of 100
DC Preservation League

Kent C. Boese

PR 24-932, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022

Responses to Committee Questions
Appointment of Executive Direct of the OANC
Committee of the Whole

October 2, 2022

1. Please provide a copy of the Financial Disclosure Statement you filed with the Office of Champaign Finance or the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. If you have not filed a disclosure form, please provide answers to questions no. 2-8 in lieu of that statement

Copy of Board of Ethics and Government Accountability Financial Disclosure Statement is attached.

2. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business with the District Government in which you have a beneficial interest value in excess of \$1,000, including publicly traded stock.

Covered by BEGA FDS.

3. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting any business (including consulting) with the District Government from which you or your immediate family have received (or are receiving) income for services rendered in excess of \$200 during the past two years.

Covered by BEGA FDS

4. Please provide the name of each business entity transacting business with the District Government in which you or any member of your immediate family serves as an officer, director, partner, or agent. Also list the position(s) held, a brief description of the entity, and any other pertinent details.

Covered by BEGA FDS

5. Please provide the name of any lender and the amount of liability for each outstanding liability borrowed by you or any member of your immediate family in excess of \$1,000. Do not include loans from a federal or state insured or regulated financial institution, or from any business enterprise regularly engaged in the business of providing revolving credit or installment accounts

Covered by BEGA FDS

6. Please list the location of all real property located in the District of Columbia in which you have an interest with a fair market value in excess of \$1,000.
 - a. ■■■ Rock Creek Church Rd., NW
 - b. ■■■ E Street, SE, Unit #8

7. Please list all professional and occupational licenses held by you.

Covered by BEGA FDS

8. Please list any professional organizations of which you are currently a member.
 - a. American Association of Law Libraries
9. Please list all boards and commissions connected with the District Government on which you are or have been a member and include the term of service for each.
 - a. Mayor's Advisory Committee on LGBTQ Affairs 2020-
 - b. Police Reform Commission 8/2020-3/2021

10. Please list any other boards (e.g. Board of Directors for a non-profit) on which you are currently a member.

- a. Board of Assistants, District of Columbia Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
 - b. Registered Agent, Aztec Club of 1847
 - c. Registered Agent, Historic Washington Architecture (Dormant)
11. Do you have any outstanding liability for taxes, fees, or other payments to the District, federal, or other state or local governments, either contested or uncontested? If so, please provide documentation of attempts to pay the amount owed or to resolve the disputed claim.

No, I have no outstanding liabilities.

12. Do you or any member of your immediate family have any interest, financial or otherwise, that may directly or indirectly post a conflict of interest for you in performance of your duties as Executive Director of the OANC?

No, neither myself nor my husband have any interests that would be a conflict of interests.

13. Please describe any local political activity (i.e. the District of Columbia local elections or campaigns) that you have engaged in over the past six years, including all campaign contributions to a D.C. candidate or political committee.

My political activity in the past six years includes:

- Member Capital Stonewall Democrats (President 2020)
- DC Democratic State Committee (2020)
- Candidate for Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in ANC1A, SMD1A08, (2016, 2018, and 2020)
- Candidate for the Council of the District of Columbia, Ward 1, (2018)
- Contributed to the following campaigns:
 - Brianne K. Nadeau, Ward 1 (Fair elections, 2021)
 - Salah Czpany, Ward 1 (2022)
 - Erin Palmer for DC Council Chairperson (Fair elections, 2022)
 - Phil Mendelson for DC Council Chairperson (2022)
 - Muriel Bowser for Mayor (2017, 2022)
 - Anita Bonds, Council At-Large (Fair elections, 2022)
 - David Krucoff, candidate Ward 3 (2022)
 - John Fanning, candidate Ward 2 (Fair elections, 2020)
 - Marcus Goodwin, Council At-Large (2020)
 - Jacque Patterson, SBOE At-Large (2020)
 - Jason Andrean, SBOE Ward 1 (2018)
 - Tony Donaldson, SBOE Ward 1 (2016)
 - Robert White, Councilmember At-Large (2016)
 - David Garber, Councilmember At-Large (2016)

14. Are you registered with any local, state, or federal government to lobby? If so, list the jurisdiction(s) in which you are registered.

No, I am not registered to lobby in any jurisdiction.

15. Why have you agreed to serve, and how do you plan to help OANC fulfill its role and mission? Include in your answer what you believe should be the priorities for OANC and specific challenges you see for OANC.

I agreed to serve as 1) I have a passion for improving support to ANCs and expanding the services provided to ANCs, and 2) as a current ANC

Commissioner who has served for nearly 12 years, I have given a lot of thought over the years to what the OANC needs to be to fulfill its mission.

To me, individual Commissioners and ANC bodies are the clients of the OANC. OANC's priorities need to be to provide a strong program of services, education, and technical assistance to every Commissioner and Commission. In broad terms, OANC needs to prioritize the following areas in addition to many others:

- OANC needs to focus on building out a program of back office support available to every ANC, ultimately freeing up administrative tasks from ANCs so that they can spend most of their time on constituent engagement and service. Over the years, more and more ANC time is spent doing administrative work. OANC needs to expand services in the areas of Website hosting and design, improving financial support and systems for ANC budgets, being an option for centralized Zoom meeting support and management, and assisting with records collection and management. Often times ANCs don't engage in these activities, or don't engage efficiently, because there is no good alternative – including support and/or guidance from OANC.
- OANC needs to build out a robust Continuing Education Program for both new and veteran commissioners in the areas of zoning, planning, preservation, liquor licenses, building permits, and more. OANC needs to consider both beginner and advanced courses in these areas, as well as create a suite of training documents on how to use systems like DDOT's TOPS. ANCs are most effective when they have the professional background and knowledge to engage with agencies on their terms. In my experience, Commissioners have the passion and heart to represent their constituents, but many lack the technical or practical knowledge to use government systems or argue the merits of a case during a hearing. OANC can help both train up new commissioners and keep veteran commissioners current through effective Continuing Education. This also provides an opportunity to work with Commissioners to identify new course materials and opportunities as they arise – allowing the CLE program to be dynamic and evolve.
- Technical assistance, whether in the form of providing legal opinions, organizing ANC records and recordings, providing model documents, or providing a backbone of technology support, OANC should be the key driver in providing and expanding service to ANCs. I see no reason why OANC, for example, can't take on a central support and procurement role to stand up centralized virtual meeting access and support. Commissioner's should not have to rely on figuring out how

to use Zoom or Webex if technology isn't their strength. Relying on each ANC's own technical expertise not only doesn't support their mission, but it creates inequities between ANCs that are well known to us today. There is no consistent archiving of ANC meeting recordings, there is no consistency in ANC Websites (we have many Commissions that don't have them at all), and there is a wide range of compliance with processes and requirements. OANC has a responsibility to provide the supports needed for every ANC to succeed.

Within the above framework, an equally important soft skill that OANC needs to facilitate is the improvement and facilitation of communication between ANCs and between ANCs and their constituencies. While every ANC is unique, many of the issues they review and consider is not unique to only one ANC. OANC needs to explore communication strategies and recommend best practices to strengthen ANC communication and effectiveness.

Challenges to OANC achieving these goals are primarily OANC funding, staffing and talent, procurement, office space, interagency support, and potentially legislative. The Council's addition of four new FTE's and budgetary support minimize the funding and staffing challenges, and a good working relationship between OANC and the Council can minimize any legislative hurdles. This leaves the primary challenges of office space, improving procurement processes, and being supported by other governmental units like OCTO, for example, being the chief obstacles that will need to be addressed in 2023.

16. Please include any past and present experiences that you believe are relevant to support your appointment as Executive Director of the OANC.

My 12 years of experience serving as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner – with over eight years as Chair of ANC1A – combined with 15 years of professional management experience and 27 years of library experience make me well suited for this position. My experience in the law firm environment has taught me how to work in a demanding and fast paced environment and think on the fly. I have excellent research skills, have a strong understanding and years of experience in negotiating and managing large vendor/service contracts, and have years of experience in working with technology and information management to push information to clients rather than forcing them to passively find it. I approach every initiative with the goal of figuring out how to achieve the end goal and can be dogged in that quest.

Lastly, my service as Commissioner in one of the most diverse parts of Washington has given me invaluable experience in listening to issues from many points of view, respecting every neighbor, and balancing competing priorities. A skill set that is completely transferable to working with our diverse ANCs across all eight wards.



BEGA DC

Board of Ethics and Government Accountability

FDS Filing Details for 2021

Name: Kent C Boese

Date of Appointment or Employment: 1/1/2021

Final Date of Service:

Position: ANC

Agency: Advisory Neighborhood Commission

Position Held with the District Government During the Prior calendar year (If Not The Same As Above)

Position:

Final Date in Position:

Agency:

I certify that I have:

- Not caused title to property to be placed in the name, possession, or control of another person or entity for the purpose of avoiding the disclosure requirements on this form;
- Filed and paid my income and property taxes or am in current good standing with the IRS and state tax collector because of an extension, payment plan or other arrangement or agreement;
- Diligently safeguarded the assets of the taxpayers and the District;
- Complied with my duty to report known conflicts of interest, including attempted bribes, to the appropriate authorities;
- Not been offered or accepted any bribes;
- Not directly or indirectly received government funds through illegal or improper means;
- Not raised or received funds in violation of federal or District law; and
- Not received or been given anything of value, including a gift, favor, service, loan, gratuity, discount, hospitality, political contribution, or promise of future employment, based on any understanding that my official actions or judgment or vote would be influenced.
- Completed a ethics training within the last 365 days;

I understand that:

- Submission of this report means that I have completed the report with appropriate schedules and that the report is ready for filing with BEGA.
- Once this report is submitted, it cannot be edited. A modification thereafter can only be done by filing an amendment.

Additional Comments

Certification

I, Kent C Boese, certify and declare under oath that all of my statements on this form are to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, correct, and complete. I understand that the making of a false statement on this form or materials submitted with this form is punishable by criminal penalties pursuant to D.C. Official Code of Regulations § 22-2405 et seq. (2001).

Signed by: Kent C Boese

Signed date: 5/1/2022 1:30:52 PM

Robert Vinson Brannum
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 5E08

Greetings and salutations and good afternoon, Chairman Mendelson and members of the Council. I am Robert Vinson Brannum, Commissioner 5E08. I am also a member of the Board of Directors of the D.C. Open Government Coalition. I am pleased to offer testimony on the nomination of Mr. Kent Boese to serve as Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. While I do not oppose Mr. Boese's nomination for this position, I do have two specific concerns I hope the committee will pose to the nominee.

If confirmed, what will Mr. Boese propose to enhance not only OCTO's technical assistance with greater guidance toward transparency and openness, to include FIOA requests to Commissions and to Commissioners, but also protections to Commissioners who may be District government employees.

Presently, heightened awareness has been given to the need for greater technical support to Commissions. However, lost in the discussion is the disrespect, disdain, and dishonor placed upon Commissions and Commissioners, particularly Commissioners employed by the District government, doing their sworn elected duty. Under current District rules, Commissioners who are District government employees may request Administrative Leave to perform Commissioner functions and it shall be approved. However, there are District government managers, general counsels, and directors who seek not to comply. Moreover, they seek to assert jurisdiction over Commissioners'

official activities. In essence in their view a Commissioner should not attend a government function outside his or her Ward/ANC/SMD.

In the view of certain District officials, Commissioners should only testify before the Council on matters which only align with official District government views and positions. Other interactions with federal officials seemingly must receive prior clearance.

It is my expectation, if confirmed, Mr. Boese hopefully, will upgrade and improve the OANC and OCTO technical support to Commissions and to Commissioners. It is also my expectation and hope the OANC will provide greater support to Commissioners who are District government employees from governmental retaliation and this Council will provide them greater legislative oversight protections from threats, intimidation, and other harassments.

The Home Rule Act states Commissions' views are to be accorded great weight. Commissioners are elected by District voters, just as are the Mayor, members of the Council, and the DC Attorney General; however, they serve without pay. Commissioners display a great community service commitment on behalf of their communities. Commissioners are warriors and soldiers. Mr. Chairman and members of the Council, Commissioners deserve to be given great respect.

Testimony of 4D04 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Zachary Israel

Council of the District of Columbia

Committee of the Whole

Public Hearing on PR 24-932, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022

Wednesday, October 12, 2022

Chairman Mendelson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for holding this critically important nomination hearing today. My name is Zach Israel and I represent ANC Single Member District 4D04, which includes parts of Petworth and Brightwood Park in Ward 4.

While I've never met Commissioner Boese nor worked with him as a fellow commissioner, I have heard from numerous other commissioners who have attested to his character and commitment to bettering the institution of ANCs and supporting all commissioners District-wide. I support his nomination to serve as Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC) and urge the DC Council to approve his nomination resolution as expeditiously as possible so that Commissioner Boese can get started on the important work of supporting our 345 soon-to-be-elected commissioners and 46 separate commissions, six of which will be brand new, prior to January 2, 2023. His nearly 12 years of public service as a commissioner on ANC 1A will serve him well in this role.

The main reason I'm testifying today is because I believe the District government, through the OANC, must do significantly more to help individual commissioners and commissions achieve their mission more fully. Simply put, the status quo isn't working. Evidence of this is the fact that **50 percent** of the District's nearly 300 incumbent commissioners decided not to run for reelection in 2022, myself included. The new Executive Director of the OANC and the DC Council need to ask the fundamental question of why that's the case.

I agree with the priorities for the OANC outlined by Commissioner Boese in his responses to the Committee's questions, especially a focus "on building out a program of back office support available to every ANC, ultimately freeing up administrative tasks from ANCs so that they can spend most of their time on constituent engagement and service." As the current Treasurer of ANC 4D, I can attest to the fact that the requirements of that particular role, as required by the DC Code, is extremely time-intensive. My hope is that Commissioner Boese would support the elimination of the role of Treasurer and the transfer of those duties to OANC, which could better streamline the process and free up time for commissioners and commissions to better focus their time and energy on serving their constituents. The OANC must also prioritize centralizing other core technical services, like website hosting/design and hybrid/virtual technology support for public meetings.

As you'll hear from other witnesses today, we also need the OANC to do a far better job providing consistent, robust training sessions accessible to all commissioners on topics ranging from how to actually serve as a commissioner, to dealing with zoning, planning, liquor licenses and more. The onus should not be on volunteer elected officials to learn all of these complex issues and procedures on their own.

I would also like to see Commissioner Boese make a commitment to provide additional support services to newly elected commissions that have *no incumbent commissioners* serving on them, beginning in January 2023. The commission I serve on, ANC 4D, fits this profile since none of the six incumbent commissioners are running for reelection. The eight newly elected commissioners will need additional help from the OANC since there will be a complete lack of any institutional knowledge of how ANC 4D has operated in the past or how commissions operate in general.

Lastly, I'd like to urge Commissioner Boese, once confirmed, to also prioritize making conditions better for commissioners who have young children. As the father of two sons, ages 2.5 years and 4 months, I can attest to how difficult it can be to juggle my family responsibilities and volunteer ANC responsibilities, especially during public meetings, which take place during weekday evening hours. The enacted "**Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Omnibus Amendment Act of 2016**" ([D.C. Law 21-269](#); 64 DCR 2169) explicitly allows commissioners to be reimbursed by OANC, up to \$500 annually, for qualifying childcare expenses as long as those childcare services "comply with all licensing requirements of the Office of the State Superintendent of Education" (see [DC Code 1-309.13\(l-1\)\(3\)\(B\)\(ii\)](#)). This OSSE-related restriction basically makes this childcare reimbursement provision null and void, since nearly all OSSE-regulated childcare facilities aren't open during weekday evening hours when the monthly ANC public meetings actually take place. In fact, it's very likely that not a single commissioner has been reimbursed for childcare expenses over the more than five years this provision has been in effect. This is one example of how we need the actual current law regarding ANCs to change, in this case, to allow for childcare services to also include babysitting at a commissioner's home, in order to make conditions better for commissioners.

We need an OANC Executive Director who is willing to go to the Council and advocate needed statutory changes to ensure that all DC residents, including parents who have young children, are able to serve as commissioners without spending any money out-of-pocket. I urge Commissioner Boese to push back when needed and ask the Council for any and all financial and technical resources to ensure the OANC is able to serve all commissioners well. I hope that the Council is willing to take his input and provide the funds needed to make conditions better both for the OANC and all commissions and commissioners.

Thank you, and I would be happy to answer any questions.



Commissioner Chuck Elkins (ANC3D01)
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3D
4505 Lowell Street NW, Washington, DC 20016
202-686-3518; 3D01@ANC.DC.gov

Testimony at the October 12th 2022 Confirmation Hearing for the Director of OANC

Mr. Chairman, as you may know, I serve as Chairman of ACTOS, the Advisory Committee to OANC for Services, an ad hoc committee of 17 volunteer members—16 current ANC Commissioners, two from each Ward, and one at-large member. Our Committee focuses on helping OANC provide the best possible support to ANCs with the goal of helping ANCs be successful.

On November 8th of this year, over 340 Commissioner positions will be on the ballot. Many Commissioners will be seeking to return for another term, but even in a good year, over a third of the seats on the ANCs turn over, so we will have a lot of new talent ready to serve the District when they take office on January 2nd. While both returning and newly-elected Commissioners will be eager to serve, will they be equipped to do the job we expect them to do?

Some might say, “All that Commissioners do is go to a monthly meeting. What’s so hard about that?” Well, most of us here know better. We know that Commissioners, from Day One, are expected to:

1. Respond to requests for comment and advice from District agencies about issues affecting their community, all the while trying to do what is in the best interest of the District of Columbia, not just what constituents may want them to do. That can be a pretty hot seat to sit in.
2. Identify and resolve local problems, working with District agencies, the Council and the community;
3. Help individual constituents and institutions navigate the complex web of District laws, regulations, programs, offices and agencies to get the services they need; and
4. Disseminate information their constituents need from or about District government

Moreover, those are just to name a few of their functions.

So what do both new and returning Commissioners need by way of support in order to do a good job in their positions? What do they need so that they do not feel helpless when confronted by a large development proposed in their neighborhood, or a dangerous street corner, or run-down vacant

buildings, or inadequate police presence? Well, guess what? Our ACTOS Committee asked the current Commissioners and I have attached their responses to my testimony.

In summary, this is what the current Commissioners told us:

- Continuous education: They need a continuing flow of training and information, not just about how to run their meetings—they get that from OANC-- but also about the policies, programs, rules and procedures of each of the key agencies or offices responsible for issues the ANCs have to deal with: zoning, transportation, building permits, public space, public safety, schools, etc.
- Improved interactions with the individual agencies: Those relationships are not optimal now and OANC could help improve them.
- Collaboration among Commissioners District-wide: Commissions and Commissioners benefit from sharing experiences and perspectives with other ANCs facing similar problems, to help them understand the challenges and identify options that might work.
- Commissioners need help in actual running of their Commission. Many Commissioners find themselves spending a lot of extra time on administrative tasks when their time would be better used in working on issues. OANC can help streamline these administrative tasks by providing templates and technical support, offering more efficient software, or sharing guidance on use of existing report filing systems or other processes.

I am happy to be able to say that the Committee on Government Operations and Facilities seemed to agree about the greater needs of Commissions and Commissioners. I believe the committee recognized that because of the very small size of OANC and the OANC budget, ANCs were getting only half a loaf in terms of support. Therefore, for this fiscal year, the Council increased the OANC staff from 5 ½ FTEs to 9 ½, with an emphasis on giving ANCs the other half of the loaf as far as support that I have described. What we now need is an Executive Director of OANC who recognizes the potential of ANCs and who understands how he can put the support services in place to allow ANCs to reach their full potential.

I personally believe the Kent Boese has this vision and the professional capability to lead OANC into this new era of support. I ask that you confirm him and let him get to work fixing an important part of our democratic system here in the District. Then, I ask that you support him when he comes to you for help. The job is just too big for him to do alone, but if we all—the Council and Commissioners alike--lend him a hand, he and OANC can be a big success.

ANC Commissioner Survey on OANC Service Needs (by Category of ANC Roles)¹ 1-28-22

A. Help Commissioners learn about DC agency policies, processes and issues

- 80% Broaden electronic on-demand training on agency-specific issues.
- 80% Facilitate the sharing of expertise of current and former Commissioners in specific subject areas.
- 92% Provide access to outside professional experts re complex subjects (e.g. land use).
- 86% Provide assistance in accessing existing data from agencies or in collecting new data to support Commission decision making.
- 88% Create repository of ANC resolutions on various topics. and letters that can be shared among Commissioners.

B. Improve interactions between ANCs and District agencies

- 72% Encourage District agencies to make use of ANC knowledge and engagement with constituents in carrying out the agencies' programs and policies.
- 90% Encourage agencies to give timely notice to ANCs, consider ANC recommendations, and make their decisions and their reasoning more transparent.
- 82% Monitor and seek improvements in agency interactions with ANCs.
- 84% Work with agencies to make 311 requests and their disposition known to Commissioners.
- 82% Intervene where needed to help ANCs/Commissioners obtain appropriate action by agencies.
- 70% Prepare an annual report on ANC/agency interactions, identifying areas of improvement.
- 70% Encourage the use of ANCs as beta testers of any new service roll-out and other initiatives.
- 74% Offer to provide agency staff the statutorily-required training concerning the role of ANCs

C. Foster collaboration among Commissions and Commissioners District-Wide

- 89% Actively identify opportunities for ANCs to collaborate on District-wide issues.
- 85% Help identify common interests among Commissioners where collaboration may be beneficial.
- 99% Facilitate the sharing of information and resources among ANCs on District-wide subjects.

D. Help Commissions operate efficiently

- 81% Offer advance review and clearer guidance on allowable grants/expenditures.
- 75% Provide advice for organizing an ANC office, including sample job descriptions.
- 87% Provide templates for websites, agendas, minutes, resolutions, annual reports, etc.
- 89% Develop searchable database of bylaws, annual reports, grants, resolutions, testimony, etc.
- 83% Continue and enhance annual Handbook plus provide training in statutory requirements, holding of meetings, and conflict resolution. Help mediate disputes.
- 89% Offer technical and financial assistance to ANCs for communicating with constituents, including printing services, software, hybrid meeting technology, piloting of new methods.
- 79% Help Commissioners find and connect with key District agency officials and liaisons.
- 70% Identify the need for change by means of exit interviews of outgoing Commissioners.
- 84% Streamline the financial reporting system

E. Increase public awareness of ANCs and encourage constituent participation

- 78% Implement an educational campaign regarding ANCs directed at the public, DC agencies and Council.
- 68% Monitor agencies' training of their own staff regarding working with ANCs.
- 70% Develop an annual District-wide Report on the accomplishments of ANCs. Offer solutions and share best practices for attracting constituent attention and involvement.

¹ 115 Responses from Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners



1A ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1A

SMD 1A01 – Layla Bonnot
SMD 1A04 – Chris Hall
SMD 1A07 – Mukta Ghorpadey
SMD 1A10 – Rashida Brown

SMD 1A02 – Dieter Lehmann Morales
SMD 1A05 – Christine Miller
SMD 1A08 – Kent C. Boese
SMD 1A11 – Dotti Love Wade

SMD 1A03 – Carlo Perri
SMD 1A06 – Brandolon Barnett
SMD 1A09 – Michael Wray
SMD 1A12 – Vacant

October 12, 2022

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Committee of the Whole
Via Email Only

Re: **ANC1A TESTIMONY REGARDING THE APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF ANC**

Dear Chairman and Council Members,

As you consider the future of the Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, ANC 1A would like to take this opportunity to offer our full support for Kent Boese as the next Executive Director. We are confident you will find him to be a highly qualified candidate possessing all the skills and temperament needed for this challenging role.

A few of the reasons that we feel Kent Boese would make an excellent Executive Director include:

- 12 years as an ANC Commissioner, with many of these years serving in an executive committee capacity as Secretary and Chair of a Commission.
- Willingness to mentor new Commissioners within his Commission as well as with Commissioners around this city. Mr. Boese has participated in several training sessions and panels where ANCs can discuss issues and challenges to learn from one another.
- Demonstrated ability to build relationships with DC Agencies. The success of Commissions often rests with their ability to work with key agencies and boards like DDOT, BZA, ABRA, and DPW. Mr. Boese has built a network of individuals who can be called on when issues arise within these bodies to help with questions or concerns to work with Commissioners.
- Finally, he is a well-recognized leader within DC Government who has been asked to serve on prominent committees. Mr. Boese most recently served on the Council's Committee on Police Reform and the Advisory Committee to the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs. He has also served on the Redistricting Committee for Ward 1. His work in these positions is illustrative of his dedication and demonstrates his willingness to put in the effort to ensure DC government is responsive and accountable.

As we look to a better future for the Office of ANC, with Director Boese leading the way, there are some areas of centralized-support that can better assist all ANCs. We hope these will be near and mid-term goals for the Director and the Council:

- Standardized Website Development and Hosting – currently, ANCs develop and host very different websites with a mix of information, and some host no site.
- Online/Hybrid Meetings Technology – Zoom and WebEx have been a lifeline during the past two years, but not all ANCs have access to or understand the types of accounts that are available, each with different functionality. Hybrid meetings also bring a need for additional technology.
- Meeting Notice Central Register – The notice requirements of the ANC act should be updated to include a requirement for a DC Register (of sorts) for all ANCs. This central repository would

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become a go to for all residents wanting to learn more about the activities of ANCs across the city.

- New Commissioner Training for Mid-Term Replacements and Ongoing Education – Many of our newest Commissioners did not have the opportunity to receive training as those who are elected in November and seated in January. There is a need for ongoing education with regular online/in-person trainings and a repository online for commissioners to access as needed.

We look forward to working with the OANC and Council on making these improvements in the future.

With regards,



Michael Wray, ANC 1A Chair

The above letter and the testimony provided by Commissioner Wray was approved at the General Body Meeting of ANC 1A on October 12, 2022 with a quorum of Commissioners present. The motion to approve this testimony passed on a vote of 8 Yes, 0 No, and 0 Abstentions.



Advisory Neighborhood Commission

Government of the District of Columbia

Single Member District 5C07

2914 25th Street NE

Washington, DC 20018-2510

October 11, 2022

Re: Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022, PR 24-932

To: Council Chair Mendelson, Councilmembers, staff, constituents, and attendees

Thank you for this opportunity to offer my support and an ANC Commissioner for the PR 23-932, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022

I am Commissioner Jeremiah Montague, Jr. serving ANC single member district 5C07, which includes West Woodridge, Langdon, Old Sherwood, and a small portion of Brentwood East.

It has taken a considerable period, some believe much too long, to reach this wonderful occasion. Before the Council is the welcome nomination of Mr. Kent Boese, for the position of Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC). We are about dissipate the persistent cloud of uncertainty for ANCs, with what I hope Mr. Boese brings. I expect that he will engender a robust, responsive, advocative, and proactive OANC.

My personal and professional knowledge of Mr. Boese confirms that he is most suited to shepherd the organization vigorously toward the OANC that ANC commissioners sorely want. That statement is not to take away from the past years work of Ms. Grant, interim director, or the OANC staff. However, the new supplementations, and staff expansions will prove welcome resources placed under Mr. Boese's leadership.

I expect that there will be challenges, some known and others unanticipated. That is to be expected. Nevertheless, I am concerned of potential headwinds that may lie ahead for him as director. Not everyone will be open to change or embrace alterations to the status quo. Regardless, with urgency, He understands that we must move forward because there is much to do. This is especially necessary given the results of the recent redistricting of ANC's. Certainly, the staff will have to do more. Mr. Boese has shown that he can and must inspire the OANC to be actively creative deriving and implementing purposeful best practices. All the while, bringing the most responsive solutions to challenges as they present. Further, there must be a dissolution of accommodation of the ill effects of disenchantment and innuendo. We have no time of place any accommodation of such. I suggest that Mr. Boese will be a service based, fact grounded public servant in executing his duties, and managing the offices staff and resources.

My experiences with this nominee is that he will skillfully turn headwinds into tailwinds with expert deliberateness, diplomacy, and panache. I hold that he will bring fresh air and needed new perspectives, having been an active ANC Commissioner for many years. I believe that to do a great job, you have to fully embrace the opportunities, giving credence to existing practices, but tenaciously, skillfully transforming the vision and organization into the brightest shining star enlivening ANC's across the wonderful city, with an unflinching advocacy. Mr. Boese is the right person, at the right time for this appointment, which I fully support and enlist others to equally do so.

**Hearing on PR 24-932, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory
Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022**

October 12, 2022

Gordon Chaffin, Public Witness

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am here to very much support Kent Boese's appointment as Director of OANC. I worked with Kent in his capacity as a leader of the Gertrude Stein Democrats – now known as the Stonewall Democrats here in DC. He reached out to me early in the COVID-19 pandemic to help create an accessible public forum for candidates in the 2020 election...which of course extends to the 2022 cycle.

Here we are, going into 2023, and still virtual or hybrid meetings are important. I ask all of you guys on the Council to confirm Kent as soon as possible so that he can get working on the necessary steps to prepare another group of ANC Commissioners to start on existing Commissions, plus six groups to start new Commissions. They'll have to start from scratch, and they need a fully-confirmed OANC Director.

Among my concerns for Kent's new department is the greater support for the performance of virtual or hybrid meetings. The current support system has been a patchwork process. There might be funding available, but it's very complicated to apply for and something you can't count on. There might be a two-page PDF with resources that you can look through, but there's no staff person to come to your meeting and run the Zoom or Webex room.

There hasn't been centralized support with options that commissions can pick from. I have contracted to provide AV services for the last three years with ANC 1C. It started before the pandemic. I'm ending that service today, actually. My observation from those three years as an A/V contractor is that the commissioners themselves need to focus on the substance of the meeting and the OANC needs to provide a fool-proof solution. Whether an ANC chooses to stay virtual or go hybrid, there needs to be centrally-provided equipment and live tech support. Hybrid meetings are, procedurally, much more complicated.

I hope Mr. Boese will pursue a simplification and expansion of resources in regards to contracting for services. There should be template contracts for administrative

assistance, language interpretation, and other matters. I was a contracted employee with ANC 1C, and it was extraordinarily complicated to figure out how to write a legally sound contract, then get it approved by OANC.

It was also very difficult for ANC 1C to pay me. ANCs should have the ability to make payments and issue grants using electronic payments and a debit card. I had to structure my annual contract such that 1C only had to pay me twice because it was too difficult to have a monthly salary when they could only use a double-signed check. An ANC can't easily buy a USB microphone so that they can be heard when participating in a virtual meeting. They can't purchase a Zoom license or reserve a meeting room if it requires even a \$5 online deposit.

I believe ANC finances should be centralized such that OANC manages its books and executes each Commission's decisions as approved by votes. Quarterly allotments should be sent quarterly, without fail, and not depend on completely untrained commissioners to press the correct buttons on an Excel template. I also believe that ANC grant authority should be massively expanded, at least to the flexibility they had during COVID-19. And ANCs should be able to deliver grant funds to organizations that serve residents who live in the same Ward, but not principally in that ANC's boundaries.

Every ANC should be required to produce recorded, livestreamed meetings with remote participation. Commissions can return to in-person meetings, but they must provide virtual options. Every ANC should have a website that is updated weekly with meeting minutes, agendas, archived recordings, and prominent notices of each public meeting. Every adopted ANC resolution should be required to be uploaded to the public resolution portal. Every ANC resolution and letter, plus meeting notices, including committees and special call meetings, should go to an official register with a public API and calendar into which the public and other D.C. government agencies could hook.

Something I found in my service with ANC 1C, and in previous roles as a journalist covering ANCs, is that there has been no centralized preservation of ANC records. Not only the presentation of it on a website – which could be the subject of another long testimony itself. But public records, keeping so that when new commissioners start, they are able to not start from scratch. This also improves transparency for public research, archival history, and news inquiry.



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Washington, D.C. 20011
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Testimony of
Robert S. Becker

On behalf of the D.C. Open Government Coalition
October 12, 2022

Before the Committee of the Whole
Of the Council of the District of Columbia

Public Hearing — PR 24-932, the “Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022”

On behalf of the D.C. Open Government Coalition, thank you for giving us the opportunity to address the appointment of a new executive director to head the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC). I am a member of the Coalition board, and a Ward 4 resident served by ANC 3/4G.

Since the Coalition’s founding in 2009, we have helped ANC commissioners with Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, and some commissioners have supported our efforts to increase District government transparency. Across the city, many ANCs have greatly increased public access to their meetings and records.

But under Gottlieb Simon’s leadership, the OANC steadfastly refused to engage with us to make ANCs more accessible to District residents, and many ANCs make little effort at public engagement or transparency. Mr. Simon sought to exclude ANCs from the FOI Act and Open Meetings Act (OMA). He provided no help to ANCs that wanted to make documents available online or live-stream meetings, and no guidance regarding records management and security.

As a result, the District’s 40 ANCs, which are public bodies of the District government, and the 345 commissioners who will serve on them next year, each an elected District official, have been left to their own devices — literally and figuratively — to keep track of their public government records — documents received from within and outside the government, and those they create.

Commissioners have used personal computers, cell phones, messaging apps, cloud storage accounts, and commercial internet service providers (ISP). They have government email addresses, but we know at least some commissioners use personal email accounts to conduct government business.

We hope Kent Boese, as the OANC’s new leader, will begin the long-overdue process of bringing ANCs into the digital age — implementing systems to manage, secure and retrieve records and data, as well as platforms to facilitate engagement with constituents. The Council and executive agencies began this process nearly two decades ago, so the OANC has a lot of catching up to do.

In 2020, the Council created a Technical Support Fund administered by the OANC for “[p]lanning, development, or procurement of a mobile or computer application to assist [commissioners] with outreach and engagement with their constituents,” to supplement existing funding for “communications access services,” and to provide remote meeting, audio-visual, printing and website services for ANCs. *See* D.C. Code § 1-309.13a(c), enacted in D.C. Law 23-149, the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Act of 2020. But OANC staff testified last spring, two years into the pandemic, that several ANCs still lacked the technologies the fund is supposed to provide, and the OANC had not disbursed any funds to remedy their deficiencies.

Considering how far behind the OANC is with regard to records management and transparency, the Technology Support Fund is a drop in the bucket.

ANCs are public bodies of the District government, made up of commissioners elected by D.C. residents to represent their neighborhood. Like the Council and executive agencies, they are obligated to retain, preserve, secure and disseminate public records in compliance with the FOI Act, D.C. Code § 2-531, *et seq.*; and D.C. Code § 1-309.11(g). Like executive branch agencies, ANCs are subject D.C. Code § 2-1701, *et seq.*, governing public records management. *See* D.C. Code § 2-1714(a).¹ But because they lack even rudimentary records management systems, it is doubtful that they are in compliance.

To protect the integrity of ANCs’ information, to facilitate compliance with the FOI Act, and to ensure public access to meetings, the OANC needs to:

- Establish a common platform to host all ANCs’ websites;
- Establish a common electronic records management system to store all documents, emails and other data ANCs create or obtain from within or outside the D.C. government;
- Acquire audio-visual equipment ANCs need to live-stream meetings;
- Formulate policies for managing records, complying with the FOI Act and the OMA, and provide ANCs staff support to implement those policies; and
- Train ANC commissioners and support staff to use the new technology.

¹ The Council is exempt from those requirements pursuant to § 2-1714(b)(1), but addresses records management by rule. *See* RULES OF ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURE FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF Columbia, Art. VIII — Council Records, 88, PR24-001.

To accomplish all of that, Mr. Boese will need more staff and financial resources. It is likely that he will need additional authority in the ANC enabling statute as well. We sincerely hope the Council will provide those resources.

We look forward to working with the relevant Council committees and the OANC to formulate a plan to modernize the Office and ANC operations. Thank you.

Formed in March 2009, the D.C. Open Government Coalition seeks to enhance public access to government information and transparency of government operations of the District. We believe transparency promotes civic engagement and is critical to a responsive and accountable government. We strive to improve the processes by which the public gains access to government records and proceedings, and to educate the public and government officials about the principles and benefits of open government. Visit our website, www.dcoqc.org.

For additional information call Robert Becker, 202 306-2276.

Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole

Statement of Kent C. Boese, Nominee, related to
PR 24-932, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood
Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

Good afternoon Chairman Mendelson, Councilmember White, and other esteemed Councilmembers.

Thank you for the opportunity to be before you today to discuss the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. I am deeply honored by the nomination to be the next Executive Director of the OANCs, and by our shared commitment to ensure that by working together, our Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners have the support, resources, and interagency relationships they need to be effective voices for our neighborhoods across the District.

I am equally grateful to those who signed up to testify today and share ideas on improving OANC operations and ANC support. This feedback will be extremely valuable to the OANC as we set our priorities in the coming months.

I am passionate about ANC matters, as demonstrated by my 12 years serving as a Commissioner on ANC1A where I served for 2 1/2 years as secretary and 8 1/2 years as chair. In addition, I have 15 years of professional management experience within the legal community and 27 years of library experience. This experience makes me well suited to take on the challenges most critical to expanding OANC services and programs beneficial to every Commission and, by extension, to every resident of the District of Columbia.

First and foremost, I believe that Commissioners and ANCs are the clients of the OANC and our primary charge. While I have ideas on where the office needs to focus to improve services, I believe that success can only come through strong and regular engagement with the Council and the ANCs themselves. Being strong partners is the foundation through which OANC will be both responsive and visionary. OANC needs to be dynamic, evolving, and creative so that both it, and its support of ANCs, keeps up with our changing city and the changing demands that come with it.

While the first order of business must be to support and prepare our new commissioners and redistricted ANCs to be fully functional on day one, the next order of business will be the development of a strategic plan. The focus of that plan will be to

achieve the long-term goals for the ANCs envisioned by Council and largely coalesce around themes including:

1. centralizing administrative and technological support services,
2. building out a robust Continuing Education Program,
3. staffing up OANC so that it can provide the professional and technical support in the areas of zoning, development, and PUD community benefits,
4. providing expertise and best practices to improve legal compliance and records retention and access, and,
5. working to improve ANC soft skills such as effective communication and Conflict resolution to improve ANC collegiality and professionalism between Commissions, their government partners, and the Council.

I've provided additional insight on these themes in my prehearing statement and am happy to discuss them in more depth today where there are questions.

It is important to note that while the primary charge of OANC is to focus on ANC services, an equally important role is for OANC to be their advocate by working intimately with District Agencies to ensure that Agencies are meeting both ANC expectations and their legal requirements on actions ranging from providing notice to giving Great Weight and a host of issues in between.

While achieving these goals will not be without their challenges, I'm confident that there are short-term wins. Ultimately, my desire is for the OANC to fulfill its mission to providing the support needed for ANCs so that they in turn can be the professional, grass-roots elected bodies they were meant to be, and to ensure that every ANC in every Ward has access to both the equitable and high-quality services and support they need to fully represent their communities.

I thank you for this opportunity to speak before you today and welcome your questions.

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October 7, 2022

Honorable Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, 504
Washington, DC 20004

Honorable Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr
Chair, Government Operations and Facilities
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, 107
Washington, DC 20004

Chairman Mendelson and Councilmember White:

I have served as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for six terms, two as Treasurer and four as Chair. I have seen many remarkable changes in our city and neighborhoods, including times of trial and unrest, which have made us a more vibrant city. Today we have an opportunity to improve service to our Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and representation of every District neighborhood and resident by selecting a dynamic, thoughtful, and proven leader to be our next Executive Director of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC). Kent Boese is such a person, and I strongly recommend him to be the next head of the OANC.

The OANC, as led by Gottlieb Simon, provided guidance and advice on ANC operations, conducting effective meetings on regulatory compliance, supported basic website templates and email, workbooks for financial reporting, and navigated DC agencies to resolve issues. Initially, the OANC was created to help guide and advise ANCs in organizing to serve the local communities and provide a grassroots voice. Times changed; ANCs grew from civic and citizen activist organizations to closer integration into the DC government framework.

As the ANCs have matured in structure and purpose, the OANC did not evolve as quickly. This was in no way due to the OANC leadership and staff; it was due to a failure to empower the ANCs by providing centralized management services for operations, facilities, staffing, and technology. The OANC has minimal authority or funding to enforce standard tools and services across ANCs. Councilmember Bonds made a noble effort to professionalize and modernize the ANCs as part of the DC Government in 2015.

The general perception is that ANCs are given just enough legislative, regulatory, and operational support to meet the primary intent of their establishment with Home Rule. Using standard managed services, well-organized, city-wide collaborative ANCs, focusing exclusively on the issues directly affecting their neighborhoods, may become more vital partners in the government structure. If the ANCs achieve this goal, the OANC needs revamping, legislative and regulatory authority to effect change, and adequate funding.

I know there are many good candidates for the OANC Executive Director position. I also know that only a strong, committed, passionate leader who cares deeply about the ANCs and their role in the city can succeed. I have partnered with Kent Boese for over ten years on Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) issues and collaborations between ANC1A and ANC1B across all Ward One ANCs, and city-wide ANC focus forums.

I have confidence Kent will work tirelessly to transition the OANC from a passive to a proactive organization, providing:

- Guidance and advice to ANCs on effectiveness and efficiency
- Managed services, including administrative support services; Technology; Legal and Regulatory; Financial; Standard operating procedures and practices; and, Training and education forums,
- Collaboration and consensus-building across ANCs

Leading the OANC and affecting change, following the first and long-term Executive Director, is no simple task. Further complicating the organization is bringing together fiercely independent and autonomous ANCs across the district to use managed services and shared technology, a Council that is willing to provide some additional funding and limited oversight abilities to the office, and administrative agencies that generally view the ANCs as a nuisance and roadblock that can be ignored. Anyone who accepts the position must be given a more significant budget and coordination authority to succeed. I believe Kent Boese is a leader who can form a team, establish a plan, and put programs in place to move the OANC and ANCs forward.

Best regards,



James A. Turner
Commissioner, 1B09



ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 1A

SMD 1A01 – Layla Bonnot
SMD 1A04 – Chris Hall
SMD 1A07 – Mukta Ghorpadey
SMD 1A10 – Rashida Brown

SMD 1A02 – Dieter Lehmann Morales
SMD 1A05 – Christine Miller
SMD 1A08 – Kent C. Boese
SMD 1A11 – Dotti Love Wade

SMD 1A03 – Carlo Perri
SMD 1A06 – Brandolon Barnett
SMD 1A09 – Michael Wray
SMD 1A12 – Vacant

Testimony of Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Christine Miller SMD 1A 05

Council of the District of Columbia Committee of the Whole

PR 24-932, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022

Having served on Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A for seven years, I have had the pleasure of working in partnership with Mr. Kent Boese. Our first introduction was during my consideration of an open ANC seat for Single Member District 1A05 in Columbia Heights. He spent three hours helping educate, prepare, and share expectations for the role of a commissioner. I realized this was not an exception but one moment in his dedication to serving new commissioners. He is a consummate leader who shares his knowledge and experiences to provide support and offer mentorship to commissioners; it continues even now as I and others value his guidance and advice in various areas.

Throughout my tenure working closely with Mr. Boese, I have witnessed first-hand his keen ability to successfully balance competing demands and conflicting opinions while ensuring a diversity of voices is lifted and heard. His knowledge of governmental operations and staff has been invaluable in serving diverse constituencies and their needs. In times of conflict, he rises to the challenge to create opportunities for resolution and solutions.

Mr. Boese's history of building positive relationships with Councilmembers and their team, the Executive, and District Agencies has been invaluable in ensuring functional outcomes for those he has mentored and in all he undertakes. I am confident that he will bring these same skills and leadership to the benefit of Commissioners across the city in his role as Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christine Miller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Christine Miller
ANC Commissioner 1A05

Updated Testimony: William Jordan, whj@melanet.com

1337 Newton ST NW

**PR 24-932, Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood
Commissions Kent Boese**

Appointment Resolution of 2022 on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 2:30 p.m.

My name is William H Jordan, 30 year plus resident of the Columbia Heights neighborhood, who is served by ANC1A. I am an active member of my neighborhoods includes of the Lower Georgia Avenue Corridor and former ANC1A Commissioner.

I am writing in opposition to Mr. Boese's appointment Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. I base my opposition/concerns on my experiences in working with Mr. Boese in his position as chair of ANC1A, and my concerns based on:

- his stated philosophies surrounding communities and neighborhood consensus building
- His approaches and actions the exercise of great weight
- His temperament when faced with challenges

Further, one of the most critical matters we must face in our growing city is how to implement racial equity lens policies and practices in city policies, especially at the ANC grassroots levels. Mr. Boese lacks expertise in racial equity policies and practices.

To paraphrase Mr. Boese's philosophy on neighborhood and community,
"We are not nor likely to become one community but are many separate communities which happened to share a common neighborhood; therefore, we will never come to agreement and consensus neighborhood issues. Therefore, we must defer to experts and those in government agencies to make critical decisions on our behalf."

While the approve philosophy is find for an individual it pushes against the main job of ANCs, ***"to be their neighborhood's official voice in advising the District government"***, according to the website of the office on ANCs. A director taking this philosophy of deference to agencies in advising ANCs could greatly weaken ANCs, rendering ANCs as merely a conduit for delivering agency decisions onto neighborhoods instead of advising based on neighborhood consensus. Instead in practice this philosophy has enabled Mr. Boese's history leveraging his position as ANC1A Chair for pressing his personal views on the Commission and neighborhood.

Mr. Boese's demonstrated approach to ANC "great weight" has been one in which commissioners are urged to defer the commission's "great weight" to the SMD commissioner even when a major issue or project is on the agenda which impacts well beyond the boundaries of the SMD. This approach which I refer to as "hyper SMDism" is not only contrary to the purpose of "great weight" as the domain of the commission it lead to negative results in ANC1A community, especially for those most in need for their voices to be heard. A few examples of this:

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- In the case of the Bruce Monroe site, Mr. Boese would leverage SMDism to undercut the community consensus build process. Resulting in neighbors choosing the legal route, delaying the important Park Morton NCI project.
- Often ANCIA PUD Zoning Community Benefits package negotiations would lead to packages filled with Mr. Boese personal priorities. Packages which would fail to make the standard and never be implemented
- The destruction and eventual collapse of the 14th Columbia Heights Civic Plaza(s) is a result of SMDism over consensus building.
- The inability to manage DDOT's implementation of the 14th Street NW Bus and Bike Lanes Demonstration Project which is also in full collapse.

In short once an SMD commission is left alone to address the might of agencies and developers without the full backing and attention of the commission and community, there is not enough "great weight" left to address community concerns.

These core philosophies and approaches of Mr. Boese too often created an anti-democratic environment in which a couple of commissioners, a few supporters and bureaucrats in the normal course of business tend to drive decisions often with limited general public notice beyond the statutory minimum.

From a political standpoint the above philosophies and approaches of Mr. Boese are tolerable even laudatory in serving narrow constituencies, but these philosophies and his approaches will be problematic for grassroots democracy in the hands of an executive director who is charged with guiding and supporting ANCs across the city.

Questionable Expertise

In no way am I questioning Mr. Boese's expertise and skills in his chosen profession nor as manager, a historian, neighborhood activist or political figure. I question the applicability of these skills in a potential role as ANC Office Executive Director. And whether the touted expertise in zoning matters is reflected in the historic record.

- PUD 12-10 on Georgia Avenue, driven by CM Boese's leadership ANC1A as a key negotiator it was proposed in a public land disposition/PUD proffer that the developer provide Triceratops dinosaur head as a main community benefit.

<https://lms.dccouncil.gov/downloads/LIMS/40312/Introduction/B22-0821-Introduction.pdf>

Not only was the dinosaur proffer ridiculous on its face, but it is also an example of Mr. Boese pushing his personal historic preservation agenda over larger community needs which was/is struggling with Park Morton redevelopment and

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Georgia Avenue corridor development at the time. In the end, both the disposition process and zoning processes rejected this and related benefit packages as noncompliant and the development never occurred.

- In related PUD 10-26, A,B,C,D community benefit negotiations largely driven by Mr. Boese the developer was able garner 3 time extensions and produce no community benefits. Further the benefits negotiated by Mr. Boese were pushed toward a pet project largely ignoring the needs of the abutting Georgia Avenue Corridor. Again, in the end due to regulations and development issues the benefits package will go nowhere.

https://app.dcoz.dc.gov/CaseReport/CaseReportPage.aspx?case_id=10-26

These community benefit and PUD management negotiations led by Mr. Boese resulted in excessive PUD extensions and no tangible community benefits and if anything shows a lack of expertise. These case among others would help lead ZC/OP to move to change the rules taking flexibility away from communities. Mr. Boese's focus on pet projects ended up taking focus away from broader needs.

Actions of Concern

As Chair of ANC1A Mr. Boese developed an approach of keeping issues off of the ANC's agenda or from a vote in which he didn't clearly have the votes. This approach either prevented the larger commission from expressing their "great weight" or stagnating commission's review of important issues in public forum. With no commission "great weight" on the record, Mr. Boese often tactically exchanges his view as the commission's view to agencies or the Council.

Examples:

- During the initial efforts to organize a Lower Georgia Avenue Main Street, despite widespread community support, Mr. Boese opposed the effort. Mr. Boese rewrote a letter requesting "great weight" support as letter opposing the effort. After a ANC meeting in which supporters pushed back, the letter was tabled for further community review. Mr. Boese instead of resolving the issue via the ANC process instead quietly sent a letter to Council on ANC stationery opposing the effort, along with providing personal testimony, as a SMD Commission and Chair, causing Council to pull funding. The funding was pulled by the Council based on Mr. Boese's personal opposition appearing to represent the commission.

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- Similarly, when Park Morton NCI Bruce Monroe site was up for a disposition extension, the Park Morton resident council requested multiple times that Mr. Boese place the matter on the ANC agenda along with related matters for discussion and changes. Mr. Boese stalled, stalled and refused to respond until time passed for making the ANC agenda. Instead, he wrote a personal letter to Council stating that the Commission had not changed its original position. The commission was never given the to change and adjust. The Council mistakenly handled the personal letter from Mr. Boese as a "great weight" letter from the Commission which was used to justify a disposition extension without developer accountability or resident equity.

These are but a few examples of my concerns with regards to Mr. Boese's philosophies, approaches, and openness; therefore, lack of fitness as Office of ANC Executive Director. Again, I don't question Mr. Boese's general skills nor work in his community or as an effective politician. However, I have great concerns with Mr. Boese's stated philosophies, approaches, actions, and temperament for the position ANC Office Executive Director.

William Jordan
Columbia Heights

Cash, Evan W. (Council)

From: ALAN GAMBRELL <gambrell@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, October 14, 2022 9:18 AM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council); Cash, Evan W. (Council)
Subject: Kent Boese Confirmation

I am writing to express my full support and enthusiasm for Kent Boese's appointment as Executive Director of Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC).

I first came to know Commission Boese during my tenure as an ANC representative for ANC1C. His knowledge of DC regulations, particularly zoning matters and historic preservation, was invaluable in helping our ANC participate in agency deliberations—at least as much as was possible in attempting to work with DCRA and the Board of Zoning Adjustment.

More to the point of his qualification for the role as ED of ONAC is Boese's extensive knowledge of ANC operations and the need to provide technical support and training to enhance the skills and operations of ANCs across the city. **Kent will do great work for the city. I urge his confirmation.**

Alan Gambrell
1648 Argonne Place, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Committee of the Whole (Council)

From: Michelle Chappell <michelle.r.chappell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 24, 2022 11:03 AM
To: Committee of the Whole (Council)
Subject: OANC Boese appointment

Good morning,

I am writing today in enthusiastic support of Kent Boese's appointment as Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions. I have been a constituent in Kent's SMD since 2012 and although it will be difficult to lose him as our ANC, I believe that he will be a tremendous asset to OANC.

Kent has been an extremely dedicated and responsive ANC. He can often be seen walking the streets of the neighborhood, talking to neighbors about their concerns, delivering monthly newsletters, and all with a positive outlook and a problem solving approach. He is exactly the right person to mentor new ANCs in how to provide constituent services and be an effective ANC.

Thank you,
Michelle Chappell

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

I am writing in support of Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022 (PR 24-932). I have known Mr. Boese for about eight years as a neighbor and ANC1A Chair. We currently serve on the ANC together. Throughout these years, I have known Mr. Boese to be a long-term advocate, community stalwart and dedicated ANC leader. At the start of his ANC position and chairmanship and while serving in other leadership roles, Mr. Boese has participated in activities and led several strategic efforts driving community and citywide initiatives forward. This includes the following:

- Organizing high-functioning ANC committees and ad hoc groups involving issues that cut across transportation, parks and recreation, zoning, education and youth services, public safety, and grants;
- Leading public testimony on broader citywide projects providing affordable housing and other community benefits such as Park Morton and Bruce Monroe's redevelopment, the Former Hebrew Home and Armed Forces Retirement Home;
- Organizing educational and information events in collaboration with city agencies for community members to be informed of citywide efforts that impact neighborhoods;
- Providing strategic direction and guidance on budgets, reports and contracts involving ANC1A and to the Committee on Government Operations and Facilities regarding proposed requirements of ANCs across the District of Columbia;
- Ensuring compliance with ANC requirements and working closely with the Executive Director of the Office of the ANC on ANC functions, roles, and responsibilities;
- Participating in citywide committees advancing the strategic goals and direction of the District of Columbia on related issues involving public safety, public housing, and transportation; and
- Working with the city council and Mayor to address pertinent issues impacting ANC1A and the city as a whole.

Mr. Boese would be an excellent Executive Director of the Office of the ANC because he has demonstrated and led many of the functions and duties that are required of this role. He has also led one of the highest functioning ANCs in the District, which has played a significant role in various citywide initiatives such as the District of Columbia's comprehensive plan, Move DC's Crosstown Transportation Project and Action Plan and revised zoning regulations regarding R4 Districts. He is extremely organized, a great and reliable leader, and knowledgeable about ANC's roles and duties. ANCs across the city look to him for leadership, guidance and best practice examples and ideas for efficiencies across ANC offices.

I would be pleased to have a dedicated and competent person in this position serving ANCs citywide and leading efforts impacting ANCs across the District of Columbia. I highly recommend him for this position. Please do not hesitate to contact me for questions at 1a10@anc.dc.gov.

Rashida Brown

Rashida Brown
Commissioner, ANC1A10

1 **DRAFT COMMITTEE PRINT**
2 Committee of the Whole
3 November 1, 2022
4

5
6 A PROPOSED RESOLUTION
7

8
9 PR 24-932
10

11
12 IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
13
14 _____
15

16
17 To approve the appointment of Mr. Kent Boese as the Executive Director of the Office of
18 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.
19

20 RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this
21 resolution may be cited as the “Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood
22 Commissions Kent Boese Appointment Resolution of 2022”.

23 Sec. 2. The Council of the District of Columbia appoints:

24 Mr. Kent Boese
25 Rock Creek Church Road, NW
26 Washington, DC 20010
27 (Ward 1)
28

29 as the Executive Director of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, established by
30 section 18(a) of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975, effective March 28, 2000
31 (D.C. Law 13-135; D.C. Official Code § 1-309.15(a)), replacing Ms. Schannette Grant, on an at-
32 will basis.

33 Sec. 3. The Council shall transmit a copy of this resolution, upon its adoption, to the
34 appointee and to the Office of the Mayor.

35 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.