

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

December 13, 2022

Mayor Muriel Bowser John A. Wilson Building 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20004 Via Email: muriel.bowser@dc.gov

## Dear Mayor Bowser:

Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to the betterment of the District's public education system and for the efforts currently being undertaken by your office.

ANC 1A has four (4) DC Public Schools<sup>1</sup> within its boundaries, representing almost 3,000 students in grades PK3 through High School. In these, our community's youth spend more time than in any other formal institutional structure. With schools playing such a key role in our children's development on multiple levels, it is imperative that we have a strong net of mental health services embedded within school systems to provide the necessary support and care to improve both mental health and social development, but also as a tool in supporting success in educational attainment and preparation for a future outside of our school system.

As you work hard to prepare your budget allocations for FY2024, ANC 1A echoes our community partners and share in their funding priorities:

- Maintain stabilized funding for SBBH with adjustments for inflation and continued grant opportunities for community based organizations.
- Increase the "at-risk" weight in the UPSFF to 0.37, the amount recommended in the 2013 DC Education Adequacy Study.
- Invest in expansion of Safe Passage and towards creating school climates that prioritize the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.
- Ensure funding for high-quality OST programs with attention to eliminating significant barriers, including cost and transportation.

At a time when our schools are working to improve outcomes for attendance, graduation rates, academic results, and closing the achievement gap, this increase in funding would be a major step forward for students and families. ANC 1A recognizes that positive and negative childhood experiences have a tremendous impact on future violence victimization and perpetration and lifelong health and opportunity. Ignoring or failing to provide the necessary investments early on means we must work even harder later to mitigate the impact of these experiences.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Public Schools including both DCPS and Charter

ANC 1A respectfully requests your consideration and support in funding dedicated to increasing and improving the mental health support, safety, and opportunities available to our schools and students.

Sincerely,

Christine Miller
Commissioner 1A05

Chair, ANC1A Education Committee

cc:

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## Certification:

After providing sufficient notice for and with a quorum of 7 present at its December 14, 2022, meeting, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1A voted, with 7 Yeas,0 Nos and 0 Abstentions, to adopt the above resolution.

Michael Wray

Chairperson, ANC 1A

Mukta Ghorpadey

Secretary, ANC 1A