

Government of the District of Columbia

OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

JUDICIARY SQUARE

441 FOURTH ST., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001



IN REPLY REFER TO:

L&O:LNG:lng
(AL-95-297)

May 19, 1995

Jonda McFarlane
Commissioner
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2-E
3265 S street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20007

Re: May ANC 2-E participate in the activities
of the Georgetown Leadership Council?

Dear Commissioner McFarlane:


This is in response to your undated letter to Assistant corporation Counsel Leo Gorman in which you request the advice of this Office concerning whether Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2-E may participate in the activities of the Georgetown Leadership Council.

In your letter you state that the Georgetown Leadership Council "was formed to offer a central venue for discussion and study of community concerns affecting residents, business people, and the university. Because of past history, it was deemed that solutions to **our** mutual problems are more easily arrived at if they are not proprietary to anyone group." You further indicate that the Georgetown Leadership Council has no "decision-making authority, and does not vote," and that ANC 2-E will "make no monetary contributions to the Council, but will update the community, at regular Commission meetings, on the issues being discussed by the Council."

There is nothing in the statutory provisions governing ANCs that prohibits an ANC from participating in the activities of an umbrella entity like the Georgetown Leadership Council. Such participation could assist ANC 2-E in carrying out its advisory functions vis-a-vis District government agencies and departments. It goes without saying, however, that such participation would not affect the statutory requirements relating to the formulation by ANC 2-E of written recommendations (i.e., recommendations entitled to "great weight") on proposed District government actions. See § 13(d) of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Act of 1975, D.C. Code § 1-261(d) (1992).

If you have any questions concerning this advice, you may contact Leo Gorman, at 727-3400.

Sincerely,


Karen L. Cooper, Chief
Legislation & opinions section
Legal Counsel Division

cc: The Honorable Harold Brazil
Chairman
Committee on government Operations
Council of the District of Columbia

Lavonna Johnson
Director
Office of Constituent Services

Ayo Bryant
Director
Office of Diversity and
Special Services