

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



ATTORNEY GENERAL
KARL A. RACINE

Legal Counsel Division

February 14, 2018

Andre R. Carley
Chairperson
ANC 4B
7405 9th Street NW
Washington, DC 20012

Re: Proposed Suspension of Standing Committees

Chairperson Carley:

You asked a narrow question about your ANC's Rules of Procedure: would suspending the operation of your ANC's standing committees without supplying one month's advance notice of that action be consistent with those Rules? The answer is no.

Part VI of your Rules of Procedure establishes seven standing committees and assigns them duties. Each committee must review issues falling under its jurisdiction, must "hear presentations from parties involved in the issue," and must "make recommendations on how to deal with the issue to the full Commission."¹ In addition, each committee may "consider and make recommendations to the full Commission regarding potential Commission action on any issue of concern within [that] Committee's jurisdiction."²

Suspending all of your ANC's standing committees would, in effect, amend Part VI of your Rules because it would forbid any committees from carrying out the powers and duties given to them by Part VI. Your ANC may amend Part VI by majority vote,³ but the Rules state that any such amendment must be "submitted to Commissioners for their consideration not less than one month before the meeting at which such amendment will be considered for approval."⁴ To

¹ Rules of Procedure, Part VI(A).

² *Id.* Part VI(D).

³ *See* Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B Bylaws as Amended Sept. 22, 2014, art. VI, sec. 10 ("Commission actions, except for amending these Bylaws, shall be approved by a simple majority of those Commission members present and voting"); Rules of Procedure, Part X(B) ("These rules may be amended by majority vote of the Commission").

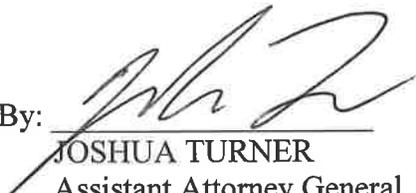
⁴ Rules of Procedure, Part X(B); *see id.* Part X(A) ("The public meetings and the conduct of the business of the Commission shall be governed by these rules, and any procedure or process inconsistent with these rules shall not be permitted").

suspend all of your ANC's standing committees without that one month's notice would therefore contravene the Rules.

If you have any questions, please contact Josh Turner, Assistant Attorney General, at 442-9834, or Janet M. Robins, Deputy Attorney General, Legal Counsel Division, at 724-5524.

Sincerely,

KARL A. RACINE
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

By: 
JOSHUA TURNER
Assistant Attorney General
Legal Counsel Division

(AL-18-070)