



Government of the District of Columbia
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B
DRAFT

(insert date)

Mr. Jeffrey DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer
1350 Pennsylvania Ave, NW #203
Washington, DC 20004
VIA EMAIL - Jeffrey.DeWitt@dc.gov

Dear Mr. DeWitt:

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B, at a duly noticed public meeting, with a quorum being the “majority of the total number of commissioner positions currently filled in Commission 4B,” at its April 22, 2019 meeting voted with X Yeas, X Nays, and X Abstentions to send this letter of inquiry to Mr. Jeffrey DeWitt, Chief Financial Officer for the District of Columbia with regards to judgments and financial settlements or other agreements for sexual harassment and assault by District government appointees and employees.

As responsible stewards of taxpayer money, we are deeply concerned that in in a March 27, 2019 letter to Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner Denise Rucker Krepp (6B10), you state that you are unaware of the amount of District money that is spent annually to settle complaints or other allegations of sexual harassment or assault by District government employees. In addition, in responses to Council oversight questionnaires, news reporters and to Commissioner Krepp, District agencies have provided confused and conflicting accountings of the costs to respective District agencies, making compiling the amount of settlements across the District difficult if not impossible to determine.

As the Chief Financial Officer, you manage the city’s day-to-day financial operations. As part of that work, the financial transaction information required to comprehensively track these types of financial settlements already exists, but your office has failed to track them.

This failure runs directly contrary to the Mayor's announced intent more than a year prior to your letter to comprehensively track these agreements.¹ As the Mayor stated, "Sexual harassment violates D.C. values."² But in order to address sexual harassment and assault, we must first determine the prevalence of the problem across the District government. Your office, with control of financial data for all District agencies, is the logical home for any such effort. Your statement that "the Office of the Chief Financial Officer does not have details on settlement agreements" is troublesome, and your advice to Commissioner Krepp that she contact the Office of the Attorney General for this information is inadequate³. The Attorney General is not accountable to the Mayor, like your office, and therefore it is your office's responsibility (or another segment of the executive branch) to fulfill the Mayor's commitment. Continued deflection and deferral by your office and the Executive Branch has made it nearly impossible to obtain this data or give credence to the Mayor's commitment to tracking this critical information.

As a subject of obvious public interest, we believe such data should be published on an annual or monthly basis by your office.

The Commission appreciates your response by May 1, 2019.

The Commission also voted with X Yeas, X Nays, and X Abstentions to appoint the Commissioner for Single Member District 4B01, Evan Yeats, or any member of the Executive Committee in his absence, to be authorized to communicate this resolution and represent ANC 4B in communication with your office with regards to this matter.

Sincerely,

CC: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia, Fenit Nirappil

¹ *D.C. taxpayers have recently paid at least \$735,000 to settle sexual harassment lawsuits*, Fenit Nirappil, *The Washington Post*, March 15, 2018

² "Mayor Bowser Mandates Sexual Harassment Training for All DC Government Employees," press release, December 19, 2017

³ Letter to Commissioner Denise Krepp, March 27, 2019 cited in April 12, 2019 letter from David Tseng to Chander Jayaraman.