

Government of the District of Columbia



Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
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MEMORANDUM

TO: James Turner, ANC 1A
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel
DT: 2/26/2024
RE: Cargo Bike Grant Request

You recently sent me a grant request from two residents of Ward 1 for a cargo bike for the use of Ward 1 residents. As outlined below this grant does not meet the statutory requirements for an ANC grant.

Residents Liliana Garcia and Verity Sturm requested a grant from ANC 1A for \$500.00 to be spent on a cargo bike that will be made available to the residents of Ward 1. They stated that they will be asking all the ANCs to give \$500.00 each.

The request, while intriguing, does not meet the requirements of the D.C. Code for an ANC grant in that it is not from an organization and does not meet the public purpose test as outlined in the code.

The D.C. Official Code 1-309.13(m) states that the ANC may only “may approve grants only to organizations that are public in nature...” That is, a grant must go to an organization, not an individual. See also, *Letter to Schanette Grant on Seasoned Settlers and Grants Generally*, April 14, 2022, found at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Letter-to-OANC-Re-Seasoned-Settlers-Grant-and-Grants-Generally-.pdf> Hereafter “*Seasoned Settlers*.”

D.C Official Code §1-309.13(l)(1) requires grants to be “for public purposes within the Commission area “ and further states that “[a] public purpose shall be a purpose that benefits the community as a whole.” Grants must have a local benefit and that they “benefit persons who reside or with within the Commission area.” D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(m). “This does not mean the grant may only benefit Commission residents; it simply means the grant’s benefits should be focused on those residents.” See *Seasoned Settlers* at page 2.

The grant application in this case is for a bike that would serve the residents of Ward 1 and seeks to have all the Ward 1 ANCs to fund it equally. The primary beneficiaries would not be the residents of any particular ANC but the Ward.

For these reasons, the grant request does not meet the requirements of the D.C. Code.