

Government of the District of Columbia



Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions  
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TO: Dawn Dickerson, Program Analyst  
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel  
DT: 9/07/2023  
RE: Janney 5K Grant ANC 3E

You asked whether the grant from ANC 3E met the requirements of the D.C. Official Code for ANC grants. It does not for several reasons.

The Janney PTO applied for a grant of \$3400.00 to support their fundraising 5K run. The grant request did not contain a budget and stated the overall cost for the 5K was \$42,000. There was no discussion of the benefit to the ANC residents or businesses. Also attached was a letter with receipts. The letter stated that 750 people participated and dozens of “community vendors” were present. There is no indication of a specific benefit to the ANC residents or businesses. There is no indication if the participants or vendors were residents or businesses within 3E. The October 12, 2022, ANC minutes do not discuss the benefit of the race to the ANC community.

The receipts were for a balloon arch (\$375.00), a photographer (\$500.00), and a timing company (\$2584.00). The photo receipt notes that Janney Elementary is the owner of the photos.

The D.C. Official Code states that ANC “Expenditures may be in the form of grants by the Commission for public purposes.”<sup>1</sup> It further states that “A public purpose shall be a purpose that benefits the community as a whole...”<sup>2</sup> There also must be a local benefit and a grant must “benefit persons who work or reside in the Commission area.”<sup>3</sup> The Office of Attorney General discusses public purpose and local benefit in *Seasoned Settlers and Grants Generally*<sup>4</sup> stating that the grant must primarily benefit the public and be focused on the residents of that commission.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(l)(1)

<sup>2</sup> Id.

<sup>3</sup> Id.

<sup>4</sup> See *Letter to Schanette Grant on Seasoned Settlers and Grants Generally* found at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-04/Letter-to-OANC-Re-Seasoned-Settlers-Grant-and-Grants-Generally-.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Id. at p. 6.

The primary beneficiary of this grant appears to be the Janney PTO and race participants who may or may not have been residents of the ANC. Assuming arguendo that the race did benefit the community as a whole the expenditures themselves are questionable in that the beneficiaries of the expenditure were specific individuals, namely the race participants. The timing company cost, which was the bulk of the expenditure, benefited specific individuals, race participants, not the community. The same with the photos and the balloon arch.

This grant did not benefit the community as a whole and therefore is not a permissible use of ANC funds.