

Government of the District of Columbia



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Jackie Blumenthal, Chair ANC 3B
Kevin Lavezzo, Treasurer ANC 3B
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel
DT: 4/8/2024
RE: Glover Park Village grant request

The OANC has received a copy of a grant request for 3B from the Glover Park Village for Digital Awareness and transportation. I have reviewed the application and found it to be an impermissible use of ANC funds because it does not benefit the community as a and may, depending on the recipient, duplicate services offered by the District of Columbia. This is further outlined below.

ANC grants must be for “public purposes within the Commission area.”¹ A public purpose is one “that benefits the community as a whole and is not done for the primary purpose of benefitting a private entity.”² Based upon the budget, the maximum number of recipients would be fifteen persons, ten receiving gift cards and 5 receiving iPads. To that purpose “[e]ach proposed ANC grant must be carefully scrutinized to ensure that it will benefit a significant part of the public, not just a few individuals.”³ The OAG has previously determined that grants that “benefits only 15 children out of a commissioner area containing over 20,000 residents” could not be found to meet the Public Purpose requirement.⁴

The Department of For Hire Vehicles has a program where veterans may ride taxis for free. <https://dfhv.dc.gov/page/vetsride> The program is limited to DC Veterans with an annual income of \$45,000 or less a year who can receive four (4) vouchers a month for free rides for essential tasks such as medical appointments, job interviews, and educational opportunities. There is a potential impermissible overlap between the two programs and if the proposal was otherwise permissible, it would need to be adjusted to remove the overlap.

Conclusion

¹ D.C. Official Code § 1-309.13(l)(1).

² *Id.*

³ <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2018-02/ANC-4-C-June-30-2017-Block-Grants-and-Public-Purpose-Requirement.pdf>

⁴ *Letter to ANC Staff Assistant Shaw* October 14, 2011 found at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2022-07/Letter-to-ANC-Staff-Assistant-Shaw-Re-ANC-5C-Grant-to-Living-Story-Book-Organization-.pdf>
Letter to Deborah K. Nichols District of Columbia Auditor, January 14, 2010, found at <https://oag.dc.gov/sites/default/files/2018-02/ANC-January-14-2010-Guidelines-for-Use-of-ANC-Funds.pdf>

For the reasons stated above this grant is an inappropriate expenditure of ANC funds.