

Government of the District of Columbia



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TO: Dawn Dickerson, Program Analyst
FR: Denise Wiktor, General Counsel *DW*
DT: 8/31/2023
RE: Takoma PTO Grant for Fall and Spring Fairs

The Takoma Elementary Parent Teacher Organization has applied for a grant for its Fall and Spring Fairs. The purpose in stated in the application is

...to assist the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) with funding the two school festivals that the PTO puts on to build school community each year. Both festivals are outside on school grounds with games, food, and other activities. In the Fall, the hope is to allow families to meet up outside of school hours to get to know each other and ring in the new school year. The Spring Festival is a celebration of the success of the school year as well as an invitation to new families who will be joining the school community the following year. In addition, last year's Spring Festival had an "End Gun Violence" parade whereby students and families made posters and marched around the school block.

The festivals are for the "students and families who attend." No budget was included with the application. This grant application does not meet the "public purpose" requirement outlined in the D.C. Official Code as discussed 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 The fair appears to be closed to the public and would not benefit the community as a whole and it is for that reason not a permissible use of ANC funds.³

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

² Id.

³ See also *Seasoned Settlers Grant and Grants Generally* found at [Letter-to-OANC-Re-Seasoned-Settlers-Grant-and-Grants-Generally-.pdf \(dc.gov\)](#)