

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 *DW*
DT: 9/26/2023
RE: Takoma PTO Grant for Fall and Spring Fairs

The Takoma Elementary Parent Teacher Organization has applied to ANC 4B for a grant for its Fall and Spring Fairs. The purpose is 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 that was sent to the OANC. After issuing my initial memo on 8/31/2023 the submission to the OANC was supplemented with an invoice as well as a statement that the event was open to and attended by the wider 4B community. Accordingly, I am changing my initial assessment. This grant application does 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 is open to the 4B community and primarily benefits the ANC 4B community as a whole and it is for that reason is 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 \(dc.gov\)](#)