Resolution Supporting Implementation of the NEAR Act (B21-0360)

Whereas, the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act was signed into law in 2016, the city began implementation immediately, and in FY2018 the city’s budget includes funds for all elements of the law that required additional funding;

Whereas, effective implementation of the NEAR Act is important to the goal of achieving a safer, stronger city for everyone in the District;

Whereas, the comprehensive approach to crime and violence in the NEAR Act reflects the values of the ANC3B community and will contribute to the quality of life for the people in the Commission area and throughout the city;

Whereas, complete implementation of the NEAR Act will require the city to continue to fully fund and staff all the elements of the law so the full range of services and programs can be effectively carried forward, including addressing the root causes of crime and violence and using public health approaches to work with those involved as victims or participants, in cooperation with MPD and other officials responsible for law enforcement and related data collection;

Whereas, it is vital for city officials, ANCs, community groups, and residents to support executive agencies including MPD in implementing the NEAR Act, working together across organizations and neighborhoods to reduce or prevent crime and violence and improve understanding and response to the risks and causes of being involved or affected;

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that the Commission supports full implementation of the NEAR Act and regular reports on the city’s progress in that process, including collecting and sharing with the public all data required to be compiled and analyzed under the law, subject to privacy and confidentiality protections;

Be it further RESOLVED that the Commission urges the Mayor and DC Council to use all funding provided in FY2018 to implement the NEAR Act and also to include full funding for implementation of the NEAR Act in the FY2019 budget. We also encourage the city to fund and hire additional social workers and counselors at the Department of Behavioral Health to allow more individuals to receive the services mandated under the NEAR Act;

Be it also RESOLVED that the Chairman or his designee is authorized to represent the Commission on this matter.

This resolution was approved by a vote of 5 to 0 at a duly noticed public meeting of ANC3B on March 8, 2018 at which a quorum was present. (Three of the five members constitute a quorum.)