

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

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Office of Government Operations
Legal Counsel Division



May 30, 2001

Eleanor Johnson
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner 1C
2480 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20009

Re: Closing of ANC Office

Dear Ms. Johnson,

This responds to your voice message of this morning requesting a written opinion regarding whether the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) is required to provide the community with 30 days notice before closing the ANC office. We previously discussed this matter in a telephone conversation on May 8, 2001. At that time I advised you that there is no statutory requirement of 30 days notice. You indicated that there may be something in ANC 1C's by-laws that applies and that you needed a written opinion. I advised you to submit a written request along with a copy of the by-laws. Your message this morning indicated that you were unable to send a written request because of the closing of the office and lack of access to a fax machine.

I am attaching a copy of a letter dated August 9, 1989 from this Office to ANC 5B wherein we advised that the operation of an ANC office is a matter committed to the discretion of the ANC. I do not have a copy of, or access to, ANC 1C's by-laws, so I am unable to say whether those by-laws contain any requirement of prior public notice. Unless there is such a requirement in the by-laws, it is my opinion that the ANC can close the office without prior public notice. If you have any questions as to the effect of any provision of the by-laws or the validity of the vote to close the office, please submit a written request for advice, along with a copy of the by-laws.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Annette B. Elseth".

Annette B. Elseth
Assistant Corporation Counsel

ABE/abe
(AL-01-345)

Attachment

¹ As the prior opinion points out, the ANC should notify relevant persons and organizations that it is closing the office. However, this is an informational notice, not a notice that is a prerequisite to closing the office.