

FILE

Government of the District of Columbia

OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

JUDICIARY SQUARE

441 FOURTH ST., N.W.

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20001



IN REPLY REFER TO:  
OLC:LNG:lng  
CAL-96-422)

September 19, 1996

E. Ned Sloan  
Commissioner  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4-A  
7600 Georgia Avenue, N.W., suite 405  
Washington, D.C. 20012

Re: FOIA request from Ellen Broderick relating to  
ANC meeting sign-in sheet

Dear Mr. Sloan:

This is in response to your August 21, 1996 letter to the Corporation Counsel in which you request the advice of this Office concerning a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request submitted to Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 4-A by Ellen Broderick, who resides within the boundaries of ANC 4-A.

In her FOIA request, Ms. Broderick requests a "copy of the list of persons who were at the June 4, 1996 meeting of ANC4A." You indicate in your letter that this is the "sign-in" sheet that is circulated at each meeting and contains the "name, address, and telephone number of those who attend the meeting." You state that although ANC 4-A is not required to circulate such a sign-in sheet at its meetings, you are concerned as to whether the telephone numbers on the sign-in sheet should be made available to the public.

Under the FOIA, disclosure is not required if the information is "of a personal nature where the public disclosure thereof would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." D.C. Code § 1-1524(a) (2) (1992). Our advice is to check the names and telephone numbers on the sign-in sheet against listings in the current Bell Atlantic telephone book. Any name and number on the sign-in sheet that corresponds to a listing in the telephone book may be given to Ms. Broderick. If a name and number on the sign-in sheet does not appear in the telephone book, this may mean that the person wishes to keep his or her telephone number private. The persons whose names and telephone numbers do not appear in the telephone book should be contacted by telephone and Ms. Broderick's FOIA request should be briefly explained to them. If a person so contacted requests telephone number privacy, his or her telephone

number on the sign-in sheet should be blocked out. If a person so contacted does not request telephone number privacy, his or her telephone number on the sign-in sheet may be left alone. If any telephone numbers on the copy of the sign-in sheet that is given to Ms. Broderick are blocked out, a written explanation should be provided to Ms. Broderick.

Sincerely,

Charles F.C. Ruff  
Corporation Counsel

By: 

Leo N. Gorman  
Assistant Corporation Counsel  
Office of Legal Counsel