

October 29, 2025

To: Commissioners, ANC 3/4G

From: Members, Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee (RASE), ANC 3/4G

Re: Recommendation to ANC 3/4G to oppose Senate bill S.2998 and support the Brannum resolution

The Racial and Social Equity (RASE) Committee is calling on the Commissioners of ANC 3/4G to:

- 1) oppose Senate bill S.2998. <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/2998/cosponsors?s=1&r=63>
- 2) affirm their support for the resolution introduced by Robert Brannum.
(see attached resolution)

Senate bill 2998 was introduced on October 9, 2025 by Senator Rick Scott to designate the area of H Street Northwest between Connecticut Avenue Northwest and Vermont Avenue Northwest in Washington, District of Columbia, as "Charlie Kirk Patriot Way". The bill is co-sponsored by Senators Mike Lee, Josh Hawley, Marsha Blackburn, Bernie Moreno, and Ted Cruz. The bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs.

The RASE Committee strongly opposes any renaming, designating or honoring of Charlie Kirk. The views he promoted are antithetical to those of diversity, equity and inclusion and generally divisive. Across the country at college campuses, rallies for Donald Trump, and through all forms of media, Kirk aggressively criticized the purpose and initiatives of racial equity, including the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He was critical of gay and transgender rights as well as Jews, Islam, and equality for women, whom he declared should be submissive and obedient to men.

Kirk, a native of Chicago, has no special relationship to Washington, DC. Similarly, none of the sponsors of S.2998 is from the District. DC residents themselves know whom best to honor in their city. DC is proud of its diversity and its culture, ranging from its historic African American past to its ever-expanding Latino community, to the wide range of all people from all walks of life. Washingtonians deserve to honor the leaders who support, defend and advocate for their values. H St NW, specifically, has a significant Black history, as it was a thriving center for Black commerce and community life before the 1968 riots devastated the area. Despite being hit hard by civil unrest, the community has since endured and is seeing a 21st-century revival. Not only would the Kirk renaming of H Street be a slap in the face to DC residents, it is an insult to the social justice leaders and icons who have worked to propel this city forward.

Furthermore, the City should not have to make additional expenditures associated with politically motivated changing of street names and infrastructure. It goes without saying that the tightened DC budget should be focused on constructive change. The resolution put forth by Robert Barnum to oppose the renaming of H St references the Senate Committee of Homeland Security and Government Affairs. The said committee will not hold any public hearing on S.2998, nor does it plan to invite DC ANC Commissioners, civic engaged residents, or any DC elected official to testify in opposition to the bill. This move represents yet another infringement on DC's right to self-governance, further eroding local autonomy and silencing the voices of residents who deserve to determine their own city's identity and values. It sets a dangerous precedent in which Congress can continue to override local decision-making, undermining the District's long-standing and ongoing battle for full statehood and equal representation.

Robert Brannum is a former Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for ANC5E08. He is also a retired military veteran of the U.S. Air Force. An advocate for full voting rights for the residents of the District of Columbia, Brannum speaks out on District issues including matters relating to public safety/emergency preparedness; high quality public education, and justice and human rights. RASE applauds his initiative regarding this resolution. The

committee recommends that all commissioners of ANC 3/4G liaise with ANC5 further to add their support to the resolution.

The mission of RASE is: To raise awareness about the ongoing effects of historical and systemic racism in our community and city and promote change in pursuit of racial justice, diversity, and equity. The committee seeks to address concrete issues which affect people in their daily lives. The issues of equitable placemaking, well-being, integrity and history within urban spaces such as H St. are particularly germane.

RASE recommends that all commissioners of ANC 3/4G pass a resolution to 1) reject S.2998 and 2) support the Brannum resolution.

Sincerely,

Karrenthya Simmons

Karrenthya Simmons

Co-Chair, Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee

Libby Martin

Elizabeth Martin

Co-Chair, Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee