



**BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**



August 27, 2026

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]@gmail.com

RE: Dismissal of Complaint due to lack of jurisdiction

Dear [REDACTED]:

This letter is in response to the Open Meetings Act complaint that you submitted to the Office of Open Government (“OOG”) on April 10, 2026, regarding the District of Columbia Pedestrian Advisory Council (“D.C. PAC”). We have assigned this matter number OOG-2026-0006, for tracking purposes. Your complaint alleges that you were questioned about your “intended purpose” for attending PAC-related events and explicitly asked not to attend future events.

As Director of Open Government, I am authorized to issue advisory opinions regarding the Open Meetings Act (“OMA”), OMA statute and regulations (D.C. Official Code § 2-571 *et seq.*; 3 District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR) 10400 *et seq.*), upon request. The OMA applies to District of Columbia public bodies as defined in D.C. Official Code § 2-574(3). As discussed below, the individual named in your complaint is not affiliated with the D.C. PAC and the organization he belongs to is a political action committee that has no affiliation with the D.C. PAC. Therefore, I must dismiss your complaint pursuant to 3 DCMR § 10403.1(a).

I. BACKGROUND

On April 10, 2026, you submitted an OMA complaint regarding the conduct of an individual who you believed to be a representative of the D.C. PAC. You stated that on or about April 1, 2026, you received direct communication to your personal email in which you were questioned about your intended purpose for attending PAC-related events and explicitly asked not to attend future events. You stated that these events were publicly advertised and appeared to involve members of the D.C. PAC. You state that this conduct raises serious concerns under the OMA including violation of Open Meetings requirements under D.C. Official Code § 2-575(a); violation of the policy of the District government as stated in the OMA; and improper closure or circumvention of open meetings requirements as described in D.C. Official Code § 2-575(b). You

assert that these actions have a chilling effect and may be indicative of unequal access to public meetings.¹

Based upon your complaint, our office contacted the D.C. PAC for a response. On June 26, 2026, D.C. PAC Chair Paul Harrison provided a response in which he stated that the individual named in your complaint “is not a PAC member, nor does he have any other position with us.”² The Chair went on to state that he did “not recall any engagement by [the individual] or attendance by him...” at any D.C. PAC meetings.³

Subsequently, we requested a copy of the communications you referred to in your complaint and on June 28, 2026, you forwarded a copy of your email communication with the individual in your complaint to OOG. In an April 1, 2026, email with the subject “Re: Order Notification for Outreach & Community Social for Transportation Champions,” the individual in your complaint wrote “I know you are supporting Mcduffie, can you let me know your intended purpose for being present at our events?” Below this message was an Eventbrite order confirmation email for the Outreach & Community Social for Transportation Champions event, sponsored by a group named the Bike Walk and Bus PAC.

The Bike Walk and Bus PAC website indicates that it is an organization dedicated to transforming transportation in Washington, D.C. by creating safer, more accessible, and environmentally sustainable infrastructure.⁴ The organization states that its “mission is to support D.C. local candidates running for office in 2026 who are committed to redesigning dangerous roads, prioritizing safe routes for walking, biking, and rolling, and ensuring that everyone has the freedom to move with reliable, accessible transit.”⁵

II. DISCUSSION

The “PAC” in Bike Walk and Bus PAC is not spelled out on its website, however it is reasonable to infer that PAC in this context stands for political action committee.⁶ Although the D.C. PAC and Bike Walk and Bus PAC share the acronym “PAC” and both address issues related to transportation in the District of Columbia, they are two distinct and unaffiliated bodies. The substance of your complaint involves an individual at an organization that is not a District of Columbia public body and therefore not subject to the OMA.

Pursuant to 3 DCMR § 10400 *et seq.*, OOG’s legal staff reviewed your complaint and recommended dismissal due to the threshold question of whether the Director of Open Government has jurisdiction over the matters referenced in the complaint. The Director only has statutory

¹ April 10, 2026, Complaint

² June 26, 2026, Response from D.C. PAC Chair Paul Harrison.

³ *Id.*

⁴ See Bike Walk and Bus PAC website at <https://www.bikewalkbuspac.com/our-team>.

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ A footer at the bottom of the Bike Walk Bus PAC website states, “Paid for by...A copy of our report is filed with the Director of Campaign Finance of the District of Columbia Board of Elections.”

jurisdiction over a public body that is subject to the OMA. Further, 3 DCMR § 10403.1(a) provides that the Director may dismiss a complaint that “does not raise issues within the Director’s authority under the Open Meetings Act.” As stated above, the Bike Walk and Bus PAC is not a public body that is subject to the OMA. Thus, I must dismiss this OMA complaint because it does not raise issues under the Director’s authority.

III. CONCLUSION

Therefore, pursuant to 3 DCMR § 10403.1(a) this Complaint is dismissed because it does not raise issues within the Director’s authority under the OMA and this matter is closed with respect to OOG.

If you have any questions or concerns about this dismissal for lack of jurisdiction, please contact OOG Trial Attorney Brandon Lewis, at brandon.lewis@dc.gov, or OOG Chief Counsel Louis Neal at louis.neal@dc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Niquelle Allen".

Niquelle M. Allen, Esq.
Director of Open Government
Board of Ethics and Government Accountability