

The Cleveland Park Citizens Association

041207R Resolution Regarding Bill No. 15-986, "The First Amendment Rights and Police Standards Act of 2004"

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia, as the nation's capital, is the site of many demonstrations and public assemblies in which people exercise their First Amendment right to freedom of speech, to peacefully assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances; and

WHEREAS, the Judiciary Committee of the Council of the District of Columbia ("Committee"), having conducted an extensive investigation into the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) policies and practices in handling demonstrations as well as police surveillance of political organizations between 2000 and 2002, has determined that it is necessary to establish statutory policies and requirements for police practices regarding first amendment assemblies; and

WHEREAS, the Committee has reported Bill No.15-968, the "First Amendment Rights and Police Standards Act," and the full Council has approved it on first reading:

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT THE CLEVELAND PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

1. Supports expeditious approval of Bill 15-968, "The First Amendment Rights and Police Standards Act of 2004." as reported by the Committee on the Judiciary;
2. Urges the Council to resist any efforts to weaken the bill's First Amendment protections and its directions to the Metropolitan Police Department; and
3. Urges the Council to reinsert the section on "Private Right of Action" contained in the bill as reported by the Judiciary Committee.