

BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY  
OFFICE OF OPEN GOVERNMENT



October 31, 2017

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Mr. Jeffrey L. Kraskin, President  
Spring Valley-Wesley Heights Citizen  
Association  
[jlkraskin@rcn.com](mailto:jlkraskin@rcn.com)

Mr. Dennis Paul  
Neighbors For A Livable Community  
[dennis.paul@verizon.net](mailto:dennis.paul@verizon.net)

**RE: American University Neighborhood Collaborative, Georgetown University Community Partnership**

Dear Mr. Kraskin and Mr. Paul:

The Office of Open Government (OOG) is in receipt of your September 24, 2017, letter requesting that the OOG opine on alleged violations of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (D.C. Official Code § 2-571 *et seq.*) by the American University Neighborhood Collaborative (Collaborative), the Georgetown University Community Partnership (GU), and participating Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANCs) representing the Third District.

The OMA is applicable to public bodies defined as: “[A]ny government council, including the Council of the District of Columbia, board, commission, or similar entity, including a board of directors of an instrumentality, a board which supervises or controls an agency, or an advisory body that takes official action by the vote of its members convened for such purpose.” (D.C. Official Code § 2-574(3)). As both the American University and the GU are private entities, and not a District government public body, the OOG has no authority to compel the Collaborative or the GU to comply with the requirements of the OMA. Similarly, the membership/inclusion of ANCs in the Collaborative does not trigger the OMA. “The term ‘public body’ shall not include: Advisory Neighborhood Commissions...” (D.C. Official Code § 2-574(3)(F)).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Traci L. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

TRACI L. HUGHES, ESQ.  
Director, Office of Open Government  
Board of Ethics and Government Accountability