



Armenian National Committee of America
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

November 7, 2019

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Executive Office of the Mayor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 316
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

As Americans of Armenian heritage – proud of our long history of peaceful protests in our nation’s capital – we remain deeply grateful for your principled stand against the violence perpetrated by Turkish President Recep Erdogan’s security detail against peaceful U.S. protesters in Washington, DC on May 16, 2017.

We write today to inquire as to whether the District of Columbia has received written assurances from the White House, Department of State, or other relevant federal law enforcement and national security authorities regarding two matters of urgent concern:

- 1) Has the District of Columbia received written assurances from the White House, Department of State, or other relevant federal law enforcement and national security authorities that the delegation traveling to Washington, DC next week, with Turkish President Recep Erdogan, will not include individuals charged with violent crimes against peaceful U.S. protesters in Sheridan Circle on May 16, 2017?
- 2) Has the District of Columbia received written assurances from the White House, Department of State, National Park Policy, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Secret Service, or other relevant federal law enforcement and national security authorities that sufficient safeguards have been put in place to ensure that both the First Amendment rights and the physical safety of protesters are protected during President Erdogan’s visit to Washington, DC?

We look forward to hearing from you on these two points, as we plan our protests at the White House and Sheridan Circle. Please know that your strong leadership for free expression holds great meaning for our community and all those who value our First Amendment.

Sincerely,

Aram Hamparian
Executive Director