

**From:** [Tom Donohue](#)  
**To:** [Grant, Schannette \(OANC\)](#)  
**Cc:** [White, Robert \(Council\)](#); [Hilgendorf, Shawn \(Council\)](#); [Mendelson, Phil \(COUNCIL\)](#); [Wynn, Monique \(Council\)](#); [Patterson, Kathy \(ODCA\)](#); [twhite@dcccouncil.us](mailto:twhite@dcccouncil.us); [ATD OIG](#); [Williams, Kathy \(OANC\)](#)  
**Subject:** RE: ONAC's response to Ward 8 Resident - Mr. Tom Donahue  
**Date:** Saturday, April 30, 2022 10:45:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[2nd Recall Petition & Holly Response.pdf](#)

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Mr. Grant,

Thank you for your email response. In the recall petition which will be approved by the BOE on May 4<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Muhammad writes, "He is a RACIST and hates Black Women and Muslims." This statement becomes a matter of public record as of Wednesday. I am not in politics have no plans on becoming political. My only course of action to take once learning Ms. Muhammad could/would no longer able to represent me was to file for a recall. This is how a small business owner gets treated after living where I do for going on 9 years. My only option is to let this play out – I could drop it and have no representation or I could let it move forward and have these terrible words about me by someone who doesn't even know me follow me.

Let me back up a moment, this is very important. Your new team within the OANC has been incredible. They have been completely understanding, responsive, and helpful. I completely understand the challenge ANC's bring to the district, I didn't at one time. My first recall petition was tabled and sat before the BOE for quite sometime as I sought guidance from various entities. For those who offered insight I am grateful. On March 22, 2022 I withdrew my original petition and at the same time filed an updated petition which also included a place where I could respond to Ms. Muhammad's response. I felt if the BOE is going to allow Ms. Muhammad to respond and attack me personally (of which I have never done to her) then I should have a place where I can respond. I wanted a place for people who may stumble across my petition and see her response and who may be considering my professional services as a photographer/videographer to go and be able to see my response and offer some context. So I created a website that anyone can view, that anyone who I may not make contact with can seek out for truthful information along with supporting documentation.

As a district resident facing an eviction in Superior Court due to the very struggle many of my neighbors are having with the reduced amount of business (who needs a photographer/videographer in a pandemic when no one is doing anything in person) I don't have funds for an attorney to fight this. Someone in my position should not have to invest money to fight something like this. Frankly I think between the flyer she had someone pass out all over my neighborhood WITH MY PHOTO ON IT and her words on this most recent response to my petition I'm confident she has falsely accused me of things that have and likely will haunt me in the future, all of which are not true. However I have no other choices and I refuse to allow this elected official intimidate me and silence me by hoping I'd back down and keep from me moving forward. Its just unfortunate that by being forced to move forward the Board of Elections will also take on responsibility of helping to spread such hatred and falsehoods that attack me personally. Since they are forcing me to carry around these terrible personal attacks and show my neighbors such lies by my elected official rather than doing what the recall is intended to do – is convince my neighbors

that Ms. Muhammads actions in refusing to represent me rises to a level of them signing to recall her I'll find myself having to defend myself against false claims – that I am a racist that I hate black woman and that that I hate Muslims – imagine me having to defend these false claims to many I do not know in a predominately black neighborhood on their front porch or doorstep.

Now I have reached out multiple times to every elected official. I have yet to speak to one of them personally about this situation. I am however very grateful to Councilman Robert White's office for getting involved. His office is the only representative that has done anything or even responded. I have bounced from office to office ultimately to end up back at an office intended to be a neutral party. Mr. Grant whether 10 month (July 13<sup>th</sup> 2021 is when Ms. Muhammad first ejected me from my virtual ANC meeting and then refused my joining every single meeting from that point until a new Chairwoman was elected) crusade has involved agencies passing the buck or not there is one thing certain, As a district resident, as a small business owner, I have had some of the poorest representation by my elected officials. Not one of them until most recent (thank you Councilman Robert White's team is appreciated) Now on May 4<sup>th</sup>, I will proceed with this recall process where I will have to defend myself to personal attacks rather highlight the reasons why Ms. Muhammad should be recalled which I report are all job related matters – nothing personal. I hope my neighbors will see through Ms. Muhammad's smoke and mirrors and will support me in this endeavor. I also hope and pray that these efforts will keep me safe as I collect signatures from those who have real concerns from within the black community Ms. Muhammad's false claims if perceived true would and should concern any of our neighbors and for that could put myself in potentially unsafe situations walking up to houses asking for signatures.

In the end I am very appreciative to hear of the kind gesture by Ms. Dickerson's pro bono offer, it's the first offer I have had and will most graciously take her up on. As far seeking others, I have been in contact with them on a personal level to assist in my eviction case. So its hard to also ask for help with this. This all could be mute should that happen.

Lastly, in regards to other financial matters within my ANC, after two letters inquiring about how the hand off went between Ms. Muhammad who I understand had sole ownership of the checkbook for quite time while Chairwoman I strongly support an audit be conducted by the appropriate agency to assure our funds are being accounted for and appropriately used.

Thank you again for your time in responding, I hope change comes from this situation no voter should have to go through anything I have and continue to go through and will face as I move forward with this recall process.

Respectfully,

Tom Donohue

**Tom Donohue (He/him/his)**

Sole Proprietor, Photographer, Videographer

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**From:** Grant, Schannette (OANC) <Schannette.Grant@dc.gov>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2022 6:44 PM  
**To:** Tom Donohue <tom@tmdenterprises.us>  
**Cc:** White, Robert (Council) <rwhite@DCCOUNCIL.US>; Hilgendorf, Shawn (Council) <shilgendorf@DCCOUNCIL.US>; Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL) <PMENDELSON@DCCOUNCIL.US>; Wynn, Monique (Council) <MBexley@dccouncil.us>; director@dcboe.org; Patterson, Kathy (ODCA) <kathy.patterson@dc.gov>; twhite@dccouncil.us; ATD OIG <oig@dc.gov>; Williams, Kathy (OANC) <Kathy.Williams@dc.gov>  
**Subject:** ONAC's response to Ward 8 Resident - Mr. Tom Donahue

Dear Mr. Donahue,

Please find an official response from the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions attached. My office has been very responsive to you and will continue to do so, but I wanted to respond to your concerns directly.

I wish you a pleasant weekend.

Schannette

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In observation of [National Crime Victims' Rights Week](#), if you or someone you know has been a victim of crime, please contact the DC Victim Hotline for support, information, and referrals to services. Call or text 1-844-4HELPDC or visit [www.DCvictim.org](http://www.DCvictim.org) today.

