



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

March 31, 2023

Councilmember Robert White
Chair, Committee on Housing
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 107
Washington, DC 20004
rwhite@dccouncil.gov

RE: DC Council’s Budget Oversight Hearing for the Department of Human Services (DHS)

Dear Councilmember White,

At its regular meeting on March 15, 2023, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of nine commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted **(6-0-1)**, after a motion made by Commissioner Omicini and seconded by Commissioner Comer, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the DC Government made a significant investment in housing vouchers in the FY 2022 budget, funding enough vouchers to house nearly every unhoused resident in the city, both sheltered and unsheltered,¹

WHEREAS, as of February 15th, 2023, only 22% of the locally-funded permanent supportive housing vouchers included in this investment are currently being used to house a tenant,²

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services (DHS) and various advocacy organizations have cited a severe shortage in case managers and related personnel in the homeless services system,³

WHEREAS, as of February 15th, 2023, 28% of voucher recipients are still waiting on a case manager to be assigned to them for their housing case to proceed,

WHEREAS, many unhoused individuals have been told they have vouchers, but cannot use them until a case manager is assigned, leaving residents with uncertain timelines and diminishing trust,

¹ <https://dcist.com/story/21/10/07/in-fight-against-homelessness-advocates-say-tax-hike-on-wealthy-is-gamechanger/>

² <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/993e532a43bd4af3a2bf1b69d54dc704>

³ <https://dcist.com/story/22/08/10/dc-housing-voucher-tax-unused-2022/>



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WHEREAS, encampment evictions at McPherson Square and other sites nearby have resulted in displacement of unhoused residents into nearby neighborhoods because the voucher process has not succeeded in securing housing for vulnerable unhoused residents quickly enough, and

WHEREAS, nearly a dozen residents who were displaced in McPherson Square now reside in ANC 2A and are still waiting for progress toward a housing voucher.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to consider the neighborhood-level impacts of DHS’ poor voucher distribution and push for a significant investment in hiring incentives and increased wages, beyond adjustment for inflation, for case management staff.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council and DHS to work together to streamline voucher delivery while continuing to make high investments in new vouchers to house every unhoused person in the city.

Commissioners Yannik Omictin (2A01@anc.dc.gov) and Joel Causey (2A06@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Joel Causey
Chairperson