

Sponsor: Commissioner Joel Causey (2A06)

Introduced: June 25, 2023

Title: Notice Pursuant to D. C. Official Code Section 1-309.10 for the Acquisition of Real Property

1 WHEREAS ANC 2A recognizes the immense problem related to housing unhoused citizens
2 that the District of Columbia faces and in general, is in support of an expansion of facilities to
3 help bring more people off the streets.

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5 WHEREAS ANC 2A also supports the use of non-congregate facilities which provide unhoused
6 individuals with privacy when such facilities are staffed to offer appropriate support services.

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8 WHEREAS The ANC received notice in accordance with D.C. Official Code Section 1-
9 309.10 of the intended purchase of Aston Hall, 1129 New Hampshire Ave. NW, on May 19,
10 2023. Said notice stated, “DGS *intends to* acquire the above-described real property but has
11 not entered into a purchase and sale agreement for the acquisition.” Said Notice provided in
12 accordance with District law Pursuant to D.C. Official Code Section 1-309.10, the ANC is
13 invited to convey its recommendations as to the subject matter of this notice to DGS in
14 writing, and DGS will give great weight to the issues and concerns raised in such
15 recommendations.

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17 WHEREAS DGS submitted a proposal to enter into a contract to DC City Council on June
18 9, 2023 (REQUEST FOR SPACE DGS-RFS- DHS-2022-6 Non-congregate Housing). Said
19 proposal would automatically be approved on June 22, 2023. DGS proceeded without ANC
20 recommendation or community input, depriving the citizens of the District of Columbia of
21 their rights under the law.

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23 WHEREAS During a 2 hour and 45-minute special meeting of the ANC held on June 21st,
24 2023, DHS presented information and answered questions from the community on the non-
25 congregate shelter they intend to build in Aston Hall.

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27 WHEREAS during the presentation, DHS provided information on the types of people who
28 would be served by the shelter; the criteria for entry into the shelter; the renovation plan for
29 the Aston. DHS was unable to provide satisfactory information regarding several important
30 aspects, including:

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- 32 • The availability of food services and self-service options for residents.
- 33 • The range of medical support services that would be provided at the property.
- 34 • The availability of rehabilitation, resettlement, and other services aimed at helping
35 residents transition from the facility to more permanent housing.
- 36 • Additional measures that would be taken to assist neighboring libraries, food providers,
37 and public facilities in meeting the increased demand for services from the new
38 residents.
- 39 • Details about the security services that would be offered to residents (excluding non-
40 residents) as well as individuals such as tourists who live, work, or visit the area.
- 41 • The timeframe for relocating individuals to the facility and how it would be
42 coordinated with staffing.
- 43 • The estimated number of staff members required to deliver these services effectively.
- 44

45 WHEREAS ANC 2A requests more information from DHS on the following matters:

- 46
- 47 1. The type of training security personnel will receive, including whether it will
48 contain de-escalation training.
- 49 2. The extent of the renovations in the building, taking into account troublesome
50 reports of poor maintenance and extensive damage by former Aston residents as
51 recently as last year.

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- 52 3. And further clarification on how food, medical, security, rehabilitation,
53 resettlement and other social services will be rendered to benefit the residents and
54 the community.
- 55 4. DHS works with the ANC and the neighborhood to determine occupancy size and
56 program offerings.

57

58 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that DGS would share any Department of Buildings
59 inspection reports generated as part of DGS’ assessment of the building’s renovation
60 needs; the ANC 2A requests to both the George Washington University (GWU) and DGS
61 that the purchase and sale agreement of the Aston Hall from GWU to DGS be delayed
62 until July 11, 2023, and the public comment period extended to the same date, so long as
63 the timeline of the project’s implementation will not be seriously altered by such a delay.
64 Our neighborhood continues to have questions that should be addressed for us to be in the
65 best possible position to support our potential new neighbors.

66

67 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A cannot fully support such a facility until
68 such time that the community and the ANC are given the opportunity to have its inquiries
69 answered.