

Sponsor: Commissioner Yannik Omictin (2A01)

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 that individual homelessness remains high in the District of
2 Columbia and is in support of an expansion of facilities to help bring more people off the streets;

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4 WHEREAS ANC 2A understands that when DC General Family Shelter closed, every Ward in
5 DC received a new shelter to compensate for the closure except for Ward 2;

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7 WHEREAS Councilmember Pinto has advocated for the conversion of hotels into shelter
8 housing, including in her most recent budget priorities letter to Mayor Bowser for FY2024;

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

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18 WHEREAS DGS submitted to DC City Council on June 9, 2023 (REQUEST FOR SPACE
19 DGS-RFS- DHS-2022-6 Non-congregate Housing) a proposal to enter into a contract. Said
20 proposal would automatically be approved on June 22, 2023, in violation of District law;

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

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27 WHEREAS during the aforementioned presentation, DHS provided information on the types
28 of people who would be served by the shelter; the criteria for entry into the shelter; the
29 renovation plan for the Aston; plans to provide food for shelter residents; and more;

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31 WHEREAS DGS has pushed forward the date by which they intend to execute their purchase
32 and sale agreement until July 11th, 2023;

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34 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A fully supports the development of a non-
35 congregate shelter at 1124 New Hampshire Ave. NW that will serve the needs of medically
36 vulnerable Washingtonians, along with clients waiting for permanent housing and
37 individuals that can't be served by traditional shelter;

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests more information from DHS on the
40 following matters:

- 41 1. The type of training security personnel will receive, including whether it will
42 contain de-escalation training;
- 43 2. The extent of the renovations in the building, taking into account troublesome
44 reports of poor maintenance and extensive damage by former Aston residents as
45 recently as last year;
- 46 3. Estimated staffing levels at the Aston, including case managers and any on-site
47 medical personnel;
- 48 4. And further clarification on how medical services will be rendered to those needing
49 in-unit care;

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51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that DGS will share any Department of Buildings
52 inspection reports generated as part of DGS' assessment of the building's renovation
53 needs;

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54
55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests to both the George Washington
56 University (GWU) and DGS that the purchase and sale agreement of the Aston Hall from
57 GWU to DGS be delayed until July 21, 2023, and the public comment period extended to
58 the same date, so long as the timeline of the project’s implementation will not be altered by
59 such a delay. This is to encompass the July regular meeting of the ANC. Our neighborhood
60 continues to have questions that should be addressed for us to be in the best possible
61 position to support our new neighbors, but not at the cost of derailing the project.