

Sponsors: Commissioner Joel Causey (2A06), Commissioner Yannik Omictin (2A01)

Introduced: June 28, 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
3 streets.

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

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

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17 WHEREAS, DGS submitted a proposal to enter into a contract to the DC Council on June 9,
18 2023 (REQUEST FOR SPACE DGS-RFS- DHS-2022-6 Non-congregate Housing) which
19 would be automatically approved on June 22, 2023, in violation of District law. This
20 approval was sought prior to community input.

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22 WHEREAS, during a 2 hour and 44-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 presentation, DHS provided information on the types of people who
28 would be served by the facility; the criteria for entry into the facility; and the renovation plan
29 for the Aston.

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

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34 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A in general supports the development of a
35 non-congregate shelter at 1129 New Hampshire Ave. NW that will serve the needs of
36 medically vulnerable individuals as well as individuals in transition to permanent housing
37 that can't be served by traditional facilities.

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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that DGS, DHS, and Department of
40 Health and Human Services (DMHHS) representatives attend one additional public meeting
41 to answer the community's questions and engage with the community. This is essential for
42 community members to receive more information on the project and to prepare both the DC
43 government (DHS in particular) and the community to be good neighbors for this project,
44 while not delaying the project's timeline.

45
46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that DGS, DHS, and DMHHS
47 representatives deliver answers, both during the public meeting and in writing in response to
48 this resolution, to the following questions:

- 49 • What kinds of medical services will be offered to facility residents on-site, and what
50 kinds of medical facilities will be built on-site?
- 51 • The availability of rehabilitation, resettlement, and other services aimed at helping
52 residents transition from the facility to more permanent housing.

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- 53 • What coordination is DHS willing to do with the West End Public Library and other
54 public facilities to meet the demand of new neighbors?
- 55 • What type of training will on-site security personnel receive, and will it include de-
56 escalation training?
- 57 • What measures will be offered to ensure residents suffering from mental health
58 conditions are properly cared for?
- 59 • What is the extent of renovations necessary in the building, taking into account
60 troublesome reports of poor maintenance and extensive damage by former Aston
61 residents as recently as last year?
- 62 • What are the estimated staffing levels at the facility if it is operating at peak capacity?