



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

July 1, 2023

Ms. Charleen Ward
Supervisory Realty Specialist
Department of General Services
3924 Minnesota Avenue NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20019
charleen.ward@dc.gov

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

Dear Ms. Ward,

At its special meeting on June 28, 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 (**6-1-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Comer and seconded by Commissioner Patel, to adopt resolution CR-23-003, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, ANC 2A recognizes that individual homelessness remains high in the District of Columbia and is in support of an expansion of facilities to help those seeking stable and permanent housing,

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

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

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

WHEREAS, during a 2 hour and 44-minute special meeting of the ANC held on June 21st, 2023, the Department of Human Services (DHS) presented information



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and answered questions from the community on the non-congregate shelter they intend to build in Aston Hall,

WHEREAS, during the presentation, DHS provided information on the types of people who would be served by the facility; the criteria for entry into the facility; and the renovation plan for the Aston, and

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A in general supports the development of a non-congregate shelter at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW that will serve the needs of medically vulnerable people as well as people in transition to permanent housing that cannot be served by traditional facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that DGS shares with ANC 2A any Department of Buildings (DOB) inspection reports generated as part of DGS’ assessment of the building’s renovation needs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A seeks the establishment of a Community Advisory Team, as outlined by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS), that was afforded to the other wards as a result of the dissolution of the DC General homeless shelter to work with members of the ANC and the community to address mutual expectations and commitments via a clear and expedient process for communication and problem solving, and to provide greater transparency and more opportunities for community engagement in order to assist the proposed facility to be better integrated into the neighborhood.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests for District of Columbia’s lead and support agencies, including DGS and DHS, to demonstrate whether and how it has fulfilled the objectives outlined in the District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness’ Homeward DC strategic plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A seeks for the security personnel for the proposed facility to receive specialized training in de-escalation and crisis intervention.

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



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

- What kinds of medical services will be offered to facility residents on-site, and what kinds of medical facilities will be built on-site?
- The availability of rehabilitation, resettlement, and other services aimed at helping residents transition from the facility to more permanent housing.
- What coordination is DHS willing to do with the West End Library and other public facilities to meet the demand of new neighbors?
- What type of training will on-site security personnel receive, and will it include de-escalation and crisis intervention training?
- What measures will be offered to ensure residents suffering from mental health conditions are properly cared for?
- What is the extent of renovations necessary in the building, taking into account troublesome reports of poor maintenance and extensive damage by former Aston residents as recently as last year?
- What are the estimated staffing levels at the facility if it is operating at peak capacity?

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A states that if District agencies involved in the development of the proposed facility fail to engage the ANC and the community over points outlined in this resolution, the ANC may no longer support the endeavor.

Commissioners Joel Causey (2A06@anc.dc.gov), Yannik Omictin (2A01@anc.dc.gov), and Jim Malec (2A02@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Jim Malec
Chairperson