



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

July 24, 2024

Wayne Turnage
Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
Office of the Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 223
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Opposing scheduled encampment clearing at 21st and E Streets NW until housing is available

Dear Deputy Mayor Turnage,

At its regular meeting on July 17, 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Omictin and seconded by Commissioner Patel, adopted the following resolution by unanimous consent:

WHEREAS ANC 2A has repeatedly passed resolutions asking DC government to respect a Housing First approach to encampment clearings, ensuring that residents have a safe place to live before an area is cleared;

WHEREAS on May 16th, 2024, the encampments at 20th and E were permanently closed, with fencing having been set up to block all access to three parks;

WHEREAS case management lost touch with several residents of that encampment upon its clearance, as there was nowhere else for them to go;

WHEREAS some residents of that encampment have begun congregating in the triangle park along the western sidewalk of 21st St. NW between west- and east-bound E St. NW;

WHEREAS some encampment residents are now using a tunnel ventilation grate along that sidewalk, which blows cool air from underground tunnels, to cool off in the summer heat;

WHEREAS there has been an extended heat emergency from July 5th to July 11th, 2024 and again from July 13th to July 17th, 2024 in which heat conditions are “dangerous and can cause illnesses and death,”

WHEREAS the Department of Human Services’ shelter capacity is at nearly 100%, and most people living in encampments have had traumatic experiences living in those shelters;

WHEREAS the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services’ (DMHHS) office has scheduled a full clearance of the triangle park and “enforcement that this public space must



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remain clear at all times due to health and safety hazards and DDOT Tunnel Ventilation impediment;”

WHEREAS presently, no permanent structures are fastened to or fully impeding access to the tunnel ventilation grate; and

WHEREAS a clearance of this encampment will force unhoused people to regress into further unsafe conditions, especially since they have no indoor shelter to go to.

BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A strongly urges DMHHS’ to postpone the clearing of the encampment until such time that additional sufficient shelter space and non-congregate options, such as the Aston, are available;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges DDOT to work constructively with encampment residents to ensure access to the tunnel ventilation grate and clear any temporary impediments to work on it.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) and Yannik Omictin (2A01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

CC:

Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember

Robert White, At-Large Councilmember

Jamal Weldon, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services (DMHHS)

Tadai "Ty" Abilla, Ward 2 Manager Mayor's Office Community Relations