



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

April 28, 2025

Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Council Member of the District of Columbia
Chair of the Committee on Human Services
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Suite 408
Washington DC, 20004

RE: Department Human Services Performance Oversight Resolution 2025

At its regular meeting on April 15, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With all six commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Yang, adopted the following resolution by 5-1-0:

WHEREAS, In May of 2023 The George Washington University (GWU) announced it had sold the Aston, a former graduate student dormitory located at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue N.W., to Washington D.C. government through Department of General Services (DGS) for 27.5 million dollars;

WHEREAS, The Aston would be turned into D.C.’s first high-barrier homeless shelter that would primarily serve adults with acute medical conditions, mixed-gendered adult families and couples experiencing homelessness to stay together— populations that can’t be properly served in the other shelters,

WHEREAS, The Aston would be able to house 190 residents at its peak capacity, with up to two people per room and a bathroom for each unit. To stay there, residents would need to meet admission criteria and also agree to ongoing, “intensive” case management.

WHEREAS, The reason for such scrutiny and intensity around the oversight by the commission is that the Aston under The George Washington University had issues around mold and water leakage. If students were having such issues around maintenance before it was sold to DGS then it means the city has now inherited these issues.

WHEREAS, ANC 2A at a special meeting in June 2023 sent a resolution in support of the Aston contingent upon certain conditions being met and outstanding questions that we asked to be addressed,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A, through numerous resolutions with Commissioner Patel testifying in numerous hearings in the FY 2025 budget cycle, requested transparency and increased community engagement on the condition of the Aston.



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WHEREAS, the Aston Community Advisory Team (CAT) has reported the following metrics in their February 2025 meeting:

- There have been no complaints from residents
- They have successfully placed all those who enter and stay at the Aston with permanent supportive housing
- no complaints from residents who have resided here.

WHEREAS, Friday, February 21, 2025, there was a Pepco Outage impacting the West End and the Aston was impacted resulting in the evacuation of the residents of the Aston.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A’s requests a response in regards to the Pepco outage impacting the Aston to keep in line with the request for transparency and robust communications around the Aston:

1. When was the agency notified that the Aston was "offline"?
2. The generator the Aston had was not sufficient to meet the needs of the building which was the reason why the residents were evacuated.
 - a. When was the agency informed of the evacuation?
 - b. Who made the call to do the evacuation?
3. With the knowledge that the Aston housed vulnerable populations that makes it traumatic and difficult in displacing them, why did the Aston neglect in upgrading the generator?

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A views having a generator that allows residents to stay in place as an essential item that DGS and DHS must address with urgency.

Commissioner Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Chairperson Trupti J Patel (she/her)
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A
Historic Foggy Bottom
Single Member District 2A03
CC:

Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia
Christiana Henderson, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia



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Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia

Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Councilmember of the District of Columbia

Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember of the District of Columbia

Rachel Pierre, Interim Director, Department of Human Services

David Ross, Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services

Anthony Newman, Deputy Administrator, Homeless Services, Department of Human Services

Wayne Turnidge, Deputy Mayor Health & Human Services

Anthony Newman, Deputy Administrator, Homeless Services, Department of Human Services

Sakina Thompson, Legal Counsel & Senior Policy Advisor, Executive Office of the Mayor

Tadai Abila, Ward 2 Liason Mayor's Office of Community Relations