



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

March 20, 2025

Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Council Member of the District of Columbia,
Chair of the Committee on Human Services
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Suite # 408
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Deputy Mayor for the District of Columbia Health and Human Services Performance Oversight

At its regular meeting on March 19, 2025, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (**"ANC 2A" or "Commission"**) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of six commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Youngstone and seconded by Commissioner DiCapo, adopted the following resolution by (5-0-1):

WHEREAS, ANC 2A contains a significant population of unhoused residents;

WHEREAS, ANC 2A has supported a housing-first approach to homelessness¹ that treats encampment residents with dignity and respect as human beings, while ensuring that they have alternative places to stay before performing encampment clearances;

WHEREAS, Forcing encampment residents to vacate their tents does not in any way resolve their lack of housing, and often results in the destruction of their personal property, their separation from case workers and other resources, and their further alienation from the government of the District of Columbia;

WHEREAS, DMHHS's rules² require that an encampment clearance be noticed 14 days in advance so that all residents have the opportunity to make alternative arrangements and receive access to city services unless an immediate disposition can be justified by a pressing security, health, or safety risk;

¹ <https://anc2a.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Encampment-Clearing-Resolution.pdf>

²

https://dmhhs.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dmhhs/page_content/attachments/Encampment%20Protocol_CA%20SIGNED_112216.pdf



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WHEREAS, On March 5, 2025, President Donald Trump made a post³ on Truth Social demanding that Mayor Muriel Bowser “clean up all the unsightly homeless encampments” in Washington, DC, “specifically including the ones outside of the State Department;”

WHEREAS, On March 6, 2025, less than 24 hours following President Trump’s aforementioned Truth Social post, all residents of the E Street Expressway encampment (which is located across from the State Department) received a notice of a clearance to be conducted on the following morning (March 7th, 2025) enacted as an emergency disposition, giving them only 24 hours notice to evacuate, with no corresponding notice made available to the general public via the Encampment Engagement Schedule⁴ on dmhhs.dc.gov;

WHEREAS, Mayor Bowser herself acknowledged to the press that the aforementioned encampment was the same as the one identified in President Trump’s Truth Social post, and implied that the city’s actions resulted from that post⁵;

WHEREAS, in an oversight hearing for the Department of Human Services and the Interagency Council on Homelessness held on March 7, 2025, District of Columbia Councilmembers Robert White and Matt Frumin both expressed concern that the aforementioned encampment clearance was politically motivated⁶;

WHEREAS, On March 12, 2025, a scheduled encampment clearance was conducted at 27th St NW and K St NW, causing many residents to move across the street to a plot of DDOT land scheduled for clearance on March 25 according to both the Encampment Engagement Schedule and nearby signage;

WHEREAS, Contrary to all indications posted online on the Encampment Engagement Schedule and in person via signage, a second clearance was conducted on the aforementioned plot of DDOT land on the morning of March 14 — again making use of an emergency disposition with only 24 hours notice, forcing several people who had expected a reprieve of two weeks to move their tents and belongings twice in only 48 hours;

³ <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114112430549537723>

⁴ <https://dmhhs.dc.gov/page/encampments>

⁵

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/trump-says-dc-must-clear-unsightly-homeless-encampments/3860501/>

⁶ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_8zdhliCis (timestamps 1h 47m and 2h 7m)



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WHEREAS, All of the above (as well as many other similar incidents across the city⁷) reflect a clear pattern of total disregard for the health, safety, and human dignity of encampment residents, as well as an extremely flexible reading of DMHHS's own rules regarding immediate dispositions;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A believes that housing is a human right, and that all human beings deserve to be treated with respect and dignity regardless of their housing status;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A condemns the Mayor, DMHHS, and Deputy Mayor Wayne Turnage for openly disregarding their duty to safeguard the health and well-being of all residents of the District of Columbia, regardless of their housing status, by arbitrarily invoking immediate dispositions when no corresponding risk exists, and thereby failing to provide the sufficient 14 day notice before encampment clearances;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A recognizes that, by allowing the social media posts of President Trump to determine the timing, speed, and selection of encampment clearance sites, the Mayor, DMHHS, and Deputy Mayor Wayne Turnage have treated unhoused residents of ANC 2A, not as constituents, but as pawns to be used in service of the mayor's political self-preservation, an action unbefitting of sitting civil servants;

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the Mayor, DMHHS and Wayne Turnage to cease all usage of immediate dispositions to clear encampments in ANC 2A; to cease all future clearances of encampments in ANC 2A unless all residents have been guaranteed alternative housing options; to outline in writing to ANC 2A how the conditions in the encampments cleared on March 7, 2025, and March 14, 2025 constituted emergencies that had not previously existed at those sites; and to provide prior notice of all future encampment clearances in ANC 2A to the ANC's commissioners.

Commissioners Sean Youngston (2A09@anc.dc.gov) and Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

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<https://streetsensemedia.org/article/cigars-clean-ups-and-closures-what-do-encampment-engagements-look-like/>



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Sincerely,

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

CC:

Mayor Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia

Chairman Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council Councilmember

Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large Councilmember District of Columbia Council

Christina Henderson, At-Large Councilmember District of Columbia Council

Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember, District of Columbia Council

Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Councilmember, District of Columbia Council

Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember, District of Columbia Council

Brian Schwalb, District of Columbia Attorney General

Wayne Turnidge, Deputy Mayor for the District of Columbia Health and Human Services (DMHHS) and Director, District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance

David Ross, Chief of Staff, The Department of Health & Human Services

Rachel Pierre, Interim Director, The Department of Health & Human Services; Director, Family Services Administrator

Anthony Newman, Deputy Administrator, Homeless Services, The Department of Health and Human Services

Sakina Thompson, Legal Counsel & Sr. Policy Advisor, Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM) Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services (DMHHS)

Tadai Abilla, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations