GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B

August 13, 2017

Mr. Antwan Wilson
Chancellor
District of Columbia Public Schools
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Ms. Jennifer Niles
Deputy Mayor for Education
Government of the District of Columbia
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Mr. Brian Kenner
Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
Government of the District of Columbia
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RE: School Without Walls Usage of the Stevens Elementary School at 1050 21st Street NW

Dear Chancellor Wilson, Deputy Mayor Niles, and Deputy Mayor Kenner:

At its regular meeting on July 12, 2017, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC 2B" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-1):

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has followed with concern the troubling events surrounding the DC Public Schools (DCPS), the Deputy Mayor for Education's Office (DME), and the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development's Office (DMPED) failure to retain the Ivymount School as the selected educational user of the Stevens Elementary School building, a property listed on the DC Inventory of Historic Sites and the National Register of Historic Places,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B is and has always been convinced of the historical importance of the Stevens Elementary School, viewing the school's heritage as unique, given its establishment in 1868 and original purpose as the first public school for the children of freed slaves in Washington, DC,

WHERES, the Stevens Elementary School, as a DCPS public school, has served generations of African Americans and community members in Washington, DC as a

public school, and includes among its notable graduates Charles Drew, Petey Greene, Jr., Roberta Flack, Amy Carter, Colby King, Rayford Logan, Robert Hooks, and Jonathan Ogden,

WHEREAS, the Stevens Elementary School should never have been closed as a DCPS public school in 2008, was a jewel in the community, and has served as a vibrant school supporting the needs of District of Columbia students with excellent programs since 1868,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B supports the efforts of ANC 2A to preserve the Stevens Elementary School, a National Historic Landmark, for the public education school purpose for which it was originally built in 1868, and urges DCPS, DMPED, and DME to support the building's usage by School Without Walls, a DCPS public school that serves the Dupont, Foggy Bottom, and West End communities,

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens, which serves the Dupont, Foggy Bottom, and West End communities, is currently over-enrolled as of last school year, even with 476 students enrolled, the maximum capacity for the school, and for this upcoming school year 485 to 500 students are expected to enroll, again the maximum capacity for the school, with the current waiting list for pre-K through 8th grades being 930 children, and

WHEREAS, the School Without Walls at Francis-Stevens will also need swing space for upcoming renovations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B urges the DC Public Schools and the Deputy Mayor for Education's Office, with the support of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development's Office, to restore the historic Stevens Elementary School to the DCPS public school educational usage that honored the memory of abolitionist Thaddeus Stevens by making it an additional campus of the School Without Walls.

Commissioners Mike Silverstein (mike.silverstein@dupontcircleanc.net) and Nicole Mann (nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Nicole Mann
Chair