



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

April 23, 2019

Mr. Matthew Marcou  
Chair, Public Space Committee  
District Department of Transportation  
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor  
Washington, DC 20004  
[PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov](mailto:PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov)

RE: Public Space Application by Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle for the Installation of a Sculpture at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW (DDOT #327539)

Dear Chair Marcou:

At its regular meeting on April 10, 2019, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (9-0-0):

WHEREAS, the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle seeks to install a sculpture in public space at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the public artwork will be located within single member district 2B05 and ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that public space use is a privilege, not a right,

WHEREAS, a private benefactor has donated an original work by sculptor Timothy Schmalz depicting a homeless man crouched on the ground and clinging to a piece of cardboard to keep him warm,

WHEREAS, the life-sized piece titled “When I Was Naked” draws from the Biblical narrative in the Book of Matthew, Chapter 25, and is designed to confront the viewer’s prejudices against the impoverished, compelling one to look deeper for a glimpse of the divinity and dignity within them,

WHEREAS, the bronze itself is approximately 22 inches tall, 29 inches wide, and 31 inches deep, and weighs approximately 172 pounds,

WHEREAS, three 10-inch threaded rods are welded to the bottom, allowing the piece to be installed in one of two methods:

1. Mounted directly into the sidewalk. By drilling three holes into the sidewalk, applying adhesive into the holes, and then sliding the sculpture's rods into place so that the sculpture sits directly on the ground as if a man is actually sitting on the ground. This would be the fastest and most visually impactful method of installation, requiring only a few hours and little to no disturbance to pedestrian or vehicular traffic.
2. Mounted onto a poured-in-place concrete base measuring approximately 42 inches wide, 42 inches deep, and 12 inches high. The base would be separated from the existing sidewalk by a vapor barrier, which would allow the entire piece and base to be relocated or removed if necessary at some future date. The weight of the concrete base would allow it to remain essentially vandal- and theft-proof, as the combined weight of the base and sculpture would be approximately 1,850 pounds. This installation would also raise the top of the sculpture to 34 inches above finished grade, and

WHEREAS, the proposed location of the sculpture would maintain 11 feet of sidewalk clearance.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle's application to install a sculpture in public space at 1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW with a preference for the sculpture to be mounted directly onto the sidewalk.

Commissioners Randy Downs ([2B05@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B05@anc.dc.gov)) and Daniel Warwick ([2B02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B02@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel Warwick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Daniel Warwick  
Chair