



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

April 2, 2021

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chair, Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: The Way Home Campaign's FY 2022 Budget Request

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on March 10, 2021, 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 term chronic homelessness is used to describe individuals who have experienced homelessness for at least a year or repeatedly, while struggling with a significant health condition,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the homelessness crisis and has highlighted the challenges and safety concerns associated with being homeless. As of March 1, 2021, 512 unhoused neighbors have tested positive and 25 people experiencing homelessness have died from COVID-19,

WHEREAS, numerous individuals experiencing homelessness have established encampments in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, notably in the vicinity of Dupont Circle and along 17th Street NW / Frank Kameny Way,

WHEREAS, housing is the only solution to homelessness and research shows that permanent supportive housing, using the "housing first" model, is the best way to end chronic homelessness. Permanent supportive housing combines affordable housing with voluntary specialty services that support the health needs of individuals that can help them eventually exit homelessness. This model puts housing first and does not have barriers such as requiring sobriety,

WHEREAS, quality, affordable housing is an essential element of a healthy community and a safe, permanent home promotes positive public health outcomes for individuals and the community at large,

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the number of individuals experiencing homelessness will significantly increase upon the imminent expiration of the current pandemic-related eviction moratorium,

WHEREAS, cities such as Houston, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, and New Orleans have ended chronic homelessness among their veterans, demonstrating the ability to end homelessness with targeted investments,

WHEREAS, in 2015, ANC 2B showed support for the Homeward DC program, which sought to end long term homelessness by 2020, and believes that DC must continue the progress made through this and similar initiatives, and

WHEREAS, during a March 1, 2021 oversight hearing focused on homelessness, Councilmember Pinto promoted a comprehensive approach based around permanent supportive housing, tweeting “Ward 2 supports moving more of our neighbors experiencing homelessness into housing and getting them the wraparound services they need to sustain it. Period.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports The Way Home Campaign’s FY 2022 budget recommendations to end chronic homelessness in DC by investing \$96,126,983 in permanent supportive housing to end chronic homelessness for 2,761 individuals and 432 families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to fund programs to prevent homelessness and to ensure that DC continues to have a robust, housing-focused outreach team to best leverage these resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to fund DC’s robust network of homeless street outreach at least at last year’s levels and to address funding gaps as needed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to ensure that every person who is at high risk of dying from COVID-19 be offered a placement in a non-congregate shelter, such as the PEP-V program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to expand homelessness prevention and diversion, including Project Reconnect and the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to increase investment in low-income housing and large-scale rent relief through the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) and the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to examine tactics to shorten the gap between a resident receiving a permanent supportive housing voucher and transitioning into housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to examine opportunities in Dupont Circle and Ward 2 to purchase or lease hotels with the purpose of converting them to humane emergency shelters or deeply affordable housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B calls on the DC Council and the Mayor to examine opportunities in Dupont Circle and Ward 2 to convert vacant office space to humane emergency shelters or deeply affordable housing.

Commissioners Matthew Holden (2B08@anc.dc.gov) and Daniel Warwick (2B02@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Daniel Warwick
Chair