



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

December 15, 2021

Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Chair, Committee of the Whole  
Committee of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004  
[pmendelson@dccouncil.us](mailto:pmendelson@dccouncil.us)

RE: DC Council Bill B24-0544 – the “Encampments Protection and Public Health and Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2021”

Dear Chairman Mendelson:

At its regular meeting on December 8, 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 (4-0-5):

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that all neighbors should be treated with dignity and respect,

WHEREAS, housing is a human right and all DC residents are entitled to safe, stable, and secure housing,

WHEREAS, the global public health pandemic caused by COVID-19 is now entering a new phase of uncertainty as a result of the omicron variant,

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended allowing people who are living in encampments to remain where they are, because “clearing encampments can cause people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers [...] increasing the potential for infectious disease spread”<sup>1</sup>,

WHEREAS, the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless, a partner in the DC Government’s efforts to end homelessness<sup>2</sup>, has joined other advocacy organizations such as The Way Home

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/homeless-shelters/unsheltered-homelessness.html#facility-encampments>

<sup>2</sup>

[https://dmhhs.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dmhhs/page\\_content/attachments/Encampments%20Protocol\\_12.13.19.pdf](https://dmhhs.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/dmhhs/page_content/attachments/Encampments%20Protocol_12.13.19.pdf)

Campaign<sup>3</sup> in issuing a public statement strongly opposing Mayor Bowser’s current approach of clearing encampments via the CARE Pilot Program<sup>4</sup>,

WHEREAS, the CARE Pilot program has a demonstrated history of violence at each encampment clearing undertaken so far, including striking a person with a bulldozer at the M Street NE location<sup>5</sup> and an Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) employee physically assaulting a private observer at the New Jersey Avenue and O Street NW location<sup>6</sup>,

WHEREAS, forcibly removing our unhoused neighbors is not necessary for them to receive housing and support,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B believes that DMHHS should make every effort to proactively provide effective long-term housing solutions prior to declaring arbitrary eviction dates for encampment locations, and

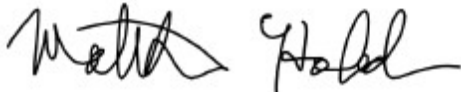
WHEREAS, the DC Government can provide housing and support without traumatizing evictions, displacement, and destruction of personal belongings.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports DC Council Bill B24-0544 – the “Encampments Protection and Public Health and Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2021” and urges all members of the DC Council to pass this critical legislation.

Commissioners Michael Scott McKernan ([2B07@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B07@anc.dc.gov)) and Matthew Holden ([2B08@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B08@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Matthew Holden  
Chair

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.thewayhomedc.org/app/document/36446436>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.legalclinic.org/our-statement-opposing-the-creation-of-no-camping-zones-and-continued-violence-against-unhoused-persons/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://dcist.com/story/21/10/04/dc-suspends-clearing-of-encampment-in-noma-after-unhoused-person-injured-by-bulldozer/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://twitter.com/kimlehmkuhl/status/1466849471254441987>