

## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## **Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B**

September 28, 2022

Mr. Elliott Garrett
Chair, Public Space Committee
District Department of Transportation
1100 4th Street SW, Third Floor
Washington, DC 20004
PublicSpace.Committee@dc.gov

RE: Public Space Application by the Dupont Circle BID for the Installation of Planter Boxes at 1501 Connecticut Avenue NW (DDOT #395828)

Dear Chair Garrett,

At its regular meeting on September 14, 2022, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission ("ANC 2B" or "Commission") considered the above-referenced matter. With 7 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (7-0-0):

WHEREAS, the Dupont Circle Business Improvement District (BID) has submitted public space application #395828, seeking to use public space on the sidewalk framing the turnaround lane between the service lanes in the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW above the underpass lanes, bordered by 1501 Connecticut Avenue NW to the east in single member district (SMD) 2B03 and 1933 Massachusetts Avenue NW to the west in SMD 2B02, to install a temporary display of moveable planters on the sidewalk,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B's Land Use Committee (LUC) reviewed plans at its duly-noticed monthly meeting held via Zoom on September 7, 2022,

WHEREAS, the applicant seeks to improve the aesthetics and public experience of the neighborhood through a public planter installation at this location, "bookending" the existing installation of planters at the northern (Q Street NW) end of the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the applicant intends the planters to be a temporary visual enhancement in advance of the Connecticut Avenue Deckover and Streetscape Project planned to commence in 2023,

WHEREAS, concern has been raised about the fate of unhoused neighbors residing in tents at both ends of the underpass in the 1500 block of Connecticut Avenue NW,

WHEREAS, the applicant has been actively conducting outreach to unhoused neighbors in the Dupont Circle neighborhood, connecting people to resources and securing housing vouchers when possible,

WHEREAS, many of the individuals currently in tents have been granted housing vouchers but remain unhoused due to bureaucratic delays and inadequate support services by the DC Government,

WHEREAS, the applicant will only install planters in space that is or becomes available and is committed to not disturbing or forcibly removing any person or their property,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B has been provided letters in support of the applicant's proposal from neighboring residents and businesses, and also positive feedback from unhoused people surveyed, and

WHEREAS, the Land Use Committee supports the project and the efforts to secure housing for unhoused community members.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports public space application #395828 pursuant to the following:

- The applicant maintains its plan to install planters as space becomes available, avoiding any displacement of people living in tents, and communicates this condition to any contractor conducting the installation, and
- The ANC continues to work with Councilmember Pinto and other DC Government officials to expedite delivery of housing vouchers to people with housing; expedite transition of those ready for independent living into permanent housing; provide necessary assistance to those not yet ready for independent living situations; and raise awareness of the resources and support for people without safe and dignified housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that the ANC's Chair, the Land Use Committee's Chair, and the ANC's Executive Director be sent copies of the action as finally approved by the Public Space Committee and/or relevant agency staff.

Commissioners Mike Silverstein (<u>2B06@anc.dc.gov</u>) and Meg Roggensack (<u>2B01@anc.dc.gov</u>) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Meg Pagassa

Sincerely,

Meg Roggensack

Chair