



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

July 26, 2023

Ms. Charleen Ward
Supervisory Realty Specialist
Department of General Services
3924 Minnesota Avenue NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20019
charleen.ward@dc.gov

RE: Department of General Services' Proposal to Acquire The Aston at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW for Use by the Department of Human Services

Dear Ms. Ward,

At its regular meeting on July 12, 2023, 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, the Department of General Services (DGS) has executed an agreement to purchase The Aston, located at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW, from the George Washington University for use as a non-congregate shelter for people experiencing homelessness,

WHEREAS, ANC 2B recognizes that individual homelessness remains high in the District of Columbia and is in support of an expansion of facilities to help those seeking stable and permanent housing,

WHEREAS, The Aston is located one block away from the boundary of ANC 2B,

WHEREAS, DGS is required by law to provide 30 days of comment by the Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) before executing a contract to purchase property,

WHEREAS, DGS notified ANC 2A on May 19, 2023 but submitted the contract to purchase the property to the DC Council on June 9, 2023, which would automatically be approved on June 22, 2023, yet the ANC comment period did not expire until July 5, 2023,

WHEREAS, DGS did not notify ANC 2B, which is only one block from the site,

WHEREAS, residents and commissioners of ANC 2B were unaware of this proposed land purchase until after ANC 2A held their special meeting on this item on June 21, 2023 and voted on a resolution on June 28, 2023, and

WHEREAS, residents of ANC 2B may be impacted by the development of this shelter site and have been deprived of their ability to submit questions and comments to DGS and the Department of Human Services (DHS).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the development of a non-congregate shelter at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW that will serve the needs of medically vulnerable people as well as people in transition to permanent housing that cannot be served by traditional facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that Department of General Services, Department of Human Services, and Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services representatives attend one additional public meeting to answer the community's questions and engage with the community. This is essential for community members to receive more information on the project and to prepare both the DC Government (DHS in particular) and the community to be good neighbors for this project, while not delaying the project's timeline.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B requests that further correspondence from the DC Government regarding the proposed shelter at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW be copied to ANC 2B so that commissioners and residents in ANC 2B are involved in the outreach and engagement process.

Commissioners Matt Johnson (2B06@anc.dc.gov) and Meg Roggensack (2B01@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Meg Roggensack', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Meg Roggensack
Chair