



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

January 16, 2026

Mr. Anthony Hood  
Chairperson, Zoning Commission  
441 4th Street NW, Suite 200S  
Washington, DC 20001  
zcsubmissions@dc.gov

**RE: ZC 25-19 1717 Massachusetts Avenue NW Request for a Zoning Change to Allow Full-time University Use**

Dear Chairperson Hood,

At its regular meeting on January 14, 2026, 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 (6-1-1):

ANC 2B (“the Commission”) has reviewed ZC 25-19 submitted by Johns Hopkins University (JHU) requesting a modification to Zoning Adjustment Order No.16526 to remove a condition that restricts use of the building from being utilized during daytime use for university class use during the daytime and prohibits non-graduate classes. The Commission believes that the best use of this site is for housing, which is currently allowed by-right as it is zoned mixed use. This location is particularly appropriate for housing as the building is surrounded to the north, east, and west by high-density residential buildings. The Commission recognizes that the District and Dupont Circle in particular has a housing shortage and sees this location as a strong candidate to increase the neighborhood’s housing supply.

Members of the Commission have asked JHU to actively pursue residential conversion or replacement of the current building including by advertising the building’s potential ability to qualify for tax abatement under the District’s Housing in Downtown program.

The Commission notes that while JHU states that with the conversion of 1740 Massachusetts Ave to non-university use results “loss of one building in the neighborhood being used by a university.” While the Commission is not concerned about the addition of another full-time university building, it notes that this analysis does not take into consideration other buildings that have been converted to university use in its vicinity including the University of Southern California Capital Campus at 1771 N St NW and Syracuse University at 1333 New Hampshire Ave NW.

The Commission decides not to support or oppose the application as presented but requests that Johns Hopkins or a future buyer of the site strongly consider at least a partial residential use.

Should a university purchase the building, the Commission encourages that it uses a portion of the building or site for housing, similar to how the Indiana University is including student housing in their new building at 1619 Massachusetts Ave NW.

Commissioner Marshall ([2B05@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B05@anc.dc.gov)) and Commissioner Adams ([2B05@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2B05@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 'Zachary Adams', with a stylized, flowing script.

Zachary Adams  
Chair