



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

April 16, 2021

Ms. Laura Zeilinger
Director
Department of Human Services
64 New York Avenue NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
laura.zeilinger@dc.gov

RE: Increasing the Stock of PEP-V Hotel Units

Dear Director Zeilinger,

At its regular meeting on March 17, 2021, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With six of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (6-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Omictin and seconded by Commissioner Patel, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, unhoused people are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, compared to the overall population, with over 500 having tested positive out of around 9,000 total unhoused people,

WHEREAS, hundreds of unhoused residents reside in tent encampments across DC,

WHEREAS, living chronically in tent encampments results in a condition called “weathering” through which unhoused residents’ biological age increases by between 10 and 20 years ¹,

WHEREAS, the federal government resolved on January 21, 2021 to fund 100% of costs associated with the “safe opening and operation of...non-congregate shelters” until September 30, 2021, leaving the DC government to pay for some staffing costs for additional case management services ²,

WHEREAS, the availability of permanent supportive housing vouchers for this fiscal year is dwindling, leaving unhoused residents with few options other than remaining on the street until a new budget is passed,

¹<https://healthjournalism.org/blog/2016/04/homeless-get-older-at-younger-ages-than-their-peers-research-says/#:~:text=Weathering%20can%20dramatically%20impact%20those,homelessness%20affects%20morbidity%20and%20mortality>

²<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/21/extend-federal-support-to-governors-use-of-national-guard-to-respond-to-covid-19-and-to-increase-reimbursement-and-other-assistance-provided-to-states/>



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WHEREAS, most of the available Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) slots are full at this time, and the number of people on the waiting list is around the same as the number of slots in all PEP-V facilities, and

WHEREAS, DC hotels have been struggling to find revenue streams and fill rooms.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on the Department of Human Services to avidly explore the opening of additional PEP-V facilities as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on the Department of Human Services to lower the age of eligibility for entry into PEP-V housing to at least 45 years of age, if not eliminating the age requirement entirely, bearing in mind the heightened biological age of unhoused people writ-large.

Commissioners Yannik Omictin (2A01@anc.dc.gov) and Jeri Epstein (2A06@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Jeri Epstein
Chairperson