



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

April 30, 2021

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chair, Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: Funding for Permanent Supportive Housing and Public Housing Repairs

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on April 21, 2021, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With five of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (5-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Omictin and seconded by Commissioner Patel, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the total number of unhoused residents is expected to rise in FY 2022, especially if pandemic-related supports end before the economy fully recovers,

WHEREAS, the tent encampment on E Street between 20th Street and 21st Street NW is one of the largest in DC and continues to grow,

WHEREAS, living in stable, healthy housing is a human right, and unhoused residents living in encampments and shelters are routinely subjected to unfair evictions ¹, poor sanitation, harassment ², theft of belongings, unstable access to basic necessities, and other inhumane conditions,

WHEREAS, nearly 200 unhoused residents of DC passed away in 2020,

WHEREAS, the Department of Human Services (DHS) informed residents participating in the Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) that they would be transitioned from emergency shelter to sustained housing before the September 30th, 2021 closure of PEP-V facilities,

WHEREAS, DHS has informed PEP-V participants that there are no more available vouchers to assign to new individuals or families ³,

¹ <https://dcist.com/story/20/10/15/dc-full-encampment-cleanups-against-cdc-guidance-homelessness/>

² <https://www.streetsensemedia.org/article/hate-violence-bias-discrimination/#.YH3L5-hKhPY>

³ <https://www.streetsensemedia.org/article/pep-v-homeless-housing-covid-medically-vulnerable/#.YH2IXehKhPY>



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WHEREAS, in 2020 DC Housing Authority (DCHA) Director Tyrone Garrett testified that a significant portion of DCHA’s housing portfolio was in dire need of repairs and maintenance, totaling \$2.2 billion in costs over the next 17 years ⁴, and

WHEREAS, the DC Auditor found that DCHA failed to complete timely repairs and left families in units with rampant lead hazards due in part to severe budget constraints ⁵.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A recommends that the following investments be included in DC’s FY 2022 budget:

- At least \$96,126,983 to fund permanent supportive housing (PSH) vouchers for 2,761 eligible individuals and 432 eligible families experiencing chronic homelessness. As a program that pairs non-time limited vouchers with comprehensive case management and services, PSH is routinely regarded by experts as the best kind of housing and wraparound support for unhoused individuals and families facing high barriers to housing ⁶. This specific investment covers nearly all eligible recipients for vouchers according to the most current available data and would end homelessness for nearly all of DC’s chronically unhoused ^{7, 8}.
- \$60,000,000 to fund public housing repairs. Ensuring that housing in DCHA’s portfolio becomes a healthy and safe environment to inhabit keeps tenants housed stably.
- Maintain FY 2021 investments in DC’s homeless street outreach programs to contact hard-to-reach unhoused individuals and ensure widespread access to the homeless services network.

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

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

⁴ <https://www.streetsensemedia.org/article/budget-for-public-housing-repairs-falls-short-of-advocates-requests/#.YH3hGOhKhPY>

⁵ <https://washingtoncitypaper.com/article/509687/against-advice-of-attorneys-and-internal-auditors-dcha-kept-families-in-units-with-lead-past-legal-deadline/>

⁶ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/hsgfirst.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.thewayhomedc.org/app/document/35931645>

⁸ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1v8yHEG7tImgRRhWg4Bl3CnoqwhFpFvVu/view>



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Sincerely,

Jeri Needel Epstein

Jeri Epstein
Chairperson