



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

July 5, 2021

Councilmember Brianne Nadeau
Chair, Committee on Human Services
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 102
Washington, DC 20004
bnadeau@dccouncil.us

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

Councilmember Brooke Pinto
Councilmember, Ward 2
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
Washington, DC 20004
bpinto@dccouncil.us

RE: Funding for Mobile Shower Units for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Dear Councilmember Nadeau, Councilmember Pinto, and Director Zeilinger,

At its regular meeting on June 16, 2021, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“**ANC 2A**” or “**Commission**”) considered the above-referenced matter. With eight of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**8-0-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Omictin and seconded by Commissioner Patel, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, proper sanitation is a human right and regardless of one’s housing status, a person should have access to clean, safe facilities to clean themselves and their clothes,

WHEREAS, one of the largest encampments in the city lies within ANC 2A and residents of this encampment have limited access to showers, as the nearest facilities are in Georgetown or downtown, and laundry, as the nearest laundromat is in Logan Circle,

WHEREAS, several cities, including San Francisco, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and San Antonio, have buses or trailers equipped with showers operating on a daily basis,



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WHEREAS, in many of these cities, nonprofit organizations have built, managed, and staffed the facilities themselves, with city support for utility hookups, parking permits, and synergy with homeless services¹,

WHEREAS, in San Antonio, Councilmembers used their own discretionary project funds to purchase a shower trailer for \$60,000 and monthly costs associated with staffing and maintenance were absorbed by the city executive,

WHEREAS, Generosity Shower, the service provider operating shower buses in Baltimore, employs unhoused individuals to maintain and manage their facilities²,

WHEREAS, in Portland, Harbor of Hope, the nonprofit shower bus operator, converted two buses to shower and laundry buses respectively, with two showers, a dog wash, a sink, four washers and dryers, and two chairs for haircuts at a total cost of \$400,000³,

WHEREAS, Los Angeles County released a request for proposal (RFP) for mobile shower facilities in 2019 with \$750,000 in allocated annual funding⁴, and

WHEREAS, in every major city where a mobile service providing showers operates, the service has become an invaluable asset to cities’ strategies to fight homelessness.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls upon the DC Council to allocate at least \$400,000 to the Department of Human Services (DHS) to fund a pilot program, in the form of a public-private partnership, to bring trucks or trailers equipped with showers and laundry services to DC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges DHS to incorporate shower and laundry buses into their outreach to unsheltered unhoused persons, using the buses to bring unserved individuals in contact with DHS supportive services and affiliates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that service providers and unhoused individuals be engaged in the co-creation of the RFP for this service.

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

¹ Williams-Redley, Dee and Kelly Wallace. "Referral Response: Lava Mae Mobile Shower and Hygiene Services." *City of Berkeley Office of the City Manager*. 10 September 2019.

² <https://generosityglobal.org/generosity-shower/>

³ <https://www.koin.com/local/multnomah-county/harbor-of-hope-unveils-mobile-shower-laundry-trucks/>

⁴ <https://www.lahsa.org/documents?id=4280-2019-mobile-showers-program-re-release-march-2020-.pdf>



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ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Jeri Epstein
Chairperson