



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

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

October 29, 2021

Mr. Wayne Turnage
Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 223
Washington, DC 20004
wayne.turnage@dc.gov

RE: DC’s New Encampment Pilot Program

Dear Deputy Mayor Turnage,

At its regular meeting on October 20, 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 (7-1-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Omictin and seconded by Commissioner Causey, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS) has been [piloting a program](#) that accelerates disbursement of vouchers worth one year’s rent to encampment residents at select sites, coupled with the permanent closure of those sites to any encampment in the future,

WHEREAS, two pilot program-targeted encampment sites, at 20th/21st Street and E Street NW and at Virginia Avenue and 25th Street NW, are located within the boundaries of ANC 2A,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A did not receive advance notice of the pilot’s implementation,

WHEREAS, as part of this pilot program, homeless service providers in DC, including Miriam’s Kitchen in ANC 2A, have been given an expanded role in the housing match process,

WHEREAS, [around half](#) of the individuals at the L Street NW and M Street NW sites had moved into housing at the time of the closure, some were offered hotel accommodations for several days, and others were still waiting for a voucher or unit when the closure began, and

WHEREAS, the trust of the unhoused is the most important currency of an agency or group seeking to assist this community, and it is nearly impossible to build trust when an individual is displaced by an agency without a stable place to go.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the speedy progression of the [Housing First](#) approach associated with the pilot program, ensuring that every



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eligible encampment resident can access housing, and urges that all eligible individuals at a site should have access to housing by the time a pilot program encampment site is to be closed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests clarification from DMHHS on what portions of the housing process have been delegated to service providers like Miriam’s Kitchen and Pathways to Housing, including whether pilot program units are being inspected solely by service providers rather than the DC Housing Authority (DCHA).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests information on what specific criteria make an individual eligible for pilot program-related housing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that encampment residents who wish to be a part of the program and meet the criteria to receive pilot-program related housing be added to service providers’ or DMHHS’ list of eligible individuals.

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

CC: Jessica Smith, Deputy Chief of Staff, DMHHS
Jamal Weldon, Program Manager of the Encampment Response Program, DMHHS