
Testimony of Absalom Jordan
Before The
District of Columbia Board of Zoning Adjustment
June 28, 2016

Madame Chair and members of the Board, I am Commissioner Absalom Jordan of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8D and I am here today to lend my support to the Application in Case No. 19288. I merely want to add to the record a copy of the Commission's Resolution 16-1, which was the Commission's initial resolution on the issue of a homeless shelter, and a copy of my discussion points before the Commission during the deliberations on our resolution in support of the application.

Homeless Shelter Negotiation Petition

Reservation 13:

1. Reservation 13 was acquired by the City in a transaction that traded 5 District owned parcels on the West Campus of St. Elizabeth's, located in Ward 8, for property the Federal Government had in other Wards.
2. Given that the acquisition of Reservation 13 came as the result of property in Ward 8 being exchanged for the site, Ward 8 residents must be given approval rights regarding any planned use of the property. Said approval rights shall be in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding MOU, between the Executive Branch of the Government of the District of Columbia and ANC 8D.
3. The Resolution ANC 8D passed in support of the Mayor's proposal for transitional housing for the homeless, petitioned for low income housing, that could in some measure alleviate the shortage of housing for the low and extremely low income families, be built on the Reservation 13 site. The MOU shall contain a commitment from the Executive to pursue housing for low and moderate income families on the reservation 13 site.

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 8D**



Resolution 16-1

A Resolution Expressing ANC 8Ds Support to work to end homelessness in the District of Columbia and in support of initiatives to make homelessness in the District of Columbia rare, brief, and non-recurring.

Whereas there are far too many children, women and men living on our streets and in our shelters;

Whereas homelessness in the District of Columbia is not an intractable problem and can be solved;

Whereas when members of our community experience homelessness, we all suffer, and our entire community must be a part of the solution;

Whereas every neighborhood, and every resident, has a stake in preventing homelessness and supporting people who experience homelessness;

Whereas by demonstrating compassion and putting love in action, we can commit to using proven strategies which will help the District of Columbia lead the nation in ending homelessness and;

Whereas as a City the Government should repurpose the DC General site, including the whole of Reservation 13, and dedicate it to the provision of appropriate publicly owned housing for families and;

Whereas Mayor Bowser and the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness agreed on a five-year plan called Homeward DC to reduce homelessness and support policies to;

- Make shelter available to families when they need it, not only during hypothermia.
- Commit to reduce the time individuals and families experience homelessness by connecting them to housing and important 'wrap-around' social service and education to help them achieve independence and find a path to the middle class.
- Provide 'interim eligibility' short term placements to assure the public safety of families waiting for permanent shelter placement.
- Clarify emergency housing configuration as apartment-style or a private room.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Advisory Neighborhood Commission 8D, affirming in its oath of office to work in the best interest of the District of Columbia as a whole, pledges to do its part to end homelessness in the District of Columbia, enlist support of our families, friends, and neighbors to join this important effort, and let local leaders know that we support a consequential stratified plan to end homelessness, and that they should too.

Chair, ANC 8D

Secretary, ANC 8D

Date: