

re: Ward 3, case 19450
3320 Idaho Ave NW

Feb. 3, 2017

Remarks at ANC meeting re ward 3 shelter:

My name is Helma Lanyi. I have lived in McLG, 2 blocks from here, since 1982. Unless one lives in a gated community with preselected neighbors city living means multicultural living. Several years ago I gave up driving and rely mostly on bus and train with all the quirks and unpredictability that entails.

-I wouldn't want to have it any other way. When I learned of the city's decision to place much needed shelters for women and children in all parts of the city, I applauded Mayor Bowser. For too long areas have complained that rehab centers etc. are always placed only in certain areas while ward 3, for example, remained largely unaffected.

This plan is going to bring us challenges but we can overcome them. Any reader of the local papers became familiar with the story of Relisha Rudd, the little girl from DC General who disappeared from there and was probably murdered. I couldn't get Relisha out of my mind: DC General's playground riddled with needles, I wouldn't want to live in a society that has nothing better to offer their children. By comparison, the plans for the shelter provide for social workers and opportunities for volunteer work with the children.

And do we ever consider why the adults in DC General are homeless? Aside from inadequate education that does not prepare them for more than minimum wage jobs, and inadequate child care provisions, have we ever considered the dismal state of affairs for renters in this city? This is not affordable housing, it is shelter to provide safety, and security, and perhaps a chance for improved life after this short respite.

The young mothers there have so little while we have a lot. A little good will will go a long way here. I support the shelter in a spirit of solidarity with needy residents of our city.

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