

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Board of Zoning Adjustment



October 7, 2024

Video Exhibit Filed:

BZA Application No. 21177

ANC 2G Videos 3 and 4 Description:

The property at 510 4th St. NW, a federal building situated a mere block away from the Superior Court, boasts a substantial subterranean cellblock, a remnant of the 1980s construction. Historically, this facility served as a holding area for detainees awaiting court proceedings. This site represents a prime example of underutilized space that warrants consideration for repurposing. The question arises: why hasn't the District of Columbia government explored the possibility of leasing this space from the federal authorities? Furthermore, it prompts an inquiry into the range of alternatives the government has evaluated, aside from the location at 501 New York Avenue NW, to address its temporary Central Cellblock needs.

ANC 2G Video 5 Description:

The building at 515 D St. NW, a property owned by the DC government and currently utilized for storage, stands in close proximity to the Superior Court, raising questions about its potential as a site for the temporary central cell block. Despite its advantageous location, it appears this option may not have been explored. This oversight is a missed opportunity for innovative project management by the Department of General Services and the Department of Corrections, especially when considering alternatives to the designated site at 501 New York Ave. NW. Such a decision warrants a thorough review of the selection criteria for the temporary Central Cellblock.

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