

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Andrew Deshler <deshler.andrewj@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 10:35 AM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Public Comment on Case 21221 - In Support of Aston Shelter

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Good morning,

I write in support of the Aston Shelter, in advance of a public hearing scheduled for January 29, 2025. Washington, D.C. needs more transitional housing, not less. The Aston opened only recently, after opponents had plenty of opportunities to weigh in on the project. Further disruptions would waste taxpayer resources and exacerbate the homelessness crisis facing the District.

Furthermore, reducing our city's shelter capacity in the midst of a period of extended sub-freezing temperatures is exceptionally cruel and may realistically result in deaths of homeless individuals due to exposure.

The Aston helps to fulfill D.C.'s significant need for more transitional housing to help individuals off the street and into permanent solutions. This is a win-win for homeless individuals, and for all District residents who benefit from limiting unsheltered homelessness on our streets. The BZA should reject any pleas to close or limit operations of the Aston Shelter.

Thank you,
Andrew Deshler
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