

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Jennine Carmichael <jennine.carmichael@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 9:44 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: In support of the Aston Shelter

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Dear Members of the BZA,

I am writing to express support for the ongoing operation of the Aston Shelter. As the first shelter in the city to accept couples and adult families, it is filling an important need. Partners and families provide critical support to each other, and a shelter that protects the unity of families provides dignity and stability to people at a vulnerable time.

Speaking of vulnerable times, midwinter is a dreadful time to entertain the thought of closing a shelter. People without housing need more places to go in the winter, not fewer. Closing shelters creates opportunities for people to fall through the cracks and end up on the street, which is absolutely inhumane in the winter.

The process of opening the Aston provided ample opportunity for opponents to air their concerns. Disrupting the shelter's operations now would be a waste of city resources, at a time when accessible services for unhoused residents are sorely needed. Solving the challenge of homelessness in DC requires contributions from all our neighborhoods.

I feel strongly that the BZA should reject efforts to close the shelter and the city should authorize it to operate at full capacity.

Sincerely,
Jennine Carmichael