

Cochran, Patricia (DCOZ)

From: Catherine Grossman <catherinegrossman@ucsb.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2025 9:52 PM
To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Aston Shelter

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Dear Members of the Board of Zoning Adjustment,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for The Aston Shelter and to urge the Board to reject efforts to close this critical facility during the January 29 hearing. The Aston represents a vital step forward in how our city addresses homelessness. By becoming D.C.'s first shelter to accept couples and adult families, it recognizes the humanity and dignity of those in need. For many, The Aston is more than just a shelter—it is a place where they can stay united with their loved ones during some of the most challenging times of their lives. Shutting down The Aston, particularly in the middle of winter, would have devastating consequences. It would force families and individuals back onto the streets, jeopardizing their safety and further straining already scarce resources. The city has invested time, energy, and funding into this shelter, and disrupting its operations now would be a disservice to the community and a step backward in addressing homelessness compassionately and effectively. Opponents of this project have already had ample opportunities to share their perspectives. Now is the time to stand with those who rely on The Aston. I implore the Board to reject these efforts to close the shelter and instead advocate for its operation at full capacity. Our city is at its best when it stands for inclusion, dignity, and care for its most vulnerable residents. Protecting The Aston is not just the right thing to do—it reflects the values we all strive to uphold. Thank you for your consideration and commitment to serving the needs of our community.

Sincerely,

Catherine Grossman
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