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From: Chrissy Ostrowski <chrissy.ostrowski@gmail.com>
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To: DCOZ - BZA Submissions (DCOZ)
Subject: Aston Shelter comment

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Dear Board of Zoning Adjustment,

I am writing in advance of the January 29 hearing to give my support to the Aston Shelter. The opening of the Aston Shelter was a cause for celebration- unhoused individuals were given an opportunity to live in a safe place with family members. Anyone who lives in DC knows that everyone in the city wants unhoused people to find housing and stability. We cannot let a few people stop something that will help the whole city. If you were to poll every person in DC, the results would overwhelmingly show that people support the Aston Shelter.

There are a few loud people who are demanding that homeless shelters only be built in lower-income areas or areas with a higher percentage of Black residents. This is an attempt to maintain racial and income segregation in DC. We cannot keep asking lower-income areas to take on all the "challenges" of the city, just to keep higher-income neighbors from having to make eye contact with people who don't look like them or have their lifestyle.

"If I can put it in figurative language, it may be true that the system of segregation is on its deathbed, but history has proven that social systems always have a last minute, a strong breathing power. And the guardians of the status quo are always on hand with their oxygen tents to keep the old order alive. And so in a sense segregation is still with us. Not in the open sense that it used to be with us, with legal sanction, but in the covert, in the subtle, in the defacto sense." -Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Thank you,

Christine Ostrowski