



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

December 19, 2024

Mr. Frederick Hill
Chairperson
Board of Zoning Adjustment
441 4th Street, NW, Suite 210S
Washington, DC 20001
bzasubmissions@dc.gov

RE: ANC 2A Report on The Aston Appeal of the West End DC Community Association to Building Permit No. B2401624 (BZA Case No: 21221)

Dear Chairperson Hill,

At its regular meeting on December 19, 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With four of six commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission, after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Comer, adopted the following resolution by unanimous consent:

WHEREAS, at the request of the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) , ANC2A presents a report about the property located at 1129 New Hampshire Ave. NW (the “Aston”), which is owned and operated by the District of Columbia (District).

WHEREAS, the Aston was previously used as student housing by its previous owner, George Washington University (GWU), the District purchased the Aston in 2023 with the intention of using the property for non-congregate bridge housing.

WHEREAS, the Aston has a maximum capacity of up to 190 individuals, and is intended to primarily serve couples, mix-gendered adult families, and others who cannot be served by current shelter facilities in the District.

WHEREAS, ANC2A approved this use for the Aston, provided that the District Government formed a Community Advisory Team (CAT), to assure that the community has an ongoing ability to help ensure that the Aston is operated safely and securely for the benefit of its residents and neighbors. This CAT is made up of representatives from ANC 2A, the Foggy Bottom Association, the West End Citizens Association, Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto, DGS, DHS, and homeless services stakeholders to address community concerns.

WHEREAS, the CAT has constructively engaged with members of the community to provide feedback over an extended period on issues such as:

- community members’ quality of life during any building repurposing;
- construction, maintenance and operation of the Aston;



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- development of a Good Neighbor Agreements, and
- means to address any concerns from neighbors about safety and security.

WHEREAS, members of the ANC have visited the Aston before its opening and have seen that its facilities are like those of a student dormitory with 2 person apartments, common areas and common eating areas. They did not see medical facilities there.

WHEREAS, many residents of ANC 2A continue to express strong support for the Aston, and the ANC has passed resolutions in support of the facility. The ANC has recently approved an application for the conversion of a large building overlooking the Aston from commercial to residential use, demonstrating that the Aston has not diminished the desirability of the neighborhood.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ANC2A that recommends that the BZA consider the facts presented by both the District and the Commission in evaluating the appeal in this matter.

Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Trupti Patel
Chairperson

CC:

Mayor Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia
Chairman Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council

Councilmember Kenyan R. McDuffie, At-Large, and Chair Pro Tempore, District of Columbia Council

Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large Councilmember District of Columbia Council

Christina Henderson, At-Large Councilmember District of Columbia Council

Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember, District of Columbia Council

Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Councilmember, District of Columbia Council

Brian Hanlon, Director, The Department of Buildings

Laura Zeilinger, Director, The Department of Health & Human Services

Delano Hunter, Director, The Department of General Services

Brian Schwalb, District of Columbia Attorney General



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Brian Lampert, Assistant General Counsel, The Department of Buildings
Brandon Heath, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Litigation Division, Equity Section
David Wasserstein, Assistant Attorney General, Civil Litigation Division, Equity Section
Wayne Turnidge, Deputy Mayor, The Department of Health & Human Services
David Ross, Chief of Staff, The Department of Health & Human Services
Rachel Pierre, Interim Director, The Department of Health & Human Services; Director, Family Services Administrator
Anthony Newman, Deputy Administrator, Homeless Services, The Department of Health and Human Services
Sakina Thompson, Legal Counsel & Sr. Policy Advisor, Executive Office of the Mayor (EOM)
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health & Human Services (DMHHS)
John Stokes, Associate Director, External Affairs, The Department of General Services
Alan Karnofsky, Chief of Staff, The Department of General Services
Tadai Abilla, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations