

TO: Phil Mendelson, Chairperson District of Columbia Council
Chairperson, Committee of the Whole
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004

RE: Aston Roof Budget Priority

WHEREAS on April 17, 2024, ANC 2A (“Commission”) voted 5-0-0 on the 2024 budget oversight resolution on the Department of Human Services (DHS) handling of the Aston;

WHEREAS on February 21, 2024, ANC 2A voted 6-0-0 on the 2024 performance oversight resolution on the Department of Human Services (DHS) handling of the Aston;

WHEREAS In May of 2023, The George Washington University (GWU) announced it had sold the Aston, a former graduate student dormitory located at 1129 New Hampshire Avenue NW, to the Washington, DC government through Department of General Services (DGS) for \$27.5 million dollars;

WHEREAS The Aston would be turned into DC’s first high-barrier homeless shelter that would primarily serve adults with acute medical conditions, mixed-gendered adult families, and allow couples experiencing homelessness to stay together—populations that can’t be properly served in the other shelters;

WHEREAS At ANC 2A’s June 2023 meeting, the Department of Human Services (DHS) sent representatives to address questions and concerns from commissioners as well as residents about services the Aston would provide;

WHEREAS ANC 2A, at a special meeting in June 2023, sent a resolution¹ in support of the Aston contingent upon certain conditions being met and outstanding questions that we asked to be addressed;

WHEREAS After the commission requested the building assessment² report from DHS, it was provided from the Department of General Services (DGS), and upon review, there was a deep concern regarding the safety and integrity of the building;

WHEREAS Commissioner Omictin raised concerns about the state of the roof, and that it needed to be replaced immediately and considered as a non-negotiable Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2025) budget priority not to be tiered out and replaced in 2028;

WHEREAS Page 12 of the DGS building assessment states, “The roof has a lot of patching and water ponding’s. No leak reported but the deterioration is visible and needs immediate replacement.”

WHEREAS The DGS inspector assessed the roof with a high urgency, but then, further down on the same page, they scored it as a priority 3 item to be addressed within 5 years, and put an

¹ [ANC-2A-RESOLUTION-CR-23-003-DGS-1.pdf \(anc2a.org\)](#)

² [Aston-Asset-Condition-Assessment-1.pdf \(thewash.org\)](#)

action date of May 2027;

WHEREAS, At its April 2024 meeting, the Community Advisory Team (CAT) was informed that the Aston would become operational by August 2024;

WHEREAS Residents and the Commission have inquired with Councilmembers Pinto and White for further clarification on next steps in the process and the delay around the opening of the Aston;

WHEREAS ANC 2A has formally requested the DC Council Committee on Housing to reallocate capital funding in the amount of the estimated cost of \$246,840 to repair the roof in FY 2025 instead of FY 2028;

WHEREAS The DC Council Committee on Housing (“Committee”) released its Budget Report³ on May 9, 2024 with recommendations to allocate capital funding in the amount of the estimated cost of \$246,840 to repair the roof in FY 2025 instead of FY 2028,

WHEREAS, On page 17, the Committee states that there is “the need to use small capital pool funds for the Aston non-congregate shelter;”

WHEREAS, In the DHS chapter of the Budget Report, on page 91, in its Policy Recommendations for the agency, the Committee states, “DHS should utilize available small capital funding to address the repair needs for the roof at the Aston;”

WHEREAS, On page 96, the Committee states, “Finally, the Committee is supportive of DHS’s plans to open additional non-congregate shelter space for people experiencing homelessness. However, concerns have been raised regarding the condition of the roof at the soon-to-open Aston Shelter in Foggy Bottom. DHS should utilize available small capital funding to address the repair needs for the roof at the Aston.”

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges the DC Council to adopt the recommendations of The DC Council Committee on Housing for DHS to utilize small capital funding to address the repair needs for the roof at the Aston.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the roof of the Aston must be repaired and have immediate funding allocated for FY 2025.

Commissioners Trupti Patel (2A03@anc.dc.gov) and Luke Chadwick (2A05@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

CC:

Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember

Jennifer Budoff, DC Council Budget Director

Wayne Turnidge, Deputy Mayor, Health & Human Services

David Ross, Chief of Staff, Health & Human Services

Rachel Pierre, Interim Director, Health & Human Services; Director, Family Services Administrator

³ [Final Budget Report - 05.09.2024 - .docx \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

Laura Zeilinger, Director, Health & Human Services

Delano Hunter, Director, Department of General Services

Christopher Powell, Ward 2 Liason, Mayor's Office of Community Relations