



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2E

Representing the communities of Burleith, Georgetown, and Hillandale

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March 9, 2022

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COMMISSIONERS:

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|-------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kishan Putta, District 1 | Jenny Mitchell, District 2 | Rick Murphy, District 3 |
| Cimrun Srivastava, District 4 | Lisa Palmer, District 5 | Gwendolyn Lohse, District 6 |
| | Elizabeth Miller, District 7 | |

RE: Collaboration for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness as COVID Guidance Changes

Dear Director Bazron, Director Hunter, Chief Contee, Councilmember Pinto, Mr. Sternlieb, Chief Smith, Director Zeilinger, Ms. Hall, and Mr. Turnage,

On February 28, 2022 ANC 2E held its regularly scheduled public meeting, which was properly noticed and attended by six commissioners, constituting a quorum. At this meeting the Commission adopted the following resolution by a vote of (6-0-0) with regard to the above-referenced matter:

ANC 2E is contacting you regarding the tragic rise of individuals who are experiencing homelessness in our neighborhood during COVID and to urge unique levels of collaboration around housing this population.

The COVID pandemic has been a traumatic period for many, but especially for the unhoused. ANC 2E has witnessed an increase in the number of unhoused individuals taking shelter in Georgetown's commercial area as well as the neighborhood's federal and city parklands. These public, outdoor areas are serving as bathrooms, kitchens, and bedrooms. It has become typical to see campfires burning in our parks due to warmth and cooking needs, and for the police to be contacted regarding an assault occurring on a street or in a park involving someone who is not only unhoused but is experiencing concerning behavioral health issues. Some neighbors with small children have begun to avoid sections of the parks or streets altogether.

Our parks, streets, and storefronts neither have the infrastructure nor the resources to serve these housing needs. They cannot properly serve as makeshift shelters for the unhoused, especially those with behavioral health issues. The public health and safety issues are significant for everyone involved, but specifically for the people who are unhoused. Our constituents have voiced strong concerns that beyond the safety and health risks, the current status is a human welfare issue.

After two years, the COVID pandemic appears to be morphing into something less emergency oriented and more endemic. It is ANC 2E's understanding that various policies and programs related to the unhoused have, and will, be changing in the coming months, including:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on encampments,
- DC's emergency housing voucher program for people who are unhoused, and
- DC's resources devoted to the unhoused who are experiencing behavioral health issues.

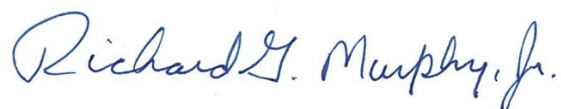
ANC 2E requests that your organizations do the following:

- Schedule a joint meeting with all relevant parties in our community on the current status of policies and programs related to the unhoused, successful methods that have been tested to reduce housing barriers, and any critical timeframes for housing to occur.
- Identify opportunities to issue joint communications on the concrete progress to house those who have been unhoused during COVID.
- Educate ANC 2E on how communities can help unhoused individuals who are suffering from behavioral health issues to receive proper medical care.
- Share how federal and city park resources can uniquely collaborate at this critical juncture when vouchers are available. Some of the parks in ANC 2E's community are on land owned by the National Park Service (NPS), while others are on land that is owned by the city. Many of the federal parks are immediately adjacent to land owned by the city and vice versa. This complexity is a challenge.
- Attend ANC 2E's April 2022 or May 2022 meeting to provide updates on your partnership efforts and how the ANC can assist your mission; time is of the essence.

Thank you for your consideration. ANC 2E looks forward to working with all your organizations on this human welfare issue.

Commissioners Gwendolyn Lohse (2E06@anc.dc.gov) and Rick Murphy (2E03@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Murphy
Chair, ANC 2E

CC: Kelly Andreae, Executive Director, Georgetown Ministry Center
Scott Schenkelberg, President and CEO, Miriam's Kitchen
Duncan Bedlion, Commander, Second District, Metropolitan Police Department
Julia Washburn, Superintendent, Rock Creek Park
Christopher Murphy, Gov. Relations & Community Engagement, Georgetown University
Tara Sakraida Parker, President, Citizens Association of Georgetown
Anna Noakes, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services