



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Michael Shankle 2C01, Chair
Jim Swart 2C04, Vice Chair
Thomas Lee 2C03, Treasurer
Nancy Groth 2C02, Secretary
2C@anc.dc.gov

At a properly noticed general meeting on July 8, 2025, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 2C voted 4-0-0, this **Resolution for Full Use of Aston Bridge Housing**.

TO: Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Council Member of the District of Columbia
Chair of the Committee on Human Services
Suite 408 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington DC, 20004

WHEREAS throughout ANC 2C our unhoused neighbors are congregating overnight in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, especially clustered near the Martin Luther King, Jr Library and the Downtown Day Services Center at 1313 New York Avenue, NW, demonstrating a dire need for housing in the downtown area where they are continuing to choose to live, but declining traditional shelter beds even when they are available;

WHEREAS the property and structure for the Green Court Shelter, planned for 1339 Green Court NW to increase housing capacity for unhoused neighbors downtown, has so many potentially unbuildable and unsafe characteristics so as to make it potentially unsuitable for this purpose;

WHEREAS the Department of Human Services has confirmed that no funding has been allocated for the Green Court Shelter in FY2026 and that DHS has been focused on implementing the Aston and E Street bridge housing¹;

WHEREAS the Department of General Services has not been able to confirm the status of the assigned feasibility study for Green Court Shelter, and has not addressed the five sets of questions about the Green Court property and structure submitted by SMD 2C02 Commissioner Groth;

WHEREAS on December 9, 2024, the District of Columbia (DC) government opened the Aston, a non-congregate homeless Bridge Housing facility in ANC 2A, converted from a former George Washington University dormitory;

¹ <https://lims.dccouncil.gov/Hearings/hearings/907> download the Pre Hearing Questions, page 4



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Michael Shankle 2C01, Chair
Jim Swart 2C04, Vice Chair
Thomas Lee 2C03, Treasurer
Nancy Groth 2C02, Secretary
2C@anc.dc.gov

WHEREAS the Aston is currently capped indefinitely at a total of 100 residents due to an agreement² signed on July 6, 2023 by Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto and representatives of Mayor Muriel Bowser's administration;

WHEREAS it has been reported that the Aston has the space to house up to 190 residents³;

WHEREAS DC continues to remain in a crisis of high rents and limited affordable housing⁴ with supply of shelter for the unhoused continuing to lag behind demand;

WHEREAS recent reporting⁵ has indicated that, following the closure of temporary winter shelters this year, the existing shelter infrastructure is saturated to the point that there are frequently no open shelter beds for men anywhere in the District, and Deputy Mayor Wayne Turnage stated in a recent oversight hearing⁶ held on June 9, 2025 that the District needs to find ways to make more beds available;

WHEREAS the Aston's non-congregate model makes it an outlier among DC shelters, offering levels of privacy and safety that are especially valued;

WHEREAS since the opening of the Aston, President Donald Trump has exerted continuing pressure for DC to eliminate encampments, and subsequently closure of encampments in DC have ramped up significantly,⁷ further increasing the need for shelter beds;

² https://lims.dccouncil.gov/downloads/LIMS/53342/Other/PR25-0296-PR25-0296_and_CA_25-254_Disapproval_Resolution_Withdrawal_Memo.pdf

³ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/11/25/dc-homeless-shelter-aston-families/>

⁴ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2024/10/25/study-dc-region-had-highest-rent-increase-among-major-metro-areas/>

⁵ <https://streetsensemedia.org/article/dc-homeless-shelters-near-capacity-after-seasonal-closures/>

⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7fYR4i1ab0>

⁷ <https://streetsensemedia.org/article/dc-encampment-closures-displace-residents/>



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Michael Shankle 2C01, Chair
Jim Swart 2C04, Vice Chair
Thomas Lee 2C03, Treasurer
Nancy Groth 2C02, Secretary
2C@anc.dc.gov

WHEREAS the elimination of thousands of federal workforce jobs by the new administration has caused unemployment to spike and experts to warn of a possible local recession⁸ which will also likely increase the demand for shelter beds;

WHEREAS recent decisions made by the federal government have placed major economic pressure on this year's DC budget cycle, creating a shortfall amounting to hundreds of millions of dollars;⁹

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2C, in solidarity with ANC 2A, considers the presence of up to 90 habitable, unoccupied beds in the Aston to present an opportunity to make available desperately needed housing resources at a very low cost during a budget cycle where major financial constraints demand efficient usage of DC government property;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2C, in solidarity with ANC 2A, urges Councilmember Brooke Pinto to communicate her support to the mayor's office for continuing to gradually expand the maximum capacity of the Aston up to 190, and remove her requirement that it remain indefinitely capped at 100;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2C, in solidarity with ANC 2A, urges Mayor Muriel Bowser and DMHHS Wayne Turnage to treat 190 as the new maximum capacity of the Aston, while continuing to preserve its mission as a Bridge Housing facility;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2C, in solidarity with ANC 2A, urges the DC Council to allocate funds in the upcoming budget cycle beyond the currently allocated \$13.1 million to supply the Aston with the additional employees, furnishings, and resources required to maintain the current level of service provided by the Aston at an increased capacity of 190 residents;

⁸ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-vi/2025/05/09/dc-economy-slump-recession-trump/>

⁹ <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/dc-weighs-layoffs-and-other-cuts-as-house-leaves-capital-city-in-budget-limbo/3896812/>



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C

Michael Shankle 2C01, Chair
Jim Swart 2C04, Vice Chair
Thomas Lee 2C03, Treasurer
Nancy Groth 2C02, Secretary
2C@anc.dc.gov

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2C, in solidarity with ANC 2A, recommends that the new cap of 190 be progressed towards gradually in the same manner as the previous habitation targets of 50 and 100, with another intermediate target of 150, to ensure that high quality service continues to be provided to all Aston residents.

Commissioner Nancy Groth (2C02@anc.dc.gov) is the Commission's representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION

Sincerely,

Nancy Groth electronic signature

Nancy Groth, Secretary, ANC 2C

CC: Dan Passon, Committee Director, DC Council Committee on Human Services
Jeremy Jones, Division Director, Friendship Place, The Aston
Kevin Donahue, City Administrator, Washington DC
Jenny Reed, Director, Office of Budget and Performance Management
Jennifer Budoff, DC Council Budget Director
Muriel Bowser, Mayor Washington DC
Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia
Christiana Henderson, At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Brooke Pinto, Ward 2 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
Wendell Felder, Ward 7 Councilmember of the District of Columbia
A.D. Rachel Pierre, Interim Director, Department of Human Services
David Ross, Chief of Staff, Department of Human Services
Anthony Newman, Deputy Administrator, Homeless Services, DHS
Wayne Turnidge, Deputy Mayor Health & Human Services
Sakina Thompson, Legal Counsel & Senior Policy Advisor, EOM
Tadai Abila, Ward 2 Liaison Mayor's Office of Community Relations