

	<p style="text-align: center;">ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>CATHEDRAL HEIGHTS • CLEVELAND PARK MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS McLEAN GARDENS • WOODLEY PARK</i></p>
<p><i>Single Member District Commissioners</i> 01-Lee Brian Reba * 02-Gwendolyn Bole * 03-David Valdez 04-Arthur Barkmann * 05-Margaret Siegel * 06-Carl Roller 07- Victor Silveira * 08-Catherine May * 09-Nancy MacWood</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">P.O. Box 4966 Washington, DC 20008 Website http://www.anc3c.org Email all@anc3c.org</p>

April 4, 2016

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
Executive Office of the Mayor

Via email

Dear Madam Mayor,

I am writing as the Commissioner for ANC3C08, the Single Member District in which the proposed site for the Ward 3 Shelter is located, to object to the lack of notice for the meeting scheduled for April 5 at Stoddert School. On behalf of my constituents, I ask that you reschedule the meeting in order to give the community the opportunity to have meaningful input on this proposal.

Notice was inexplicably short and haphazard. ANC3C has had no official notification of the meeting and its purpose. Nor has the neighborhood in which the proposed site is located, Massachusetts Avenue Heights, received any notification, even though its leadership and members have been actively engaged in discussions with the Administration and the Council. The Commissioners of ANC3C learned of the meeting only five days before the meeting from a posting on the Cleveland Park Listserve. Several Commissioners from ANC3B and 3C have received calls from the your Office (MOCR) offering various and conflicting information about the purpose and format of the meeting.

The complete absence of information concerning the proposal compounds the concerns arising from the lack of notice. There seems to have been no effort to provide concrete information in advance of the meeting, which would allow the neighborhood to understand the proposal and ask useful questions. For example, no plans have been provided that could shed light on any of the questions that have been raised by the neighborhoods or the Council. The meeting also conflicts with a longstanding Glover Park Citizens Association meeting and thereby prevents many of the area's representatives from participating. In short, the lack of notice and lack of reliable information leaves the clear impression that the community is being excluded from meaningful participation.

The Chair of ANC3B and the Massachusetts Avenue Heights Citizens Association have written to you requesting that the meeting be postponed until after the Council has approved the sites and spending. In her email response to those letters, Director Laura Zeilinger declined to

consider a postponement to accommodate citizen review and participation, while contending, without apparent irony, that the Administration “has the utmost respect for every ANC and for every civic association.” The record on this matter is to the contrary. The Administration first excluded the ANC’s and the affected neighborhoods from the entire planning process and presented them with a package of “done deals” which it has attempted to push through the Council on an expedited basis with little chance for public input. In this instance, the affected ANC’s were not notified until five days in advance. The affected neighborhood has never been officially notified and learned about the meeting second hand. Even in the context of the April 5 meeting, there has been no effort to engage the community on anything other than superficial cosmetic aspects of the plans. Whatever neighborhood participation does occur at this meeting cannot be interpreted as acceptance of the site, the site selection process or the exorbitant cost of the program, since those unresolved issues remain before the Council and are very much a topic of public debate.

As the resolutions passed by ANCB and ANC3C demonstrate, the communities do not question the need to address the disturbing conditions at the DC General facility. The way to move the process forward and achieve the best result, while showing the “utmost respect” for the neighborhood associations and the residents is to adopt a process that is rational and transparent, rather than one that is peremptory and opaque. The current course only provokes more questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "C May", is positioned to the left of a vertical line.

Catherine S May
Commissioner ANC3-08

CC:
Councilmember Mary Cheh
Director Laura Zeilinger
Mr. Paul Cunningham
Ms. Jackie Blumenthal
ANC3C
ANC3B
DC Council