



Ward 7 Short-term Family Housing Community Meeting

DATE: May 15, 2017
LOCATION: KIPP Academy
TIME: 7:00pm – 8:30pm

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Introductions (15 minutes)
2. Presentation (45 minutes)
 - About the Homeward DC plan to end homelessness
 - Design presentation and construction update
3. General Input and Q & A (30 minutes)

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

Advisory Team co-chair Forest Hayes led introductions, and welcomed Commissioner Ashely Emerson to share community updates. Commissioner Emerson shared an update on community events and progress made to date in the community on the Short-term Family Housing project. Commissioner Emerson shared that a Social Services pop up was hosted in Ward 7 where District agencies were out in the community sharing resources with community members and residents who live on the 5000 D St, SE block. Commissioner Emerson shared that residents were appreciative of the social services that were shared. Commissioner Emerson also shared that now that the Short-term Family Housing program is legislated, the community will welcome the new residents as neighbors and should also provide additional resources to existing residents in need.

Commissioner Emerson also shared an update on a recent meeting between community leaders and Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Hyesook Chung, Director Gillis of the Department of General Services, Director Zeilinger of the Department of Human Services, and the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services to discuss community supports in the

Marshall Heights neighborhood. The Commissioner shared that there will be ongoing coordination with the Mayor's office.

Co-Chair Hayes shared that the Ward 7 community has been very welcoming of new residents, and cares deeply about the wellbeing and safety of residents who will be living in the Short-term Family Housing facility.

Presentation

Developing a more effective crisis response system

Director Zeilinger (DHS) shared a presentation about the DC General Replacement strategy. She shared that the replacement of DC General with dignified short-term family shelters throughout the District is one part of the Homeward DC initiative. Director Zeilinger described the need to close DC General to ensure that shelters in the District are safe and supportive environments where families can get back on their feet. Director Zeilinger also described the wrap-around services that will be available at each Short-term Family sites, including healthcare services, educational supports, workforce training programs, and income supports.

Director Zeilinger shared that on-site 24/7 security will be available on site, and each floor of the Short-term Family Housing program will include security officers. These security measures are there to protect the safety of family members.

Director Zeilinger shared that the Ward 7 Advisory Team has been meeting since March, 2017. Recently, Mayor Bowser led a neighborhood walk around the site of the new Short-term Family Housing program to identify the specific needs throughout the immediate neighborhood around the site.

Design and construction presentation

Director Gillis (DGS) shared that the Department of General Services is fully committed to engaging the community throughout the construction process, and that DGS will be proactive in notifying the community about construction activities on site. Director Gillis shared that the contractor for the Ward 7 site is based out the Ward 7 community, and will be treating the site like their own backyard.

DGS staff led a presentation on the construction timeline for the site, and shared that construction activities have begun on the site. The contractor is currently assessing the grounds on the site, and in the next few months earth work will begin and a construction trailer will be set up on site in the next few weeks. During the fall, concrete will begin to be laid on the site. The concrete will be built up to the first floor, and beginning in January modules will be placed onto the site. In the spring, the building will be wrapped with exterior finishes, including masonry and hardy board.

DGS staff shared the overall design requirements for each Short-term Family Housing site, and explained the architectural features that will be included to support families on the site. DGS staff also reviewed the site usage plan. The building is focused on the West side of site to create as much space as possible between the building and the residential homes next door.

DGS shared that the basement level will provide office space for the staff on site and storage space for service providers. The first floor will include a programming space, including a common room. On floor two, three, and four there will be ten (10) family units. The building will also have its own laundry, and a common room for families to spend time and for children to do homework. Each floor will include a toddler play space. The roof of the building will be a green roof, which will be visible from the sidewalk.

DGS presented drawings for the exterior. The exterior will be pulled back from the sidewalk to create greenspace in front of the building. The exterior materials will include brick and hardy plank.

DGS will be sharing monthly construction updates with the community, which will explain what will happen on the site in the next month.

Question: Is there parking available for the facility?

Answer: There is not parking on the site because the footprint of the site is tight. DGS is working with DHS to assess the parking needs of staff who will work in the facility.

Question: Will school buses be on the block to pick up students?

Answer: No, DHS provides subsidies to students to use metro to get to school. School buses will not be picking students up on the block.

Question: Will there be rodents during construction?

Answer: DGS is taking preemptive measures in terms of rodent abatement to try to minimize any increase in rodent activity during construction. DGS will be working with the Department of Health to ensure that rodent abatement activities are conducted appropriately, and DGS will also be working with a contractor to ensure that trappings are conducted.

Question: Was the building that came down of historical significance?

Answer: DGS conducted an archeological review of these old buildings, but they are not of historical significance.

Community updates

The Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services reviewed the commitments that were made at the community walk when Mayor Bowser joined the community for a walk through the neighborhood, and progress that has been made on these commitments. The MOCRS shared a table that reviews the progress that has been made on addressing these community concerns.

Interim President Towery of the Marshall Heights Civic Association shared an update on the community priorities that the Association is coordinating with Mayor's office on. These community priorities are intended to ensure that the community is prepared to welcome the new residents of the Short-term Family Housing site. President Towery shared that a priority for the Advisory Team is to focus on crafting a strong Good Neighbors Agreement so that the concerns and priorities of the neighborhood are reflected in the daily operations of the site.