



Department of Human Services
Office of the Director | 64 New York Avenue N.E., Suite 600 | Washington, DC 20002

Ward 3 Short-term Family Housing Advisory Team Meeting
Thursday, October 6, 2016
Chevy Chase Community Center - 5601 Connecticut Ave N.W. - Washington, DC 20015
7 pm – 8:30pm

Ward 3 Advisory Team Members

Name	Inviting Organization	Affiliations	Attendance
Carl Roller	ANC 3C	ANC 3C Chairperson, SMD 3C06 Commissioner, Advisory Team Co-Chair	Not present
Margaret Siegel	ANC 3C	ANC 3C Treasurer, SMD 3C05 Commissioner	Present
Angela Bradbery	ANC 3C	Community Representative	Not present
Melody Molinoff	ANC 3C	John Eaton Elementary, LSAT Chair	Not present
Ann Scoffier	ANC 3C	Community Representative	Present
Ruth Caplan	Cleveland Park Citizens Association	Cleveland Park Citizens Association, President; Community Representative	Not present
Pamela Korbel	Cleveland Park Citizens Association	Cleveland Park Citizens Association; Community Representative	Present
Ann Hamilton	Cleveland Park Citizens Association	Cleveland Park Citizens Association; Community Representative	Present
Mary Cheh	Councilmember Cheh's Office	Ward 3 Councilmember	Not present
Jeffrey Davis	Councilmember Cheh's Office	Community Representative	Present
Deborah Linde	Department of Human Services (DHS)	Community Representative; 30-year resident of McLean Gardens	Present
Rabbi Aaron Alexander	Department of Human Services (DHS)	Community Representative; Rabbi of Adas Israel Congregation	Present
Kelly McShane	Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)	Ward 3 Resident; President and CEO, Community of Hope	Present
Melvin Gresham	Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)	Commander, 2nd District MPD	Present
Laura Zeilinger	Department of Human Services (DHS)	DHS Director; Advisory Team Co-Chair; Ward 3 Resident	Present
Agyei Hargrove	Department of General Services (DGS)	DGS Project Manager	Present

Additional Support Staff Present

Andrew Lindberg	Ayers Saint Gross (Architects/Engineers under contract for the Ward 3 Site)	Associate
Ian Maggard	Mayor's Office of Community Relations	Ward 3 Community Liaison (MOCR)
Phil Thomas	Mayor's Office of Community Relations	Ward 3 Community Liaison (MOCR)
Kathy Haines	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services (DMHHS)	Capital City Fellow
Jackie Stanley	Department of General Services (DGS)	DGS Community Outreach Coordinator

Agenda

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Listening Session with Architect
3. Engagement and Communications
4. Summary of Next Steps & Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

- The meeting began at 7:09 pm
- Introductions were made of the Advisory Team Members
 - Co-Chair Carl Roller was unable to attend due to a family emergency
- Director Zeilinger reminded the team of the questions the team was asked to reflect on over the past week:
 - What aspects of the facility does your stakeholder group want the design team to focus on or consider while during the site massing process?
 - What exterior design attributes would your stakeholder group want reflected in the final design, and provide examples?
 - What exterior design elements would your stakeholder group absolutely not want included as part of the final design, and provide examples?
 - What other aspects of the design and site should the program or design team take into account while designing the W3 STFH?
- Director Zeilinger introduced a handout that lists the elements that were required in the RFP for the building design.

2. Listening Session with Architect

- Team members were invited to share comments, questions, and concerns with the architect's representative to consider when creating the initial building design.

Community Representatives' Comments:

- Team member provided a verbal summary of written comments submitted by one resident who is an architect, a neighbor to the site, who has two small children. (Please see the "Respondent 1" in the Appendix for the original text.)
 - Has there been a full traffic study or not?

- Where will the building sit on the site?
- How will children walking/biking travel to John Eaton School?
- Where will the buses stand who will take children to schools across the District? What about bus turning radius?
- Full set of zoning studies should be performed.
- Doesn't believe that the building will fit easily within the zoning envelope. If the building is on top of a vertical parking structure, it would be 6 or 7 stories tall; nothing is that tall in the neighborhood.
- Would like to see 3 design options, if possible.
- Should be a single style of architecture/not attempt to match 3-4 things/styles.
- Do not match Vaughn Place and Cathedral Commons buildings; these are anachronistic.
- Prefers brick construction to match McLean Gardens; Fannie Mae is also brick, as are many of the homes in the neighborhood.

Director Zeilinger's Comments:

- The architect's representative is here tonight to listen. My team will continue to help clarify the program design for Advisory Team members and the architect.

Community Representatives' Comments:

- We would like to learn more about the architectural firm and Andrew's position with the firm.
 - **Andrew Lindberg's Response:** *I'm with Ayers Saint Gross and we are based in Baltimore, MD with a smaller office in DC and an office in Tempe, AZ. We specialize in higher education. In the District we have worked on Bancroft Elementary in Mt. Pleasant as well as new residences at American University, Georgetown University and the George Washington University. We also specialize in smaller dwelling units.*
 - *I have been with the firm for two years, and prior to that, I worked in multi-family residential. I also worked for a firm that worked on many of the single family homes in the Chevy Chase area.*
 - [Mr. Lindberg presented two aerial views of the site to the group on poster boards. These views were satellite imagery of the existing site to orient the group to the parcel.]
 - *We were just awarded the project this week, and we have not done any work on siting it. I walked the site about an hour ago. We are starting from scratch, so would like to hear your ideas.*
- Where is the fueling station? And where are the police station and parking lot?
 - [Mr. Lindberg pointed out these items on the maps, as well as the community gardens and the tennis courts.]
- Will the community garden be affected?
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Our intention is that we keep the community garden and the tennis courts. When Council determined this site, we were told that we would focus more on the areas of parking. We are trying to preserve the parts that are important to the community. Is there the potential to move a garden*

plot to make the siting of the building easier? The instructions that we have been given are to preserve these things for the community.

- **Community Representatives' Response:** *There are 183 families with plots in the garden. But we have plots that disappear from time to time. After the temporary war buildings on that land were bulldozed, the land became riddled with potholes and lots of building material that was bulldozed, and then the garden was put on top of it.*
- **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Do you mean that the plots don't work the way they were intended?*
- **Community Representatives' Response:** *Recently some people have fallen into their plots. If you were considering that land, you might want to think about that. We have the impression it is not suitable for any other purpose.*
- Any topic here, with two people you will get 3 very strong reactions.
- I'm not sure the building has to be brick, or has to be traditional. There are times when a modern building looks terrific in a historic district; depends on how it fits together. Height limits are a concern – the preference is for shorter buildings. Since you have to go through the Planning and Zoning Committee of the ANC, they will have time for input. The [Cleveland Park] library design was a long and difficult process, but the architects met with the community regularly. There were about 6 or 7 iterations of design, both interior and exterior. Not all of our ideas were incorporated, but many were.
- Lots of the neighbors close to the site are more than upset. They don't object to the homeless shelter in DC, but the kind, size, and if it should co-located on the police station are areas of concern.

Director Zeilinger's Comments:

- To recap – here's what I have heard:
 - Some believe that brick is important, others believe that other styles could work;
 - An iterative process is important;
 - Building height is going to matter;
 - There is concern about how all the needs of the community will be considered; and
 - There are concerns about traffic.
- One question to prompt more discussion: are there things that are identifiable when you come into the neighborhood that feel like “this is home to me.” Or, if you travel to other communities, are there things that say “this reminds me of my home in DC.”

Community Representatives' Comments:

- Green space. The Urban Forestry Administration has done a great job of protecting trees in the Cleveland Park area. They worked very closely with Cathedral Commons on this issue.
- I would like to reiterate someone's earlier comment. The architects can't be slaves to what people think. We are an eclectic community. Cathedral Commons is ugly. That is a statement of fact. Technical observation. Whereas the new library, which did go through an iterative process, doesn't look like anything in this neighborhood. We're referring to the new Cleveland Park Library (we told them, we don't want Tenleytown). We said, you're the architects, but we don't want mishmash, we want something that resonates.

We don't need 78 different materials. Let's make it coherent. Our job is to say, "that's a great idea" or "can you do this a little more?"

- It's important for the design to be respectful, to not look institutional, to not look like that's where the homeless families live.
- Please don't have clear view sights into each other's windows (there are decks and other things out there in neighboring lots). This is a wish of the immediate neighbors. And as much as possible maintain old growth trees or replant new ones right away.
- There are tree measurement requirements, circumference measures for building on private land, not sure if the same exists for public land, but I would hope so.
 - **Mr. Lindberg's Response:** *We will go through the whole zoning process.*
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *You will also need to come before the ANC.*
 - **Mr. Lindberg's Response:** *Absolutely. We don't want to design the whole building and then have to go over and do it again.*

Director Zeilinger's Comments:

- Outside of the functional things, is there anything else you want to share?

Mr. Lindberg's Comments:

- The comment about children and bikes is important. Is there anything else we should know? Do people consider a particular "entrance" to the site? Any parts you don't go to?

Community Representatives' Comments:

- Macomb Street NW connects Massachusetts Avenue NW and Wisconsin Avenue NW one block south of the site. This is a popular cut-through, but very narrow and constrictive. Related to that, there are about 10 schools within ¼ mile of this location. Morning, mid-day pick-ups and end of day check-out traffic is horrendous. Look at the concentrated school population in this neighborhood.
- People in McLean Gardens experience lots of Idaho Avenue NW traffic coming from Massachusetts Avenue NW. Because of the one way split, people short-cut and don't go up Wisconsin, go on Massachusetts to Idaho, and enter through Idaho.
- Now that we have a newly built commercial area on Wisconsin on those three blocks, we have a dramatic increase of traffic, including into the garage.
- On Newark Street NW there is also lots of traffic, also because of the cut-through to Mass Ave. We're at the point where people on the block will ask for a traffic study unrelated to the shelter because of cars speeding and running stop sights as pedestrians travel to the playground, park, and community garden.
- Note that Cathedral Commons isn't finished yet, isn't fully occupied either commercially or residentially. Some of the biggest tenants are just starting to come in, and traffic is unbelievable. From a safety standpoint of families, take that into account as well.
- Is staff parking necessary at the new facility, or can they park in Cathedral Commons during the day?
 - No, there are already huge problems with John Eaton teachers trying to park there.
 - But there are lots of empty spots.
 - Part of reason why the parking is empty is that they are waiting for the tenants.

- Don't rely on neighborhood streets or Cathedral Commons for parking needs.

Director Zeilinger's Comments:

- This is an iterative process. We will take into account things that the community has raised and information from the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services and share those concepts with you. We will also do a larger community meeting to hear input from the broader community. This will help Andrew and his folks to be well equipped when they first put pencils to paper.

Community Representatives' Comments:

- Question "grand lobby" [referring to a design feature listed on the handout]; is it a place where families can hang out? What is a grand lobby? I can only think of a hotel.
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *It is basically a welcome area. We need space for the people that live there to enter, as well as to receive visitors. This is a place where people can be greeted, where we can control access, and where people can meet-up. Most of the services are in offices with case managers. Not "grand" as a hotel is grand, but you walk into an area with a greeting desk.*
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *Having gone to DC General to volunteer with the Homeless Children's Playtime Project, the entrance isn't nice, but the Playtime spaces are nice, after you go through the entry process.*
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Part of the impetus for replacing DC General is that it wasn't designed for the program and it isn't welcoming. We want it to provide space to appropriately house community-based organizations. For the sites that are further along, the Playtime team has participated in the meetings about spaces.*
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *I talked to Playtime this week. There will be storage space, so if you don't need an office for programming, you can at least store your materials at the site.*
- I think I understand that most mothers are aged 18-30 and that most kids are toddlers, with a few kids in elementary school (based on my experience at DC General). Also, can any of this be adapted for daycare?
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *In the next part of our agenda, we will share the large questions that were asked in the first meeting. Families experiencing homelessness come in every shape and size. Sometimes it is a grandmother and a mother, or a mother and a father, or a father with a child. We have different spaces including quiet spaces for study and places for toddlers to play, so you see we need a variety of amenities.*
- Is there a clinic with a nurse or doctor that comes in?
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *We currently have a partnership with the Hoya Clinic. They have some economy of scale in the DC General facility that they will not be able to operate in every part of the city, but we will continue to partner with them. Health and wellness are important to us.*
- Does Ayers Saint Gross have the architectural contract for all buildings, or just this one?
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Requirements are standard – so the paper of specifications that you received this evening is standard.*
 - **Department of General Services:** *Right now we have 5 different firms.*

- **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *A reminder, on the Homeward DC site you can see other designs. [<http://www.mayor.dc.gov/homewarddc>]*
- The ANC zoning people would be happy to sit down with the architects.
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Once there is a design to share, we will have an iterative process.*
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *We want to be helpful how we can.*
- Another neighbor submitted comments. This person is worried about day care, parking, and delivery of three meals a day to the building, especially during difficult times/snow. What if there was an emergency in DC?
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *We had food stocked in advance during the emergency last year, for all of our services. The Department of Human Services also has the function for mass care, food and shelter, if there is a disaster. We prepare for imminent flooding and other disasters, planned and not. Meal delivery is part of our plan. This happens not only in this context, but also with seniors who participate in the meal delivery program.*
- People are concerned about the ninety-day maximum stay. After that, where can those people go?
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *We are trying to separate larger programmatic concerns from the design conversation, but it sounds like we have talked about the major concerns.*

Mr. Lindberg's Comment:

- I walked behind the police station and there is a path; are there certain paths in the back that anyone can think of that would be important?
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *The community garden is important for people in the community, and tennis court participants use the paved path next to the playground. One more point on parking. There is no parking on the street in McLean Gardens.*

Director Zeilinger's Comments:

- Let's shift to next part of the agenda. Please send any additional comments to Kathy Haines and we will make sure Andrew has it. This is not your only opportunity to submit feedback. One thing I have learned is that when we start with something for the community to react to, that has its own set of challenges. We hope that what we present initially is informed by this conversation. Our intent is that everything here you are sharing, and that you bring information back from your neighbors and others.

3. Engagement and Communications

Director Zeilinger's Comments:

- We distributed the minutes from our first meeting [9/20/16], both electronically and in print tonight. Can you send feedback to Kathy Haines in the next few days or so, and we can post? For people who were in the room, make sure this reflects what happened in the room. Last time, we said that we would present answers to the questions that you asked. We are also distributing paper copies of those draft responses this evening. Please let us know if these answers cover the specific questions that you asked.

- One question that keeps coming up is “Will you have daycare?” There are a number of reasons why we are not doing daycare on site. The first reason: the stay in temporary housing is temporary and short-term. We are working really hard with our partners at OSSE [Office of the State Superintendent for Education] to prioritize children in households of housing instability and extreme poverty for the highest quality early childhood slots. We want continuity in those programs. We don’t want someone when they move out to have to pull their child out of childcare and go somewhere else or to pull them out of a certified enrichment program and then lose their slot. We try to promote educational continuity. We support families with subsidized childcare, and facilitate access to programs such as Head Start, Early Head Start and the QIN [Early Learning Quality Improvement Network]. Some of you are skeptical about fitting the whole program on the site. The goal is not to fit all services on the site, but to also connect families with services that are off-site. Otherwise, all of their connections are disrupted when they move and would have to be rebuilt somewhere else. Finally, we do not have the resources – money or space – to provide childcare. We will have appropriate recreational space and will help families navigate childcare as we do in our programs now.

Community Representatives’ Comments:

- How does this link to DC General and moving the people out of DC General? The people I know in DC General have been there a long time. Are we making assumptions about where they will end up? Where is the childcare for those persons?
 - **Director Zeilinger’s Response:** *There are two parts to your question; one refers to an image in the slide deck we presented last time. There was an image about systems change and this is important to understand. If we were closing DC General and opening smaller programs across the District, and doing nothing else, that would not be enough. However, this is one element of Homeward DC, our strategic plan to end homelessness in the District of Columbia. We are trying to prevent homelessness when possible. When people experience homelessness, they should be quickly connected with permanent housing, and it should be nonrecurring. The Mayor and Council have put resources toward this – in the first year of prevention services, 300 families were diverted from shelter. 1250 families have exited homelessness in FY16. Some families have significant barriers. Larger families, particularly those that do not have squeaky clean rental histories, have difficulty finding apartments. There is also a shortage of accessible units, even here in Ward 3. We do not make families leave after ninety days. The performance goal is for us to have faster exits. We have targets for average exits, and we aren’t quite there today; it will take us some time. It is a five-year plan. We are constantly revising our contracts and budgets to meet those goals. The families will go to housing in the community, often with short- to medium-term subsidies. If they need longer term support, they may receive longer-term subsidies and sometimes more intensive supports. The group of families in DC General today looks different from one year ago, because there is churn as people come in and out.*
- There are a number of long-staying families, including some as long as three years.

- **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *I acknowledge this, and there is a great need for reform and we are working on this. If DC General was working perfectly, we wouldn't necessarily need to replace it. For some families it is taking longer. We want to make sure we are creating a place that is welcoming, supportive, and provides services needed to make a successful transition back into housing. We do the best we can with what we have for now. There is connection between the value people have for themselves that is shaped by the environment in which they live and how they are treated. We are very excited about the opportunity to make fundamental changes to the system. If we weren't investing in affordable housing, remediating barriers for clients, and incentivizing landlords to rent to clients, we would not be successful, but all of those changes are being made. Housing placements are 40% higher than last year and that year was higher than the year before. We still have a lot of work to do, and I don't deny that, but many families have moved out and I am confident that we will reform the system as a whole. I hope that the answers here help as well. I want you to share information back and forth. Other questions as it relates to engagement/communications?*
- Question and an offer, can I post the questions to a community list serv?
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Yes. They will also be on our website.*
- Please note that the McLean Gardens' ballroom is available for public meetings, we have provided it to the ANC and the police. With enough lead time we can make that facility available which would mean that the vast majority of the people in the neighborhood could walk to a meeting for a briefing on this for the larger community.
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Thank you very much for that offer. We can talk about that for the larger community input meeting.*

4. Summary of Next Steps & Adjourn

Director Zeilinger's Comments:

- We will hold on posting the minutes to make sure they are accurate.
- For the Frequently Asked Questions, many are already on the site, and we will post this document to the Ward 3 page and we will share it electronically.
- If we missed a question, or did not answer the correct question, please let us know. We intend to be as open and transparent as possible.
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *The faith community has a shorter one pager that covers many of the same questions. We can share that document too.*
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *Please add the day care question to the list.*
- Please respond by Monday for comments on the minutes.
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *Does this fulfill Councilmember Cheh's request for a written document?*
 - **Director Zeilinger's Response:** *Yes.*
- Is the same timeline acceptable on the Frequently Asked Questions?
 - **Community Representatives' Response:** *Yes.*
- For our next meeting we will review renderings, likely in November. We will send a Doodle poll as we did for this meeting. We would also like to work on how to build the most constructive dialogue possible with the larger community; making sure people feel

heard, and that people have meaningful input. There were suggestions during our first meeting to host a charette. Let us know if you have ideas for how to make the meeting the most productive. We can talk about that at the next meeting. Kathy Haines is the main point of contact between now and then. Thank you and have a great evening.

Mr. Lindberg's Comment:

- Thank you for the feedback; a great way to jump this off. We are very excited about the project.

[Adjournment at 8:37 pm]

DRAFT

Appendix: Written Comments submitted to DHS and shared with the Architects

Respondent 1

Oct. 6, 2016

Initial feedback on the shelter design after an Advisory Team member queried the community. Please note that many of these comments came from one person. Initial outreach has not produced much comment.

- 1) Please make it brick, to blend in with McLean Gardens.
- 2) Is this a fair accompli? How can the city be designing a building when there are so many unanswered questions? What about traffic? When will there be a traffic study? Won't there be a lot more traffic on Newark and Idaho? What about parking? Pedestrian safety? Kids walk and bike down Newark. What about school crowding? The effect on police operations?
- 3) Don't go for inexpensive and expedient. We will have to live with this facility for decades.
- 4) Do zoning studies before designing the facility. Because of the existing police station, the building won't fit easily into the space.
- 5) Make sure there are no negative impacts on the community garden, police station and surrounding homes. For instance, a vertical parking structure would result in a 6- or 7-story building, which is wholly inappropriate for the site. And that will have an institutional feel.
- 6) The designer should provide at least 3 design options for building layout and style. The building should be of a single style and not try to match 3 or 4 different things. For example, you cannot match the police station and the houses next door as they are complete opposite aesthetics. In addition, the Vaughan Place tower and the Cathedral Commons buildings are not appropriate to try to match, since those are anachronistic buildings (ie: they do not actually follow a style, but are mixtures of styles to please the various neighborhood stakeholders - you cannot successfully create a mixture of styles from buildings that are themselves mixtures of styles).

Respondent 2

October 6, 2016

To: Ward 3 Advisory Committee on Temporary Homeless Shelter

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I understand that the meetings of this group are closed to the public. Accordingly, I am writing to outline questions and concerns I have regarding the proposed shelter to be located on the site of the 2nd District Police Station at 3220 Idaho Ave., NW.

I also understand that your Committee will not address site selection. As many of you know, I am a named plaintiff in a lawsuit filed against the Council and the Mayor, based on the Council's violation of the ANC Act. The purpose of that lawsuit is not to stop construction of a shelter on this site, nor to force the Council to choose another site. It is merely to ensure that the Council complies with its legal obligation to include community input in its decision – which it failed to do here – and that our statutory rights as citizens to be a part of the decision-making process before decisions are made is enforced. While I understand that the press and many others have adopted the sound-bite that this is a “NIMBY” lawsuit, it is not. My personal feeling, and that of many other neighbors including all of the named plaintiffs in the lawsuit, is that if this shelter is done right with appropriate community input, there will be enormous and sustained community support – wherever the shelter is located.

That said, I have been told that your Committee is discussing details of the configuration and “look” of the proposed Ward 3 shelter, and that the City is about to engage an architect to prepare plans and drawings. Without in any way retreating from the issues raised in the lawsuit about the lack of proper ANC involvement, I have several thoughts on the configuration and “look” of the proposed shelter. Some are generic and would apply no matter where the shelter is built, and others are specific to the 2nd District site.

Generic issues

1. Playground; Day Care. Because it is intended to house families – and I have been told that a “typical” homeless family consists of an 18-24 year-old-single mother with two toddlers – I would hope that the design of this facility will include –

- Space for day care (as well as day care service providers), particularly for children under the age of 3 who cannot attend school and whose mothers hold jobs or attend school themselves; and
- A playground or other outdoor play area.

With 50 families, we are looking at up to 100 children living at this shelter at any given time, most of whom (we are told) are toddlers. The need for daycare is obvious but the playground facility is also of particular importance, no matter where the facility is located.

In that regard – and this is not a “generic” issue but rather pertains only to the 2nd District site -- the playground currently located at 39th & Newark Streets will be overwhelmed if up to 100 new children start using it on a regular basis. The same is probably true of any site near an existing playground.

I strongly encourage this Committee to include a requirement for (a) space for child care, and (b) a playground or other outdoor play space, in the specifications given to the architect for design of the Ward 3 shelter, wherever it is to be located.

2. Entrance Courtyard. I have visited the N Street Village facility and spoken to several of N Street Village’s Board members. One Board member in particular pointed out that the entrance to that facility is behind a large, attractive courtyard. The courtyard is separated from the sidewalk in front by a fence and beautiful trees and bushes; the courtyard itself is landscaped with lovely bushes and flowers. There are multiple benches and other places for residents to sit. This particular Board member said that the courtyard serves not only as an attractive and relatively private place for residents and their visitors to sit outside, but also as a buffer – lessening the intrusion of the facility on the neighborhood, and offering to the residents a safe and pleasant outdoor space that they can call their own. I strongly encourage this Committee to include a requirement for such a courtyard in the specifications given to the architect for design of the Ward 3 shelter, wherever it is to be located.

Issues Peculiar to the 2nd District Site

1. Parking. Currently the police park more than 100 cars on the space where the proposed shelter is to be built. It is not possible to replace those parking spaces by telling the police to park on the street; and in fact, police cars and the private cars of individual police officers are regularly parked on the lawn in front of the station, because there are insufficient spaces in the parking lot. The shelter will take up most of the spaces currently used by the police, so that some kind of new parking structure will be needed. In order to maintain as much of the “look and feel” of the community as possible, I strongly recommend that the specifications given to the architect for design of the Ward 3 shelter, provide for this additional parking in an underground lot, rather than an above-ground, multi-deck structure. Such above-ground parking structures, no matter who the architect is, are almost universally unattractive. An underground lot would also provide more security for the police officers and their operations, as it would be easier to monitor ingress and egress.

In that regard, there is a fuel depot on the police station site, which provides fueling for all District emergency vehicles – ambulances, police cars, fire trucks, etc. Another reason to provide underground parking for the police, rather than an above-ground structure, is to ensure that sufficient space remains on the surface for large fire trucks to turn around and move in and out.

2. Shading of the Community Gardens. I understand that the proposed facility is required to have at least 30,000 square feet for the 150 people who will be living there. This is a large space, which cannot be accommodated with a one or two-story building. However, any building on this lot that is more than two stories (and perhaps even a two-story building) is

likely to shade multiple garden plots in the community garden for most of the morning hours. This will have a direct impact on the ability of those gardeners to grow the flowers and vegetables that they have been growing. (An above-ground parking structure would have the same effect.) Councilwoman Cheh has repeatedly stated that the community gardens will not be impacted by this shelter. I hope that the specifications provided to the architect for the design of the Ward 3 shelter will make clear that the building must be configured in such a way as to not adversely impact the hours of sunlight available to adjacent garden plots.

3. Delivery of Three Meals a Day. We have been told that there will be no kitchens in this facility, and that food will be delivered three times a day for meals for the residents. In order to avoid double-parking on Idaho Avenue by the food trucks/service providers, the design should create appropriate off-street access for these vehicles. I hope that the specifications provided to the architect for the design of the Ward 3 shelter will make clear that off-street access for delivery vehicles must be included.

Thank you for considering these ideas and concerns.