



District of Columbia Government
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013



February 1, 2016

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Executive Office of the Mayor, Sixth Floor
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Night time use of the Sherwood Recreation Center

Dear Mayor Bowser,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting¹ on January 14, 2016, our Commission voted unanimously (5-0 with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to send this letter requesting that Sherwood Recreation Center no longer be used for overnight uses that have caused significant disruptions in our community over the past year.

Our Commission is extremely concerned about recent reports that the District misused Sherwood last winter and is proceeding to do so again this winter in ways that have caused its nearby neighbors to be unable to sleep in their own homes. Simply put, the Sherwood Recreation Center is extremely close to neighboring homes, does not have off street parking that is adjacent to the entrance, and our community has unnecessarily suffered due to the insistence by your Administration to use the Center in ways it never had before.

When you joined us at ANC6A last April, you heard from concerned residents about the extreme hardships that they suffered when your Administration converted Sherwood for winter shelter use last winter. A resident asked you to not use Sherwood that way again this year. You responded: “We won’t use Recreation Centers as shelters. People should not be there overnight. I don’t want people being sheltered in Recreation Centers. We’ll figure it out for next winter.” Our Commission is disappointed that your Administration has not kept its promise regarding Sherwood’s use this year and has instead insisted on pressing forward with using it again this winter, while leaving other nearby Recreation Centers and housing options untapped.

¹ ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the listserves anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com, anc-6a@yahoogroups.com and newhilleast@yahoogroups.com, at www.anc6a.org, and through print advertisements in the *Hill Rag*.

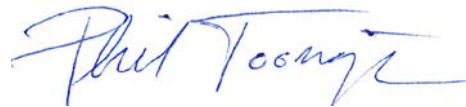
In addition, our ANC takes threats to the quality of life that our residents enjoy in their own homes very seriously. Multiple residents have reported that the vehicles used to service the population at Sherwood have regularly disrupted their ability to sleep within their own homes. These levels of disruption are simply unacceptable.

Additionally, we are concerned about the District inappropriately cramming our homeless populations into only certain areas of the District. Sherwood Recreation Center already shares a block with another homeless shelter and is around the corner from a second one. It violates your commitment to having a relatively equal distribution of these sorts of services to place three such facilities in such extreme proximity.

We understand that serving these populations is difficult and important work. We trust that you will take the necessary steps to ensure that your Administration can continue to do so without trampling on the rights of our residents to enjoy peace and quiet within their own homes.

Thank you for considering our concerns about this critical matter for our community and for your leadership. Please do not hesitate to contact me at philanc6a@gmail.com or our Vice-Chair, Omar Mahmud at mahmud6a01@gmail.com to discuss this matter further. We look forward to hearing from you and to working together to ensure the successful efforts to serve the District's needy populations without unnecessarily harming nearby communities.

On behalf of the Commission,



Phil Toomajian
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

Cc: Brenda Donald, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
Keith Anderson, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Laura Zeilinger, Director, Department of Human Services
Charles Allen, Councilmember Ward 6