



Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

October 29, 2021

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Councilmember Brianne Nadeau
Chair, Committee on Human Services
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 102
Washington, DC 20004
bnadeau@dccouncil.us

Ms. Laura Zeilinger
Director
Department of Human Services
64 New York Avenue NE, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20002
laura.zeilinger@dc.gov

RE: Comprehensive Changes to DC’s Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

Dear Mayor Bowser, Councilmember Nadeau, and Director Zeilinger,

At its regular meeting on October 20, 2021, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With eight of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted unanimously (**8-0-0**), after a motion made by Commissioner Omictin and seconded by Commissioner Patel, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the STAY DC program has assisted nearly 20,000 households with their rent and utility payments, both for missed payments and future expenditures,

WHEREAS, the STAY DC program has also denied nearly 10,000 applications, with most denials on the basis of missing or insufficient documentation,

WHEREAS, technical problems, as well as the inaccessibility of the application in other languages, hampered STAY DC’s success for the first few months of its rollout,

WHEREAS, the form continues to impose burdensome and time-consuming requirements on applicants, including:

- lengthy documentation requirements,
- unclear and subjective requirements for self-attestation of income, in particular for those working in the cash economy, and
- a complicated user interface that has deterred some from applying in the first place, with over 30,000 applications in draft form,



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WHEREAS, STAY DC’s federal funding has almost been exhausted, with \$55 million left in the program and a final date to apply set for October 27th, 2021,

WHEREAS, additional federal funding, collected from states that did not meet their emergency rental assistance goals, is not expected until at least February 2022,

WHEREAS, the eviction moratorium is lifting across DC, and thousands of renters may be threatened with eviction if they cannot access rental assistance money, and

WHEREAS, hundreds of eviction cases have already been filed, including some in ANC 2A, which has a significant amount of rent-controlled housing.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A strongly urges the Mayor and the DC Council to find additional monies in the absence of dedicated federal funds, for instance from the contingency reserves, to continue offering rental assistance to all who qualify until additional federal funds become available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A requests that the STAY DC portal remains open to allow tenants to apply in order to properly assess the full pandemic-related rental assistance need in DC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A strongly urges that rental assistance, provided either through STAY DC or the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP), be expanded to cover debt on loans taken out to pay rent, tenants with rental debt on units they moved away from during the pandemic, and subtenants whose landlords do not cooperate with the application process.

Commissioners Yannik Omictin (2A01@anc.dc.gov) and Jeri Epstein (2A06@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Jeri Epstein
Chairperson

CC: Wayne Turnage, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services
Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2