

Feb. 15 2017 Meeting of Idaho Ave. Shelter Advisory Committee

Co-chairs: Laura Zeilinger, Director, DHS & Nancy MacWood, Chair ANC3C

Guests: Peter Newsham, Acting Chief of Police; Brian Baker, Director, Homeland Security;

Staff: Agyei Hargrove, DGS; Phil Thomas, EOM; Ian Maggard, EOM;

Commander, District 2 MPD Melvin Gresham;

Consultants: Joe McNamara & A. Lindberg, ASG Architects; M. Moldenhauer, Washington Law;

Advisory Committee members: Pam Korbel and Ruth Caplan for CPCA; Angela Bradbury, Margaret Siegel, Jeff Davis, Deborah Linde, Ann Molinoff, Ann Scoffier.

Discussion of police function:

DC Police Chief Peter Newsham and Brian Baker, head of Homeland Security and Emergency Management for DC, met with the Advisory Committee. In their presentation and in response to questions, they made clear that there would be no impact on police operations due to the shelter. Specifically they stated that

- The District 2 police station has never been a staging area for emergency response.
- Staging areas for emergency response are created as close to the site of concern as possible.
- 1st responders are out in the field and are dispatched from the field.
- In Newsham's experience, working in many parts of the city, homeless families do not attract criminals. Also the 24-hour security that will be provided is important to the families' sense of security living in the shelter.
- Newsham has met with the District 2 police force and their concerns have to do with parking availability.

Discussion of Parking:

- Parking garage: Plans are now for a 3rd level, providing for 60-80 more parking spots to eliminate need for on-street parking and to accommodate parking for shelter employees.
 - Expected to take 8 months to construct.
 - Concern about light pollution needs to be addressed.
 - Visual impact can be lessened by adding a green wall of vines.
 - Construction cost projected to be \$8 million
- Currently an average of 69 officers use on-street parking because parking lot behind the police station is not adequate.
 - Maximum number of cars/shift was not know but will be provided.
- Temporary parking while garage is being built.
 - If parking garage is built before the shelter, there will be 50 parking spaces available on the site during construction of the garage.
 - Lot currently has 157 spaces.
 - Bozzuto has agreed to provide 30 spots for the police in the Cathedral Commons parking garage during construction of the parking garage for the police.

- Current plan is to meet additional parking requirements by creating a temporary parking lot where the tennis courts are located at the back of the Newark Street Garden.
 - Number of parking spaces this would provide is not currently known.
 - Path from Newark Street to the dog park past the toddlers' playground would be made into a temporary road for police to access the tennis court parking lot site.
 - Groundwater/stormwater studies are needed.
 - Zoning relief would be required
 - Funds have already been set aside in the capital budget for restoration of the tennis courts.
 - There is strong opposition to using tennis courts from CM Cheh and Council Chair Mendelson.
- On-street parking relief during garage construction
 - ANC can recommend denial of relief
- ANC3C is scheduled to meet on Feb. 21 to discuss zoning variances needed for shelter prior to March 1 meeting of Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) but has not seen any drawings for garage

Requests from CPCA members of Advisory Board:

- 3-dimensional models are needed in order to properly review the proposed shelter and parking garage
 - Architects agreed this would be good to have.
- March 1 date for BZA review does not give ANC3C adequate time for their review given new developments and should be postponed
 - This is highly unlikely as the Mayor wants the last 3 shelter sites to move forward together