

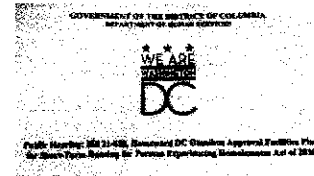


Good Faith Communities Coalition

Taking action on homelessness and affordable housing with and for the poor in the District of Columbia

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"We know from research and experience that families do better when they can navigate the crisis of homelessness in places that are beautiful and dignified, fit into the surrounding community and reflect the hope and aspirations they have for themselves and their children - which the proposed sites achieve."



Director, DC Department of Human Services, Testimony at Public Hearing on Bill 21-260, 3/17/16

Proposed sites

In the District's strategic plan to make homelessness "rare, brief and non-recurring" (*Homeward DC*), **neighborhood temporary housing for families** in all 8 wards was proposed. After completion, **DC General**, regarded as "inhumane," **would close**. **"With that said, closing DC General is not an end in itself. The closure will be positive for the affected community only if the replacement shelters are appreciably safer and more supportive environments than the current shelter."** (Washington Clinic for the Homeless).

In the goal articulated by the DHS Director in the testimony quoted above, the proposed sites and facilities will be "beautiful and dignified," "fit into the surrounding community," and will "reflect the hope and aspirations they have for themselves and their children."

Ward 5 - 2266 25th Place NE: does this site meet these criteria?

The proposed site (2266 25th Place NE) is an industrial area that includes a WMATA bus depot serving 150-300 buses, a Waste Management waste transfer station, auto body shops and other industrial facilities. The immediate neighborhood includes adult entertainment sites and at least 3 liquor stores. Train tracks separate the neighborhood from residential areas. Public transportation is limited to one bus line.

Beyond these concerns, the environmental hazards associated with the site threaten the safety and well-being of the families: diesel exhaust from buses and related particulate matter are one of the greatest sources of toxic air pollution, particularly problematic with young children. No environmental impact statement has been provided for the site.



Good Faith's response.....

Because of the environmental hazards associated with the site and the lack of alignment of the site with DHS's stated goals for neighborhood housing to replace DC General, Good Faith has joined many colleagues in the advocacy and service communities, along with Ward 5 neighbors who oppose the site out of concern for the safety and well-being of the families, to request that another site for temporary family housing be found in Ward 5.

Good Faith testimony.

Let elected officials hear from you....



Good Faith endorses the plan to situate temporary family housing in neighborhoods in all 8 Wards, but it is our position that the Ward 5 site is unsuitable for family housing for the reasons detailed above. The Mayor is moving ahead with designs for all sites. The designs will be reviewed with the communities in early April. The Council will begin voting on the contracts in mid-April.

Let the Council chairman and the Mayor know what you think! Full list of Council members and contact information here.

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten - Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

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