

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES



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November 29, 2017

**VIA FIRST CLASS U.S. MAIL and  
ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Kenyon McDuffie  
Councilmember  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Ste 506  
Washington, DC 20004

Gottlieb Simon  
Executive Director of Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions  
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Ste 8  
Washington, DC 20004

Jacqueline Manning  
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, ANC5C Chairperson  
2116 R Street NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Yolanda Odunsi  
Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner, ANC5C07  
1010 Franklin Street NE  
Washington, DC 20018

**RE: *Response to ANC concerns under D.C. Official Code Section 1-309.10 pertaining to the acquisition of a leasehold interest in real property located at 2424 Evarts Street NE by the District of Columbia Department of General Services (“DGS”)***

Dear Madams and Sirs:

I am pleased to acknowledge receipt from ANC5C (the “**Commission**”), and the greater Ward 5 community, of an email dated October 2, 2017 from Yolanda Odunsi, on behalf of the Commission (the “**Commission Email**”). The Commission Email states that it is in response to DGS’ request for the Commission’s comments and concerns regarding the District of Columbia (the “**District**”) lease agreement at 2424 Evarts Street NE for use by the District’s Department of Parks and

Recreation (“DPR”). In a notice dated August 11, 2017, DGS requested the Commission’s written comments and concerns regarding the lease by September 11, 2017, which date was subsequently extended to October 2, 2017 by a DGS notice dated August 29, 2017. We note that the comment period provided to the Commission was in excess of the 30 business days required under D.C. Official Code Section 1-309.10.

The Commission Email states “I do not and will not have any specific comments until our community has a proper presentation from DGS and DPR with a guarantee that proper measures, gathered from community input, will be put in place to make sure this new facility does not adversely impact the surrounding community.” DGS did not receive any other written response to its August 11, 2017 and August 29, 2017 notice letters. Based on the foregoing, the Commission has declined to provide any written recommendations or concerns regarding the lease which DGS can consider, give great weight to or provide a written rationale in response to.

As referenced in the Commission Email, ANC5C02 Commissioner Kevin Mullone filed a lawsuit in connection with the lease. Since the litigation was then pending, DGS and DPR declined the invitation from the Commission to attend a meeting to discuss the lease. However, in connection with the litigation, attorneys from DGS and the District’s Office of the Attorney General (“OAG”) met with Commissioner Mullone and his counsel on September 6, 2017 to discuss the lease. That discussion and the resulting communications in September of 2017 between DGS and Commissioner Mullone and his attorney, through OAG, involved responses to substantial requests by Commissioner Mullone for information and documents. The information and documents provided to Commissioner Mullone included exterior renderings; site, landscaping, green roof and lighting plans; and DPR operating information, including specific information as to the DPR vehicles to be located at the site. In addition, Commissioner Mullone requested that DPR adhere to a specific traffic flow at and around the site, which the District agreed to. After this significant communication and engagement with Commissioner Mullone in September, DGS did not receive any further questions or document requests from Commissioner Mullone.

As stated above, the Commission has declined to provide any written recommendations or concerns regarding the lease for DGS to consider or respond to. Therefore, no Commission issue or concern has been provided which would preclude DGS from leasing the real property at 2424 Evarts Street NE for DPR’s use. DPR’s use of this property will allow DPR to enhance its ability to provide critical services for District of Columbia residents and visitors. We note that the lawsuit related to this lease has now been dismissed. As DGS proceeds with this lease, DGS and DPR would be pleased to attend a Commission meeting to engage with the community regarding this lease.

*[Signature Page Follows]*

Respectfully,

District of Columbia,  
a municipal corporation, by and  
through its Department of General Services

By:  for  
Greet Johnson Gillis, PE, Director

cc: DGS Office of the General Counsel

District of Columbia Office of the Attorney General