

June 5, 2006

Mr. Robert Bobb
Deputy Mayor/City Administrator
Government of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 327
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Franklin School Shelter

Dear Mr. Bobb:

The members of the Coalition of Homeless and Housing Organizations (COHHO) are extremely concerned about the future of the 240-plus men who live in the Franklin School Shelter. It is our understanding that long-term leases have been executed for the building.

Last year, the Mayor and previous Deputy Mayor for Children, Family, Youth and Elders both committed to not displacing these 240 men until 240 replacement beds were made available in the downtown area.

The 240 (or 270, depending on the count) replacement beds are not currently available. We understand that the Office of Property Management is working to identify sites that might eventually be suitable. However, that process is difficult and will take time.

Until there are replacement beds for every person in the shelter, the men should not be displaced. They cannot be absorbed in the shelter system and they cannot be discharged to the streets.

We also express our concern about the anticipated shortage of hypothermia shelter beds in winter 2006-07, given the renovation of several large shelters that usually accommodate homeless persons during hypothermia. The closing of Franklin would only

exacerbate this shortage.

Respectfully,

Nechama Masliansky
Co-Convenor of COHHO

Cc:

Mayor Anthony A. Williams
Deputy Mayor Brenda Donald Walker
Interim Director Kate Jesberg
City Council Chair Linda W. Cropp
City Council Member Sharon Ambrose
City Council Member Marion Barry
City Council Member Kwame R. Brown
City Council Member David Catania
City Council Member Jack Evans
City Council Member Adrian Fenty
City Council Member Jim Graham
City Council Member Vincent C. Gray
City Council Member Phil Mendelson
City Council Member Vincent B. Orange, Jr.
City Council Member Kathy Patterson
City Council Member Carol Schwartz

Contact information for COHHO:
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