



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D**

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Congresswoman, District of Columbia  
United States House of Representatives  
2136 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
Mayor  
Government of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**RE: Addressing the Abandoned Properties of Foreign Missions**

Dear Congresswoman Norton, Chairman Mendelson, and Mayor Bowser,

At its regular meeting on October 16, 2017, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2D (“ANC 2D” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 2 of 2 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (2-0-0):

WHEREAS, many abandoned embassy properties throughout the city, but especially in ANC 2D, have deteriorated for years and years — often decades — with no recourse for surrounding residential neighbors,

WHEREAS, most of these properties pose serious threats to neighbors as they contain trash, overgrown weeds and plantings, and rodents, and too often become encampments or gathering places for unwelcome individuals,

WHEREAS, these properties also threaten neighbors because they contain unmonitored and neglected electrical and plumbing systems, and other hazards found in long-abandoned properties,

WHEREAS, these properties, because of their damaged and vulnerable structures, not only create eyesores, but also threaten important architectural treasures from our city’s history, as well as neighborhood housing values,

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of State has been slow to act when it comes to effectively addressing the serious quality of life problems posed by abandoned embassy property to DC residential neighborhoods,

WHEREAS, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton has called for public attention to this problem and has requested a meeting with Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to discuss these concerns and to provide more accountability, and

WHEREAS, DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson has introduced legislation that calls for the city to create and maintain a list or inventory of abandoned foreign mission property.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2D commends the efforts of Congresswoman Norton and Chairman Mendelson and urges them to continue to demand accountability and significant progress on the matter of abandoned foreign mission property in the District of Columbia so that all residents can enjoy our U.S. Capital City, where foreign missions live up to the same standards required of all property owners in the District of Columbia — and as they are required to do in other major world capitals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2D asks that Mayor Muriel Bowser use the power of her office to appoint a special official to work on behalf of our neighborhoods to press the U.S. Department of State to remember that foreign missions exist in DC residential neighborhoods and to demand that they meet the highest standards for their properties.

Commissioners David Bender ([2D01@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2D01@anc.dc.gov)) and Ellen Goldstein ([2D02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2D02@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David R Bender". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

David Bender  
Chair