Ms. Marnique Heath  
Chair, Historic Preservation Review Board  
1100 4th Street, SW, Suite E650  
Washington, DC 20024

Re: 215 G St. NE/Logan School (HPA 19-271)

Dear Ms. Heath:

On July 10, 2019, at a duly noticed and regularly scheduled monthly meeting, with a quorum of six out of six commissioners and the public present, this case came before ANC 6C. The commissioners voted 6-0 to oppose the application, and to authorize Commissioner Mark Eckenwiler (6C04) to present testimony.

ANC 6C believes that this concept application, as presented to us, fails to meet the minimum standards for depiction of the proposed work. The drawings we reviewed—dated July 2, as presented to our Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development (PZE) Committee—showed the street-facing facades at such a compressed scale as to make it impossible to adequately assess the impact of the materials, cladding, and other design details. The applicant provided no sample materials to the PZE that would have mitigated these concerns.

We are troubled by the slipshod approach to other aspects of the project. Most obviously, sheets 78-83 show clearly conflicting plans for the placement and orientation of outdoor trash and recycling containers. Likewise, the drawings offer no indication of the plans (if any) for screening these features from view from the public right of way.

These esthetic concerns are not merely speculative. For the most recent DGS/DCPS school renovation and expansion project in ANC 6C—Stuart-Hobson Middle School at 410 E St. NE—the planning and design for trash and recycling storage were given similarly short shrift at the end of the process. The result: an improperly designed enclosure with too-tight dimensions, resulting in damage so severe to the promised gate enclosure that it was damaged beyond repair in less than four years and had to be removed entirely. The view currently presented to the public street, and to neighbors on the opposite side, is seen below.
ANC 6C strongly recommends that the applicant be required to place trash and recycling storage inside the facility. Doing so makes sense not only from a sanitation perspective (reducing vermin, etc.) but also in order to preserve the streetscape in the Historic District from further degradation. Approving the current application, with its ill-considered, unrealistic, and inconsistent plans for this essential institutional function, would be a mistake.

Thank you for giving great weight to the views of ANC 6C.

Sincerely,

Karen Wirt
Chair, ANC 6C