



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D

Resolution in Support of Designating 2000 Rosemount Avenue NW as a Historic Property

Introduced March 19, 2024

DRAFT

Whereas: The House of Mercy/Rosemount Center, designed in the Mission/Spanish Colonial Revival Style, stands at 2000 Rosemount Avenue NW and overlooks Rock Creek Park from a ridge on the eastern slope of the Rock Creek Valley. This contributing structure to the Mount Pleasant Historic District, occupying Lot 811 in Square 2618, played a vital role in the local community for over 100 years.

Whereas: The DC Preservation League and House of Mercy seek to designate the building as an historic landmark, arguing that the property meets key criteria of a) being associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and b) the property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction and represents the work of a master and possesses high artistic values and c) its association with historical periods, social movements and patterns of growth that contributed to the heritage and development of the District.

Whereas: The building's designer, Nathan Wyeth, is known as a master architect and one of the most influential architect's of Washington, DC's landscape, including contributions to the congressional office buildings, the Tidal Basin, the original Oval Office of the President, and the Key Bridge. The architect created a distinctive, landmark structure combining the institution's needs and its natural surroundings, and the application notes that the property's uniquely secluded sanctuary landscape is closely tied to its vital social support role, and it's Mission Style, offers a homelike warmth to an institutional building.

Whereas: The applications highlights that the institution has evolved over time, detailing how the House of Mercy mission evolved amidst a local lack of daycare facilities, especially in the Mount Pleasant and Adams Morgan neighborhoods, and large numbers of low-income Spanish-speaking immigrants began settling in these neighborhoods in the 1960s and 1970s. Young mothers were severely challenged to care for their newborns and toddlers while needing to hold

down fulltime jobs to earn a living. In response the House of Mercy closed in early 1972, reopening later that year as the Rosemount Infant Day Care Center. The Center, which was alternately known as El Centro Rosemount, developed a bilingual program. It was the first bilingual infant daycare center in the Washington area and for the last fifty years has provided unique bilingual early childhood education and family support services to pregnant women, infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children and their families, focusing its efforts on the neediest of District residents.

Be it resolved that: ANC 1D supports the historic landmark designation of the structure at 2000 Rosemount Avenue NW, also known as the House of Mercy/Rosemount Center, as presented by the DC Preservation League and House of Mercy.

Be it further resolved that: The Commission designates Commissioners Erika Nunez, ANC 1D03, and Omar Parbhoo, ANC 1D05, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

Be it further resolved that: In the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this resolution.

Be it further resolved that: Consistent with DC Code, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

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Certification: At a regularly scheduled and publicly noticed meeting held on March 19, 2024 Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1D considered the above resolution. With a quorum of xx Commissioners present, the Commission voted with xx yea's, xx no's, and xx abstentions to adopt the above resolution.