

# Second EMERGENCY Open Letter to Brianne Nadeau from Ward One & Adams Morgan Neighbors

March 2, 2022

Dear Councilmember Nadeau,

We wrote our first open letter to you over 5 months ago on September 21, 2021; you neither acknowledged receipt nor ever responded. We are writing this second open letter as an emergency and respectfully ask that you address these serious and time sensitive issues being raised by your voting constituents.

Adams Morgan Plaza is again under attack, as are the people who regularly use it and even several who reside there. We would like you to intervene in a real way, starting if possible by answering these questions with solutions that we hope to help you act on right away:

**1. Unhoused resident safety:** On the morning of Saturday, February 26, 2022, Truist-hired security guards harassed and stole belongings of the last remaining longterm Plaza residents. We have confirmed they were kicked off the Plaza and their tents, sleeping gear, computer gear, phones, and other valuable belongings were absconded into the bank building. Truist representatives have yet to return these items. We need your intervention right away and are willing to share the contact information and testimonies of our unhoused residents so you may be in contact with them directly to help here. There are currently four Plaza residents still without housing vouchers as confirmed with Miriam's Kitchen staff, who can no longer safely access the Plaza.

**2. No unilateral approvals from SMD Commissioner:** Today, March 2, 2022, for the third time in several months, and again without warning, Truist-hired security and contractors attempted to fence off our Adams Morgan Plaza despite ongoing litigation about the 1976 easement granting perpetual public use of this space. ANC Commissioner Peter Wood gave them permission to do so without informing the full ANC Commission and without informing his affected constituents (email copy in DCRA records). Additionally, Truist violated the terms of the approval by deviating from multiple stipulations, including the schedule sequences and hours they were permitted to work on site. ***Were you aware that Truist would plow ahead with their latest incursion onto the public easement at the Adams Morgan Plaza, and, if so, why didn't you inform affected constituents including those unhoused residents still at the Plaza?***

**3. No Truist fencing until Court decision:** ***We ask you to intervene now and stop any further attempts to fence off the Plaza until DC's highest Court has heard the Appeal*** (scheduled for hearing on March 17, 2022) and has made a final decision about the fate of this important site.

**4. Invest in Ward 1 community services and legacy:** Lastly, given the deeply rooted history of the Plaza, its critically central location and very real possibility for it to be renewed as a valuable public resource (such as a local cyber library, senior center, job training center, Adams Morgan historical archives, etc.), ***we are asking you to use this budget season when the city is swimming in extra reserves to call on the District to spend the \$10M dollars to acquire the rights to redevelop the site with a public-interest focus that keeps the Plaza open and available for our continued community-use.*** This one swift move will eliminate the controversy and move us all forward in a way that is beneficial to all parties. We ask for any feedback about this as soon as possible.

Signed,

***Adams Morgan for Reasonable Development & Affected Neighbors***

1. Kristin Adair Mintwood Pl NW 20009
  2. Valerie Begley Harvard St NW 20009
  3. Eric Blodnikar Ontario Road NW 20009
  4. Vikram Chiruvolu Belmont Rd NW 20009
  5. Will Duggan 18th Street NW 20009
  6. Kelly Higgins Columbia Rd NW 20009
  7. Regenia H. Ingram, 20009
  8. Charles Koppelman-Milstein Columbia Rd NW 20009
  9. William Ley Euclid St. NW 20009
  10. Cesar Maxit Belmont Rd NW 20009
  11. Chris Otten Champlain Street NW 20009
  12. Joel Reynolds Columbia RD NW 20009
  13. M. Sanders Crescent Place NW 20009
  14. Yasha Shulkin Adams Mill Rd NW 20009
  15. Emily Spilman Columbia Rd NW 20009
  16. Jackie T. Columbia Rd NW 20009
  17. Irene Thomas Belmont Road NW 20009
  18. Tara Vassefi 20th Street NW 20009
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<Copy of First EMERGENCY Open Letter to Briand Nadeau from Ward One & Adams Morgan Neighbors>

## **Adams Morgan for Reasonable Development**

[admo4rd@gmail.com](mailto:admo4rd@gmail.com) || [@admoplaza](https://twitter.com/admoplaza) || [fb.me/admo4rd](https://fb.me/admo4rd)

**[ADAMSMORGANPLAZA.COM](https://www.adamsmorganplaza.com)**

Ward One Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 102, NW Washington, DC 20004

[bnadeau@dccouncil.us](mailto:bnadeau@dccouncil.us)

September 21, 2021

**Dear Councilmember Nadeau,**

There is a public emergency and humanitarian crisis mounting in Ward One at the Adams Morgan Plaza. Upon consideration of the circumstances we know the city can do much more than has been done to date. This is an open public letter requesting you:

- 1. Immediately inform Truist to stop threatening the safety and liberty of our Ward One unhoused neighbors** living at the Adams Morgan Plaza by writing an open public letter to Truist demanding they stop any attempt to displace our neighbors and stop any threat of fencing up the plaza. If they won't respond to this letter or respond negatively, we ask you seek for the city to divest all funds from and close all accounts with Truist because it has reneged on its agreement with the community to engage in anti-racist behavior and to preserve our public space at 18<sup>th</sup> and Columbia Road NW.
- 2. To ask Mayor Bowser to intervene now and ask the Dept. of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to immediately revoke the premature fence permit that**

was issued without taking account of the pending Court of Appeals case and safety of our neighbors.

**3. To demand the Mayor and responsible city agencies immediately put up the resources necessary to fully serve -- with longterm housing and social & health services -- our neighbors living at the plaza, and that no forced displacement of our neighbors happen at all.**

**4. To protect the plaza for open community-use and enjoyment until the Courts have made final determinations** regarding the existence of a public easement at the plaza and has since in good faith since 1977.

**5. To work with the community and city to find the resources needed to purchase the property at 18th and Columbia Road, NW,** to ensure this critical corner of our community is revived and renewed and remains in our control for continued public needs and enjoyment in perpetuity.

*Context for the above demands:*

- The Plaza has been used by the community since 1977 and we continue to use and enjoy it now. There is an active Court case about the longstanding public easement at the plaza and this pending legal question shows that any attempt to displace our neighbors from the plaza is premature and demonstrates an unnecessary show of force by a greedy bank with a very notorious past including racist redlining and a penchant to fund right-wing agendas. You must intervene with help from the Mayor, to hold Truist to account immediately.
- The admitted fact that in six months the city, and you as our Councilmember with direct access to the levers of power, have not been able to fully serve our Ward One unhoused neighbors is shocking. DC is a wealthy city that regularly and quickly hands out tax gifts for projects like hotels and stadiums but yet can't seem to timely marshal the resources needed to help an acute group of real people with real human needs. We want longterm solutions with permanent housing and social services for our Plaza friends and neighbors, not for them to moved around and stressed out. We also want to understand why this system is so broken so we can help you fix it now.

We ask for a public open response to this letter as written on behalf of the Adams Morgan for Reasonable Development team and supporters.\*

Respectfully and urgently,

***Vikram C., Kristin A., Cesar M. Carol M., Chris O., Zach S., Sandra R., Irene T., Tara V., Eric B. and the rest of the Adams Morgan Plaza team, with support of many Ward One and District residents***

\* Adams Morgan for Reasonable Development submits for your attention the 575 signatures below (in addition to the 675 we've already sent to you last year) that we have received who have signed onto the Save Our Plaza petition since the DC Courts recently made rulings, including the stunning move to overturn the existing injunction stopping the raze of our plaza.

**PETITION STATEMENT TO SAVE OUR PLAZA**

**AT 18TH STREET AND COLUMBIA ROAD NW:**

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*Petitioners call upon all District officials to vigorously defend the public easement and pedestrian plaza at the intersection at 18th Street and Columbia Road, NW.*

*We want it improved, yet remain a central community gathering space and plaza serving the residents of Adams Morgan and all visitors.*

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**AS SIGNED:**

1. TERRY T. 20009
2. CHARLES T. 20009
3. CHRIS O. 20009
4. GRACE M. 20017
5. DAVID M. 20009
6. CHRISTIAN A. 20009
7. ZACH S. 20009
8. WILL D. 20009

9. CELESTE C. 20009
10. KAITLIN M. 20009
11. VIVIAN C. 20010
12. KIMBERLY K. 20009
13. ANDREW N. 20009
14. KELLY G. 20009
15. TARA V. 20009
16. ERIC B. 20009
17. LYNSEY J. 20011
18. DEBBI 20009
19. CHARLES T. 20009
20. VIVIAN C. 20010
21. SANDRA R. 20009
22. A. TIANNA S. 20009
23. CAROL M. 20009
24. ELIAS B. 20009
25. WILL D. 20009
26. CHLOE K. 20009
27. ERIKA N. 20009
28. GREGORIAH H. 20008
29. CHARLOTTE R. 20001
30. AVAK K. 20003
31. TYKEE J. 20010
32. KATRIN W. 20016
33. SETON T. 20010
34. TESTY T. 20009-1502
35. CECILIA M. 20010
36. BARBARA H. 20009-5140
37. ANDREA E. 20009
38. GABRIELLA M. 20009
39. MICHAEL K. 20815
40. JENNIFER P. 21093
41. ANITA L. 20010
42. GREGORY C. 20009
43. SYLVIA C. 20009
44. PAIGE R. 20009
45. MONA S. 20009
46. JULIE B. 20009
47. KEITH M. 20009
48. EVA G. 20009
49. HELEN A. 20009
50. MICHAEL S. 20009
51. AUTUMN C. 20009

52. CAROL M. 20009
53. AMY S. 20009
54. STEVEN S. 20009
55. JENNIFER M. 20009
56. JOHN Z. 20009
57. REGENIA I. 20010
58. TIMOTHY J. 20009
59. MIYA F. 20010
60. BELINDA M. 20009
61. CHARLIE G. 20009
62. EDGAR W. 20009-5407
63. MORGAN B. 20009
64. CHELSEA R. 20010
65. ANDREA F. 20180
66. BARBARA B. 20009-3615
67. LYNDA G. 20009
68. MIA C. 20010
69. JUSTIN B. 20009
70. JOE S. 20009
71. SANDRA R. 20009
72. MARGARET (MEG) S. 20009
73. TODD S. 20009
74. DEBBI B. 20009
75. STEVEN S. 20602
76. MARSHA G. 20015
77. IVAN M. 20009
78. ZACHARY B. 20009
79. BROOKE B. 20009
80. MICHAEL T. 20009
81. AMANDA G. 20008
82. ERIKA P.
83. IRENE T. 20009
84. MEGAN H. 20009
85. NICHOLAS H. 20009
86. CAROLINE G. 20009
87. CADEN G. 20009
88. JULIAN R. 20009
89. LILY H. 20064
90. CHRISTINA M. 20853
91. AMARRA D. 20009
92. KATIE H. 20009
93. ALEX F. 20009
94. JESSICA N. 20009

95. WENDY S. 22302
96. KIM L. 20002
97. SHANI S. 20001
98. MADELINE F. 20009
99. LINDA S. 20009
100. GABRIELLA M. 20009
101. RACHEL U. 20003
102. BETH F. 20001
103. BRENDAN F. 20011
104. AMY L. 20011
105. KEITH P. 20011
106. QUYNH N. 22181
107. MONA S. 20009
108. HEATHER J. 20009
109. DAVID H. 20009
110. NANCY S. 20009
111. KELLI H. 20009
112. ALEXANDRA K. 20009
113. NICOLE P. 20009
114. SOPHIE W. 20009
115. SARAH H. 20009
116. MARIANNE D. 20009
117. MARK H. 20009
118. KARMEN F. 20009
119. COREY S. 20009
120. HEATHER W. 20009
121. JOE V. 20009
122. CATHLEEN G. 20009
123. KYLE C. 20009
124. MOLLY K. 20010
125. ANNIE R. 20009
126. IRINA S. 20009
127. GRACE D. 20009
128. JACQUELINE B. 20009
129. SARA B. 20009
130. LIZ M. 20009
131. ARTHUR S. 20009
132. ETTA K. 20009
133. ROBIN S. 20009
134. KAITLIN B. 20009
135. SUSAN J J. 20009
136. MAX E. 20009
137. ANTHONY S.



138. SUSAN D. 20009
139. PAMELA D. 20009
140. CYRUS T. 20009
141. LIDA S. 20009
142. GAIL L. 20009
143. MANAL A. J. 20009
144. EMILY F. 20009
145. MARIE-LAURE P. 20009
146. CHARLENE M. 20009-2907
147. CAMILA S. 20010
148. JAMES S. 20009
149. EMMA I. 20010
150. LISA C. 20009
151. CARMEN R. 20009
152. AMANDA H. 20009
153. MARIEL J. 20009
154. ANDREW G. 20009
155. SCOTT S. 20009
156. SARA M. 20009
157. ESTHER Y. 20009
158. TAWANDA T. 20008
159. THOMAS A. 20036
160. ELIJAH G. 20010
161. CHARLOTTE L. 20009
162. TAYLOR S. 20009
163. LINDA E. 20010
164. LISA R. 20009
165. JAMES B. 20010
166. EKATERINA M. 20010
167. CAROLINA O. 20009
168. OLIVIA T. 20009
169. JILLIAN C. 20009
170. BEVERLY S. 20009
171. SARAH C. 20009
172. MASHIYAT A. 20036
173. ANGELA E. 20008
174. DIANE M. 20001
175. LINDSEY S. 20009
176. CHARLES M. 20009
177. SAMANTHA S. 20008
178. AMY D. 20008
179. FRAN D. 20010
180. FRAN D. 20010

181. AMANDA H. 20009
182. PHIL C. 20009
183. DOREA R. 20001
184. SAM P. 20010
185. DANIELLE P. 20009
186. ALEXANDRA C M. 20009
187. LAURA G. 20009
188. VEDRAN L. 20009
189. SHANDA N. 20009
190. THOMAS B. 20009
191. LINDA B. 20007
192. NADIA Y. 20009
193. CECILE B. 20010
194. RABI H. 20010
195. MARK D. 20009
196. KARIN F. 20009
197. THERESE V. 20011
198. LISA C. 20011
199. JON B. 20009
200. KATHARINE M. 20008
201. SUZANNE P. 20009
202. SYDNEY W. 20005
203. KAREN P. 20009
204. MAURITA N. 20010
205. AMANDA Z. 20009
206. KIM D. 20009-1242
207. MEGAN M. 20009
208. JOANNE K. 17104
209. JESSICA H. 20007
210. NEHA M. 20036
211. ERIN C. 20009
212. TAQUIENA B. 20008
213. JOANNE M. 95662
214. CERIANN P. 20010
215. AMANDA S. 20009
216. Virginia J. 20009
217. KATHERINE E. 20009
218. WENDY L. 20009
219. RYAN D. 20009
220. IAN C. 20009
221. GRANT W. 20016
222. SOPHIA C.M. 20008

