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No vacant property tax for the Deauville

Resolved, ANC 1D advises the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to exempt 3145 Mount Pleasant Street, NW, the apartment building formerly known as the Deauville, from the vacant building registration requirements of the D.C. Official Code 42-3131, and to specifically remove it and exempt it from the vacant building lists compiled pursuant to the D.C. Official Code 42-3131.16 and 42-3131.16a.

Why: Because the building was the site of the largest fire in DC memory, and negotiations for conveying the building to the former residents are just now being completed, the surcharge does not serve the intent of the law to discourage owners from holding land vacant for speculation.

Indeed, in this case the surcharge goes against public policy, and the explicit intent of the Mayor and DC Council to transfer buildings to the ownership of residents.

The large extra expense of the surcharge could disrupt an already fragile financial package. That could leave the building as a blight suppressing the recovery of the Mt Pleasant commercial corridor.

Worse, it could result in leaving the former residents without affordable housing, and notably lessening the stock of affordable housing in Mt Pleasant and DC.

Passed by 4 to 0 vote at the legally noticed, public meeting of ANCID on November 16, 2010, with a quorum present. Voting "yes": Commissioners Bosserman, McKay, Edwards, Scott.