COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
FISCAL YEAR 2016 COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT

TO: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia

FROM: Councilmember Anita Bonds
Chairperson, Committee on Housing and Community Development

DATE: May 13, 2015

SUBJECT: Report and Recommendations of the Committee on Housing and Community Development on the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget for Agencies Under its Purview

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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The Committee on Housing and Community Development ("Committee"), having conducted hearings and received testimony on Mayor Muriel Bowser's proposed operating and capital budgets for Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 for the agencies under its purview, reports its recommendations for review and consideration by the Committee of the Whole. The Committee also comments on several sections in the FY 2016 Budget Support Act of 2015, as proposed by the Mayor, and recommends new subtitles.

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I. SUMMARY

A. FISCAL YEAR 2016 AGENCY OPERATING BUDGET BY FUND TYPE (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**
AP0 - OFFICE ON ASIAN/PACIFIC AFFAIRS					
Total Fund	942,644	834,597	0	834,597	-11.46%
100 LOCAL FUND	942,644	834,597	0	834,597	-11.46%
GROSS FUNDS	**942,644**	**834,597**	**0**	**834,597**	**-11.46%**
BY0 - OFFICE ON AGING					
Total Fund	43,267,960	40,912,881	200,000	41,112,881	-4.98%
100 LOCAL FUND	32,973,923	31,069,065	200,000	31,269,065	-5.17%
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	7,735,719	7,814,808	0	7,814,808	1.02%
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	2,558,318	2,029,008	0	2,029,008	-20.69%
GROSS FUNDS	**43,267,960**	**40,912,881**	**200,000**	**41,112,881**	**-4.98%**
BZ0 - OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS					
Total Fund	2,968,722	3,177,308	0	3,177,308	7.03%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,768,722	2,781,733	0	2,781,733	0.47%
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	200,000	395,575	0	395,575	97.79%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,968,722**	**3,177,308**	**0**	**3,177,308**	**7.03%**
DB0 - DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT					
Total Fund	196,865,672	285,404,844	-195,969	285,208,875	44.87%
100 LOCAL FUND	15,125,092	12,694,801	-75,405	12,619,396	-16.57%
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	41,354,298	47,056,722	0	47,056,722	13.79%
600 SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS	6,500,002	2,046,441	0	2,046,441	-68.52%
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	133,886,280	223,606,880	-119,000	223,487,880	66.92%
GROSS FUNDS	**196,865,672**	**285,404,844**	**-195,969**	**570,417,750**	**189.75%**
DX0 - ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS					
Total Fund	924,012	926,617	0	926,617	0.28%
100 LOCAL FUND	924,012	926,617	0	926,617	0.28%
GROSS FUNDS	**924,012**	**926,617**	**0**	**926,617**	**0.28%**
HF0 - HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY					
Total Fund	9,661,513	10,798,000	0	10,798,000	11.76%
620 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS - O TYPES	9,661,513	10,798,000	0	10,798,000	11.76%
GROSS FUNDS	**9,661,513**	**10,798,000**	**0**	**10,798,000**	**11.76%**
HP0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (SUBSIDY)					
Total Fund	45,963,276	50,179,389	0	50,179,389	9.17%

	100 LOCAL FUND	45,963,276	50,179,389	0	50,179,389	*9.17%*
	GROSS FUNDS	**45,963,276**	**50,179,389**	**0**	**50,179,389**	***9.17%***
	HY0 - HOUSING AUTHORITY SUBSIDY					
	Total Fund	45,963,276	52,077,704	647,579	52,725,283	*14.71%*
	100 LOCAL FUND	45,963,276	52,077,704	647,579	52,725,283	*14.71%*
	GROSS FUNDS	**45,963,276**	**52,077,704**	**647,579**	**52,725,283**	***14.71%***
	UZ0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND					
	Total Fund	40,421,811	100,000,000	0	100,000,000	*147.39%*
	610 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS-DEDICATED TAX	40,421,811	49,820,611	0	49,820,611	*23.25%*
	620 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS - O TYPES	0	50,179,389	0	50,179,389	*/0*
	GROSS FUNDS	**40,421,811**	**100,000,000**	**0**	**100,000,000**	***147.39%***
	VA0 - OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
	Total Fund	415,591	418,963	0	418,963	*0.81%*
	100 LOCAL FUND	410,591	413,963	0	413,963	*0.82%*
	600 SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	*0.00%*
	GROSS FUNDS	**415,591**	**418,963**	**0**	**418,963**	***0.81%***

B. Fiscal Year 2016 Agency Full-Time Equivalent Table

	FY 2015 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund--	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100--Local Funds	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**
AP0 - OFFICE ON ASIAN/PACIFIC AFFAIRS					
Total Fund--	6.00	6.00	0	6.00	0.00%
100--Local Funds	6.00	6.00	0	6.00	0.00%
GROSS FTES	**6.00**	**6.00**	**0**	**6.00**	**0.00%**
BY0 - OFFICE ON AGING					
Total Fund--	63.00	61.00	0	61.00	-3.17%
100--Local Funds	33.00	34.00	0	34.00	3.03%
200--Federal Grant Fund	10.00	10.00	0	10.00	0.00%
700--Intra-District Funds	20.00	17.00	0	17.00	-15.00%
GROSS FTES	**63.00**	**61.00**	**0**	**61.00**	**-3.17%**
BZ0 - OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS					
Total Fund--	10.00	10.00	0	10.00	0.00%
100--Local Funds	10.00	10.00	0	10.00	0.00%
GROSS FTES	**10.00**	**10.00**	**0**	**10.00**	**0.00%**
DB0 - DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT					
Total Fund--	159.00	171.00	-1.00	170.00	6.92%
100--Local Funds	35.00	48.00	-1.00	47.00	34.29%
200--Federal Grant Fund	77.50	48.00	0.00	48.00	-38.06%
600--Special Purpose Revenue Funds	16.00	0	0.00	0	-100.00%
700--Intra-District Funds	30.50	75.00	0.00	75.00	145.90%
GROSS FTES	**159.00**	**171.00**	**-1.00**	**170.00**	**6.92%**
DX0 - ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS					
Total Fund--	2.50	2.50	0	2.50	0.00%
100--Local Funds	2.50	2.50	0	2.50	0.00%
GROSS FTES	**2.50**	**2.50**	**0**	**2.50**	**0.00%**
VA0 - OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Total Fund--	4.00	4.00	0	4.00	0.00%
100--Local Funds	4.00	4.00	0	4.00	0.00%
GROSS FTES	**4.00**	**4.00**	**0**	**4.00**	**0.00%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

C. Summary Of Committee Budget Recommendations

Office of African American Affairs (AA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of African American Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of African American Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes that the Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) has connected with between 500 and 1000 residents via phone and email in its beginning stages, and that the director has also attended ANC and other community meetings to learn about community issues and how to integrate them into the agency's agenda. The Committee recommends that OAAA more precisely track the numbers of individuals with whom it connects, and that it develop additional useful data points to collect as part of its performance measures.

- The Committee urges OAAA to complete and share the report "The State of Black D.C.: Pathways to the Middle Class" with the Committee before the end of FY 2015.

- The Committee recommends that OAAA make available additional information about the institutional relationship between OAAA and the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Development.

Office of African Affairs (AA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of African Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of African Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee has no policy recommendations for the Office of African Affairs.

OFFICE ON WOMEN'S POLICY AND INITIATIVES (AA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI) to prioritize its ongoing efforts to build partnerships with organizations such as the District Alliance for Safe Housing, to determine ways the District government can address the related issues of domestic violence and homelessness of women and families. The Committee also requests that MOWPI follow up with the Committee on its progress on these issues as soon as possible.

- The Committee recommends MOWPI to explore more ways that it could support other District government agencies' efforts to deliver services to women residents whom those initiatives have not yet reached.

- The Committee recommends that MOWPI develop more sophisticated performance measures to determine the effectiveness of its activities. MOWPI has indicated that it will prioritize the collection of contact and Ward information for residents who attend MOWPI-sponsored events in the future.

- The Committee encourages MOWPI to reach out to other District government agencies to assess the possibility and potential benefits of having points of contact for MOWPI within other agencies.

OFFICE OF GLBT AFFAIRS (AA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends OGLBTA to track statistics measuring the number of LGBTQ residents in the District who face homelessness and other related barriers to financial stability, self-efficacy, and attaining the respect

due to them as human beings, and to put the agency's budget into effect according to the level of these needs in the city.

- The Committee recommends OGLBTA update the Committee regularly on the availability of and demand for homeless shelters serving LGBT seniors facing isolation as a result of their sexual orientation.

YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (AA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the DC Youth Advisory Council, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The DC Youth Advisory Council has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends that DCYAC keep the Committee informed of any further payments necessary for separation pay not falling under any allotment for which funds were specifically appropriated.

- The Committee recommends that DCYAC keep the Committee informed on the progress of the Youth Ambassador program, and to see that the Youth Ambassadors' duties and activities are not duplicative of those for the Youth Council.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS (AA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of Religious Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee urges MORA to continue its support of the "housing first" approach to homeless assistance during FY 2016.

- The Committee recommends MORA to continue developing additional performance measures that reflect the results of MORA's outreach efforts, not only with respect to the number of volunteers and organizations engaging with residents, but also with respect to the number of residents engaged and issues resolved as a result of MORA's assistance. The Committee also encourages

MORA to determine how it might measure the approximate number of affordable housing units that are created as a result of MORA's engagement on such projects.

- The Committee recommends MORA to work with the Mayor on identifying candidates for future appointments to the Mayor's Interfaith Council that would reflect more diversity among represented faiths.

OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (AA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes the need of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs to have an activity code for the purpose of budget transparency and accessibility to funds. As such, the Committee accepts and receives the transfer of $75,405 to MACCCA from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to the newly established line item of the Office of Caribbean Community Affairs (Activity Code 5010).

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of Caribbean Community Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends the creation of a separate line item for Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs (MACCCA) in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY16 as the Office of Caribbean Community Affairs (Activity Code 5010). As it stands, any funds allocated to MACCCA are placed in MOCA's budget under "Community Relations and Services" along with other expenses. Providing a separate line item would promote transparency and accessibility to funds. Additionally, a separate line item would provide guidance to MACCCA on best practices, while allowing the Committee to hold the Commission more accountable.

- In addition to the creation of a separate line item, the Committee accepts and receives the transfer of $75,405, from the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Committee accepts this transfer with a strong consideration toward the Senior Caribbean population in D.C. In addition to using funds to establish the Commission's infrastructure, the transferred funds should be used to implement housing for the Senior Caribbean population of D.C. The Committee expects to be kept abreast of Commission initiatives, and to be updated on how the Commission plans to use these funds.

OFFICE OF ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER AFFAIRS (AP0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee urges OAPIA to provide a transparent account as soon as possible to CBOs and, more importantly, concerned victims of domestic violence, of how the agency will maintain its level of support in FY 2016 despite such a substantial cut to funding dedicated specifically to domestic violence support.

- The Committee recommends that OAPIA update the Committee on which languages its office supports for language access services, and which FTEs are proficient in those languages.

- The Committee requests that OAPIA keep the Committee informed on the progress of OAPIA's linguistically appropriate mental health provider database for AAPI residents.

- The Committee requests that OAPIA keep the Committee informed on the performance of its affordable housing programs, like Museum Square, Chinatown.

OFFICE ON AGING (BY0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes a transfer of $200,000 from the Committee on Health and Human Services to the D.C. Office on Aging, Activity 9325-In-Home Continuing Care and CSG 50-Subsidies and Transfers to provide more meals to seniors through their Home-Meal Delivery program. Currently, the D.C. Office on Aging is no longer taking applications for the home-meal delivery program due to the fact that they are operating at maximum capacity.

Capital Budget Recommendation

- The D.C. Office on Aging has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee strongly urges that DCOA adopt a system of quarterly reports on the services provided by their sub-grantees. The Committee strongly hopes that these new reporting measures will provide clarity as to the frequency in which

Seabury vehicles are being utilized, in addition to mass services produced by other sub-grantees and contractors.

- The Committee recommends that DCOA consider alternative service delivery models to its present system. The Committee is concerned that, while DCOA may operate under a philosophy that best prepares them to handle current demand, the current model may be unable to handle the impending surge in future demand that will likely outpace available allocations.

- The Committee urges DCOA to track the number of individuals who are seniors and receiving service by the ADRC versus the numbers of individuals who are 18-59 with a disability and receiving services by the ADRC.

- Based on the assessment of the Inspector General concerning Washington Senior Wellness Center, there are a total of only 12 parking spaces available for the entire Senior Center. The Committee recommends that DCOA consider solutions that will allow the Wellness Center to operate at its full capacity.

- The Committee encourages DCOA to keep it informed of any discussions as to which Senior Wellness Centers should offer extended hours. The Committee is highly interested in weighing in on factors that are considered.

- The Committee is highly interested in any key performance indicators that compare the cost and effectiveness of the Seabury Transport and Seabury Connector.

- The Committee intends to request an audit from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor to investigate the transportation and food distribution programs to ensure heightened transparency and oversight, as well as the efficient expenditure of government funds. During audits, ODCA requires access to agency records, files and other information to complete the audit effectively. The Committee will continue to provide comprehensive oversight to ensure the residents of the District receive the services they need and deserve, and to hold the Executive offices to the highest standards of accountability.

OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS (BZ0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office on Latino Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office on Latino Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee has no policy recommendations for the Office on Latino Affairs.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (DB0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes the importance of transparency and commitment to successful programs, and recommends that Activity 3010-Neighborhood Based Activities, CSG 50-Subsidies and Transfers be reduced by $3 million, and that this amount be transferred to a newly established line item Activity 3015-Small Business Technical Assistance.

- The Committee reduces FTE authority by $75,404 at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as follows:

    - Rental Accommodations, Contact Representative: $75,404

  The Committee recognizes the need for the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs to have an activity code for the purpose of budget transparency and accessibility to funds. Therefore, the Committee newly establishes a line item Activity 5010-Office on Caribbean Community Affairs under the Office of the Mayor's (EOM) Office of Community Affairs, and that same funding is transferred to Activity 5010- Office on Caribbean Community Affairs. The focus of the Commission is addressing the various disparities associated with health, education, housing affordability and homelessness experienced by members of the Caribbean community.

- The Committee reduces the Program 2000-Development Finance Division, Activity 2010-Affordable Housing Project Financing by $119,000 to send to the Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs to restore funding to the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) in the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA). This program is fundamental to the well-being of District tenants – particularly tenants who live in areas where poor housing conditions are more prevalent – by providing emergency housing to tenants who have been temporarily displaced from their homes usually due to a government closure or fire.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee applauds the progress that Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has made in working expeditiously to fill

vacancies at the senior management level. The Committee recognizes that capable housing experts are essential to move DHCD forward. Therefore, the Committee urges the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to continue this work to hire the competent and talented individuals, particularly in those divisions concerned with underwriting and loan processing. The Committee will continue to monitor the vacancy levels to ensure that all the essential positions are filled.

- Every year the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is released, the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) balance appears to be alarmingly high due to this difference in accounting techniques. Despite the large number of projects underway in the pipeline, this difference results in a sense of public mistrust in the agency's ability to spend the taxpayers' dollars in an effective and efficient manner. The Committee urges DHCD to work with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) to bridge the gap in reporting encumbrances of housing pipeline projects between the accounting software SOAR and DHCD's internal tracking system.

- The Committee recommends that DHCD conduct bimonthly reviews of the legacy/inherited projects in the pipeline to make a determination of their viability. The Committee also urges DHCD to henceforth, conduct a review on a quarterly basis to reevaluate the feasibility of any longstanding project that is 18 months or older.

- The Committee recommends that DHCD explore whether increasing the number of Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) issuances from the current annual system to quarterly in order to increase participation and provide more flexibility to developers that apply for government financing of affordable housing projects. The Committee will actively communicate with DHCD to ensure that project proposals that are accepted through the NOFA process will meet the statutory requirements for HPTF, and that the units produced will help to address the affordable housing crisis in the District.

- The Committee urges DHCD to review, streamline, and improve the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP), so that with the cooperation of practitioners, DHCD will be able to achieve a realistically less cumbersome process of applying for HPAP assistance. The goal of the review is to help low and moderate income individuals and families of the District to become first-time homebuyers by reducing both the number of forms and of days (120) it takes to process an HPAP application. Furthermore, the Committee requests a monthly status update on steps taken and improvements realized through the initiatives to meet the goal of accelerating the processing of HPAP loan applications.

- The Committee requests that DHCD provide a date for when the agency intends to increase the maximum loan amount of $80,000. The Committee also recommends that DHCD examines the restructuring of loan repayments for those

with less income and higher loan amounts, possibly to a structure where the repayment of the loan would come due at the time of sale, or by dividing the loan payments based on a length of time rather than current structure of 100 interest-free payments (*i.e.* $80,000 assistance would be due over a period of 15 years).

- The Committee recommends that DHCD continue its close monitoring of the demands of Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program (SFRRP), so that despite any increases in applicants, the agency would be better able to process and award the loans to qualified recipients within 120 days. Further, the Committee requests a monthly status update on expanded outreach and revised implementation procedures.

- The Committee recommends that DHCD regularly inform the Committee an updated list of government-owned vacant properties and the status thereof. DHCD is requested, in the second and fourth quarter of every fiscal year, to provide the Committee with a list of the government-owned vacant properties and a list of units slated to be used for affordable housing projects.

- The Committee urges DHCD to generate and maintain a list of candidates eligible for Affordable Dwelling Units (ADUs) in development projects The agency should use this list to direct the interested parties to the developers to jumpstart the process of obtaining an ADU. By redirecting the registration of eligible candidates to DHCD, away from the confusion that frequently exists with private developers, eligible candidates will have greater access to and additional options for locating ADUs citywide.

- With regards to the work of the Rental Housing Commission, the Committee applauds them for its efforts thus far to reduce its long backlog of cases, and further expects to see continued progress on this front. The Committee recommends the Commission work to complete a standard operating procedures manual that the Commission will follow, predicated on the regulations and the interpretation of the law, so that more cases are resolved quickly and consistently. The residents and providers of housing accommodations under rent control deserve no less.

- The Committee urges the Rental Housing Commission to consult extensively with a variety of stakeholders inclusive of the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA), the Rental Accommodations Division (RAD) at DHCD, Legal Aid of the District of Columbia, and the University Legal Services (ULS),representatives of housing providers and other relevant tenant advocate non-profits before regulations are promulgated, in order to help ensure that their initial promulgation results in the regulations being as close as possible to the final product.

- The Committee recommends that the Rental Housing Commission draft a comprehensive manual describing the procedures for administrative adjudication

of disputes under the Rental Housing Act by the end of the calendar year 2015.

- The Committee therefore urges the Rental Housing Commission to expedite its efforts to promulgate a single, comprehensive rulemaking regarding 14 DCMR §§ 3800-4400 (2004) to address legislative amendments to the Rental Housing of 1985 and other related laws, to be completed by the end of FY 2015.

- With the near universal expansion of the internet, and with the availability of internet access at many public libraries and other government facilities, the District government should be consistently moving to make more and more of its activities available for online public review. The Committee therefore urges the Commission to make Rental Housing Commission decisions and orders available to the general public via the DHCD website.

- The Committee recommends DHCD to explore options for federal funds (including Community Block Development Grant funds) to provide funding for workforce training programs located within government facilities.

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS (DX0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office on Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of the ANC has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends the Executive Director participates in coordinated efforts to review present ANC policies, and work with the Committee to implement changes that can maximize the expansiveness and effectiveness of the OANC in its support of the Commissioners and their work in the neighborhoods.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY (HF0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Housing Finance Agency, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends Housing Finance Agency (HFA) to expand its marketing efforts by identifying additional avenues, as advertisement on television and radio, which would provide information to District residents about HFA programs, including partnering with large employers and the District government to provide information to their employees.

- The Committee recommends HFA to accelerate its efforts to develop a small multifamily loan product that addresses the need to help "mom and pop" owners or smaller investors in buildings of 1-50 unit that are older and in need of repair.

- The Committee recommends HFA to work with in partnership with its sister agencies to raise their priority for creating loan products that will help to increase the development of permanent supportive housing for the homeless.

- The Committee recommends HFA to expand its efforts to create more limited equity co-op opportunities available to residents of the District.

- The Committee recommends HFA to identify methods to increase homeownership across the District of Columbia, especially in Wards 7 and 8.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY SUBSIDY (HY0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes a transfer of $647,579 from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment to the District of Columbia Housing Authority Subsidy, new Program Code 3000-Local Rent Supplement Program and CSG 50-Subsidies and Transfers, for the Targeted Affordable Housing program as proposed by the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness. This program shall be designed to meet the needs of individuals who no longer need the intensive wraparound services of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) but still need a housing subsidy to afford rent and for individuals who don't succeed in Rapid Re-Housing, but also don't need PSH.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The District of Columbia Housing Authority Subsidy has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee advises District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) to collaborate with its sister agencies and foundations to help public housing residents achieve financial self-sufficiency through on-site programs, and combat homelessness in the District.

- The Committee recommends the Housing Authority Subsidy budget be restructured to include the amount District subsidizes for rental assistance, public safety, and Local Rent Supplement programs. The budget chapter for the Housing Authority Subsidy lacks sufficient detail to make it accessible and transparent to indicate what is to be spent on each program.

- The Committee strongly recommends a continued increase in funding to both tenant and project/sponsor based vouchers in FY 2016, as well as FY 2017, to meet the pressing needs of the District's most vulnerable residents.

- The Committee recommends DHCD to explore establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the District of Columbia Housing Authority for small repairs of public housing units in FY 2016 to accomplish the goal of preservation. A detailed action plan will need to be submitted to DHCD and the Committee prior to the disbursement of any funds.

- The Committee recommends that DCHA provide quarterly status updates on each of the New Communities sites. The Committee will closely monitor each of the phases at each site, and will work with DCHA, DMPED, and the residents to ensure the process remains transparent and fair, as the agencies are anticipated to undergo start of Phase 1 construction at Barry Farms, the release of a new development plan for Park Morton, the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Northwest One, as well as the renovations at Lincoln Heights to stop gap the erosion of units until full modernization can take place.

- The Committee intends to request an audit from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor to investigate the administration and operation of the Housing Authority Subsidy to ensure heightened transparency and oversight, as well as the efficient expenditure of government funds. During audits, ODCA requires access to agency records, files and other information to complete the audit effectively. The Committee will continue to provide comprehensive oversight to ensure the residents of the District receive the services they need and deserve, and to hold the Executive offices to the highest standards of accountability.

- The Committee makes an unfunded recommendation for the District of Columbia Housing Authority to seek a transfer of $1,652,421 dollars for targeted affordable housing, meeting the total goal of $2.3 Million dollars, which will provide housing opportunities for an estimated 188 residents who make earn 30% or below of the average median income for the District.

- The Committee makes an unfunded recommendation for the District of Columbia Housing Authority to seek a transfer of $5,000,000 dollars, to be added to the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP), to fund approximately 330 additional

tenant-based vouchers for families who are currently on the waiting list, and have been for several years.

HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (UZ0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Housing Production Trust Fund, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Housing Production Trust Fund has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee urges DHCD to file annual HPTF reports in a timely manner.

- The Committee strongly urges DHCD to ensure that HPTF remains compliant with statute and 40/40/20 rule: 40% on the 0-30% AMI level; 40% on the 31-50% AMI level; and 20% on the 51-80% AMI level.

- The Committee intends to request an audit from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor to investigate the administration and operation of HPTF to ensure heightened transparency and oversight, as well as the efficient expenditure of government funds. During audits, ODCA requires access to agency records, files and other information to complete the audit effectively. The Committee will continue to provide comprehensive oversight to ensure the residents of the District receive the services they need and deserve, and to hold the Executive offices to highest standards of accountability.

HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND SUBSIDY (HP0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Housing Production Trust Fund Subsidy, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Housing Production Trust Fund Subsidy has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends that DHCD conduct an audit of all HPTF spending in order to minimize administrative costs, and thereby build more affordable housing.

OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA0)

Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of Veterans Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of Veterans Affairs has no associated capital funds.

Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends a re-structuring of the Furniture Donation program that will provide Veterans with quality pieces of furniture. Additionally, the Committee recommends that OVA make efforts to see if this program can be paired with any federal programs that provide complimentary services to Veterans.

- The Committee recommends that OVA establish a plan to use a percentage of the proceeds from the "Proud Veterans License Plate" Program for veteran services that would provide assistance to low-income veterans. The Committee will follow up with the agency on these plans.

- The Committee will closely monitor the implementation of this New Claims Division and expects the Office to update the Committee on any progress made in this program's establishment.

II. AGENCY FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

A. INTRODUCTION

The Committee on Housing and Community Development is responsible for matters relating to development, maintenance, preservation, and regulation of the housing stock, including rental housing; and neighborhood development, improvement, stabilization, and urban affairs; matters regarding Advisory Neighborhood Commissions; Latino, African, and Asian and Pacific Islander affairs; gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender affairs; issues related to women; and veterans affairs; and the concerns of the aging.

Committee Chair Anita Bonds began her tenure as Committee Chairperson at the beginning of Council Period 21. She is joined on the Committee by Councilmembers Vincent Orange, Elissa Silverman, and Brianne Nadeau. The Committee has continued to monitor agency performance and expenditures in an effort to increase transparency and improve efficiency throughout government.

The Committee held budget oversight hearings to solicit public input on the proposed budgets for the agencies under its purview on the following dates:

April 15, 2015	Housing Finance Agency; District of Columbia Housing Authority
April 20, 2015	Department of Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015	Office of Religious Affairs/Interfaith Council; Office on Aging; Advisory Neighborhood Commissions; Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives
May 6, 2015	Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs; Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs; Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs; Office of Latino Affairs; Office on African Affairs; Office on African American Affairs; Office of Veteran Affairs; Youth Advisory Council

The Committee received important comments from members of the public during these budget oversight roundtables. Copies of witness testimony are included in this report as *Attachments A, B, C, and D*. A video recording of the hearings can be obtained through the Office of Cable Television or at *oct.dc.gov*. The Committee welcomes public input on the agencies and activities within its purview.

B. Office of African American Affairs (AA0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100 LOCAL FUND	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Personal Services (PS)	**2,395,178**	**2,135,242**	**0**	**2,135,242**	**-10.85%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	1,893,589	1,738,334	0	1,738,334	-8.20%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	0	61,300	0	61,300	/0
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	501,589	335,608	0	335,608	-33.09%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**218,150**	**232,750**	**75,405**	**308,155**	**41.26%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	29,300	32,000	0	32,000	9.22%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	77,600	89,500	0	89,500	15.34%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	106,250	106,250	75,405	181,655	70.97%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS					
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
Total Program	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
5001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES	1,146,243	931,298		931,298	-18.75%
5002 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS	125,800	123,439		123,439	-1.88%
5004 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS	379,634	366,815		366,815	-3.38%
5005 - COMMISSION ON WOMEN	412,584	392,458		392,458	-4.88%
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS	203,039	209,275		209,275	3.07%
5007 - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,188	187,727		187,727	-2.83%
5009 - OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	152,839	156,979		156,979	2.71%
5010 - OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			75,405	75,405	/0
GROSS FUNDS	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

Created in FY 2015,[1] the Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) is the MOCA agency tasked with ensuring that the District's African American residents have access to District government services. OAAA also advises the District government on public policy to ensure that African American district residents can take part in and enjoy the city's rapid economic growth and change, rather than being exiled by economic pressures.

OAAA has the largest constituency of any MOCA agency. According to OAAA, approximately 340,000 of the District's population identify as African American, or roughly 50%. However, as the District's African American population has decreased from about 70% in 1990, the office remains motivated to see that African American residents are included in the city's growth.

OAAA's staff currently consists solely of the director. The agency also works in conjunction with the Commission on African American Affairs, which assists with outreach and provides information on community needs and issues.

[1] http://washingtoninformer.com/news/2015/feb/06/branch-head-dc-office-african-american-affairs.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget for OAAA is $123,439, a decrease of $2,361 or 1.9% from FY 2015. The FTE level of 1.0 in FY 2016 reflects no change from FY 2015. The FY 2016 appropriation the Mayor proposes for OAAA is entirely local funds, and includes no special purpose revenue, federal funds, or intra-District funds.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Initial Outreach Successes: OAAA has connected with between 500 and 1000 residents via phone and email in its beginning stages, according to the director.[2] The director has also attended several ANC and other community association meetings to learn about community issues and how to integrate them into the agency's agenda.[3]

Priorities for FY 2016: Because OAAA was created in FY 2015, its programming is still in the planning stage. The director's initial priorities for the OAAA in FY 2016 are to address affordable housing, education, and economic development.[4] The agency is working with the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Small and Local Business Development to determine ways to more comprehensively connect the African American population to affordable housing and business development services.[5] On housing, the agency is developing educational materials for African American home buyers on how to be fiscally healthy.[6] On education, the director will use his contacts in DC Public Schools that he developed during his tenure as Ballou High School Principal in order to improve government strategies for connecting with and addressing the needs of young people.[7]

"State of Black DC": In FY 2015, OAAA will compile a publication entitled "The State of Black DC: Pathways to the Middle Class."[8] According to the agency, the information in this publication will assist agencies and the council in developing policies that serve African American residents' needs in particular, and will outline the current profile of African Americans in Washington, DC for the development of methods to "engaging this population in a more strategic and collaborative way."[9] The publication

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[2] *Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of Rahman Branch, Director, Office on African American Affairs).
[3] *Id.*
[4] *OAAA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* 3 (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Rahman Branch, Director, OAAA).
[5] *Supra* note 2.
[6] *Id.*
[7] *Id.*
[8] *Supra* note 4.
[9] *Id.*

will present data and analysis, and conclude with policy and program recommendations.[10] The Brookings Institute and a combination of District agencies will provide funding for the project.[11]

Purview of Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Development: OAAA's director reports that the agency falls under the purview of the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity, which will provide continuing support to OAAA.[12]

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office of African American Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of African American Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of African American Affairs has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes that OAAA has connected with between 500 and 1000 residents via phone and email in its beginning stages, and that the director has also attended ANC and other community meetings to learn about community issues and how to integrate them into the agency's agenda. The Committee recommends that OAAA more precisely track the numbers of individuals with whom it connects, and that it develop additional useful data points to collect as part of its performance measures. The Committee would appreciate continued follow-ups from OAAA as the new agency develops its performance measures.

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[10] *Id.*

[11] *Supra* note 2.

[12] *OAAA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016* (May 6, 2015) (Question #12 from the submitted responses of Rahman Branch, Director, Office of African American Affairs).

- The Committee urges OAAA to complete and share the report "The State of Black D.C.: Pathways to the Middle Class" with the Committee before the end of FY 2015.

- The Committee recommends that OAAA make available additional information about the institutional relationship between OAAA and the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Development.

C. Office of African Affairs (AA0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100 LOCAL FUND	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Personal Services (PS)	**2,395,178**	**2,135,242**	**0**	**2,135,242**	**-10.85%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	1,893,589	1,738,334	0	1,738,334	-8.20%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	0	61,300	0	61,300	/0
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	501,589	335,608	0	335,608	-33.09%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**218,150**	**232,750**	**75,405**	**308,155**	**41.26%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	29,300	32,000	0	32,000	9.22%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	77,600	89,500	0	89,500	15.34%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	106,250	106,250	75,405	181,655	70.97%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Program	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
5001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES	1,146,243	931,298		931,298	-18.75%
5002 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS	125,800	123,439		123,439	-1.88%
5004 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS	379,634	366,815		366,815	-3.38%
5005 - COMMISSION ON WOMEN	412,584	392,458		392,458	-4.88%
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS	203,039	209,275		209,275	3.07%
5007 - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,188	187,727		187,727	-2.83%
5009 - OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	152,839	156,979		156,979	2.71%
5010 - OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			75,405	75,405	/0
GROSS FUNDS	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The mission of the District of Columbia Office on African Affairs (OAA) is to ensure that the people of one of the nation's largest African immigrant communities receive the full range of health, education, employment, social services, and economic development services and opportunities that are accessible to the District's African community.[1] The Office also participates in grant funding, and offering services to residents that range the entire continent, with emphasis on several West African and East African nations[2] that account for three quarters of the African immigrant population in the District.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 operating budget for the Office of African Affairs is $366,815 a decrease of $12,819 or 3.43% percent of the FY 2015 approved budget of $378,634. The proposed budget supports 3.0 FTEs, which represents no

[1] Mamadou Samba, *About OAA*, available at http://oaa.dc.gov/page/background-oaa.

[2] The ten largest African immigrant populations in D.C. are as follows: Ethiopia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Liberia, Somalia, Guinea, Sudan, and Eritrea. *See* OAA, *Facts on the District's African Community*, *available at* http://oaa.dc.gov/page/facts-district%E2%80%99s-african-community

change from FY 2015. The Mayor's proposed budget is comprised entirely of local funds.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Personnel: OAA has a staff of 3.0 FTEs. The decrease of $12,819 here reflects an adjustment of fringe benefits. In addition to the 3 FTEs, OAA utilizes 5 interns in a variety of tasks, both research-based and administrative.[3] The Committee will follow up with the Director's consideration[4] of an intern program for those that receive agency help with resumes and cover letters, as a bridge to full-time employment for recent immigrants.

OAA has recently filled the vacancy with an Outreach Liaison.[5] This FTE was awarded to OAA in the FY 2015 Budget Request Act.[6] Under this legislation, OAA would receive a "translator to assist French speakers in accessing government services".[7] The Committee has received some concerns regarding if this hire complies with statutory requirement. As such, the Committee will follow-up with OAA to address any community concerns and to ensure that this FTE is used in the allotted capacity.

Sub-grants: In the FY 2014 Budget Support Act, OAA was extended grant-making authority.[8] OAA continues to see a strong level of production from sub-grantees. The Office annually allots $100,000 to provide eight community grants in the areas of economic development; health and human services; youth engagement; and the promotion of African arts & culture.[9] With grants that are all competitively bid, OAA has seen a return on investment. The agency's grant funds have been used to help 11,000 African District residents in fiscal year 2014, and an increase of 15% is expected for fiscal year 2015.[10]

Agency Accomplishments: The Office of African Affairs has continued to be successful in its outreach efforts consistently seeing impressive participation at their key programs. OAA launched a "Team Africa" health campaign that reached over 1000 residents over the course of several events.[11] The agency produced its second annual business symposium in collaboration with business resource providers and several

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[3] *See Office of African Affairs: FY 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of Mamadou Samba, Director of Office on African Affairs).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *See* OAA's Answer to Committee Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight General Question #4.

[6] FY 2015 Budget Request Act of 2014- Bill. 20-749.

[7] *Id.*

[8] *See Office of African Affairs: FY 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Mamadou Samba, Director of Office on African Affairs).

[9] *See Office of African Affairs: FY 2015 Performance Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (February 8, 2015) (written testimony of Mamadou Samba, Director of Office on African Affairs).

[10] *Supra* note 3.

[11] *See* OAA's Answer to Committee Fiscal Year 2014 Performance Oversight Question #17.

African embassies that achieved the involvement of over 300 local businesses.[12] Furthermore, OAA's DC Africa Heritage Celebration had over 700 residents in attendance.[13]

The Committee recognizes the foresight of OAA to encourage grantee recipients to collaborate, and recommends the Director to continue efforts to maximize government funds.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office of African Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of African Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of African Affairs has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee has no policy recommendations for the Office of African Affairs.

[12] *Id.*
[13] *Id.*

D. Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives (AA0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100 LOCAL FUND	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Personal Services (PS)	**2,395,178**	**2,135,242**	**0**	**2,135,242**	**-10.85%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	1,893,589	1,738,334	0	1,738,334	-8.20%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	0	61,300	0	61,300	/0
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	501,589	335,608	0	335,608	-33.09%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**218,150**	**232,750**	**75,405**	**308,155**	**41.26%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	29,300	32,000	0	32,000	9.22%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	77,600	89,500	0	89,500	15.34%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	106,250	106,250	75,405	181,655	70.97%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	*% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget*
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Program	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	*-6.50%*
5001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES	1,146,243	931,298		931,298	*-18.75%*
5002 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS	125,800	123,439		123,439	*-1.88%*
5004 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS	379,634	366,815		366,815	*-3.38%*
5005 - COMMISSION ON WOMEN	412,584	392,458		392,458	*-4.88%*
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS	203,039	209,275		209,275	*3.07%*
5007 - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,188	187,727		187,727	*-2.83%*
5009 - OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	152,839	156,979		156,979	*2.71%*
5010 - OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			75,405	75,405	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	***-6.50%***

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI) is the MOCA agency tasked with assisting the District government in "address[ing] the unique challenges faced by the women of Washington, DC."[1] The agency's goal is to "enhanc[e] the quality of life for all women and their families within the District of Columbia."[2] MOWPI accomplishes this by working in conjunction with the DC Commission for Women to serve as a liaison between the public and private sectors and the Executive Office of the Mayor, and by staying informed of local women's issues, concerns and proposals, to present these ideas to the Mayor and other officials.

MOWPI is led by the Director,[3] who is assisted by two policy analysts and a communications assistant.[4] The agency also works in conjunction with the Commission

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[1] *Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI) Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* 2 (April 23, 2015) (written testimony of Kimberley A. Bassett, Director, Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives).

[2] *Supra* note 1.

[3] *MOWPI Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 18, 2015) (Organizational Chart attachment to the submitted responses of Kimberley A. Bassett, Director, MOWPI).

[4] *MOWPI Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016* (April 23, 2015) (FTE Chart attachment to the submitted responses of Kimberley A. Bassett, Director, MOWPI).

on Women, an advisory body composed of 21 commissioners appointed by the Mayor.[5] The Commission on Women assists MOWPI with outreach, assessment of priorities, and research.[6]

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget for MOWPI[7] is $392,458, a decrease of $20,126 from FY 2015, or 5.1%. The FTE level of 4.0 in FY 2016 reflects no change from FY 2015. The FY 2016 operating budget for MOWPI is entirely local funds, and includes no special purpose revenue, federal funds, or intra-District funds.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Staff Vacancy: MOWPI indicated in its written responses to the Committee's budget oversight questions that a large portion of its FY 2015 budget remains unspent because of staff vacancies.[8] Those responses indicated that one position, Communications Assistant, was still vacant as of April 23, 2015.[9] MOWPI expects to fill that position before the end of FY 2015.[10]

Decrease in Salaries and Fringe Benefits: MOWPI reports that the $20,000 decrease in the Mayor's FY 2016 proposed budget for the agency compared to FY 2015 reflects a decrease in salaries and fringe benefits, and this decrease will not affect MOWPI's ability to maintain and expand its outreach and engagement activities in FY 2016.[11]

Housing and Domestic Violence: MOWPI is engaged in ongoing efforts to build partnerships with organizations such as the District Alliance for Safe Housing, to determine ways the District government can address the related issues of domestic violence and homelessness of women and families. The Committee takes notice of statistics from the National Network to End Domestic Violence showing that 63% of homeless women in the United States have experienced domestic violence at some point in their lives.[12] The Committee acknowledges that the Director of MOWPI has assured

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[6] http://owpi.dc.gov/page/dc-commission-women

[7] MOWPI's budget is listed under the heading "Commission on Women" in the chapter for the Executive Office of the Mayor in the Mayor's FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan.

[8] *MOWPI: Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 23, 2015)* (Question #14 from the submitted responses of Kimberley A. Bassett, Director, MOWPI).

[9] *Id.* (FTE Chart attachment).

[10] *Id.* at question #14.

[11] *Id.* at question #15.

[12] National Network to End Domestic Violence. 2007. "Domestic Violence Counts: A 24-hour census of domestic violence shelters and services across the United States." Washington, DC: National Network to End Domestic Violence.

the Committee that homelessness and domestic violence initiatives will be on the agency's agenda for FY 2016 and beyond, and that MOWPI will be equipped to follow up with the Committee on its progress on these issues in the coming months.[13]

Agency Accomplishments: In 2014 and 2015, MOWPI held the first and second annual Women of Washington in Excellence Awards,[14] where women of the District were recognized for their achievements.[15] MOWPI also hosted a policy conference in October 2014 in which elected officials discussed policy issues affecting women in particular.[16]

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives has no associated capital budget.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends MOWPI to prioritize its ongoing efforts to build partnerships with organizations such as the District Alliance for Safe Housing, to determine ways the District government can address the related issues of domestic violence and homelessness of women and families. The Committee also requests

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[13] *MOWPI: Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (April 23, 2015) (oral testimony of Kimberley A. Bassett, Director, Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives).

[14] *Id.*

[15] *MOWPI: Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 18, 2015) (Question #14 from the submitted responses of Kimberley A. Bassett, Director, Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives).

[16] *Id.*

that MOWPI follow up with the Committee on its progress on these issues as soon as possible.

- The Committee recommends MOWPI to explore ways that it could support other District government agencies' efforts to deliver services to women residents whom those initiatives have not yet reached. While the Committee appreciates the value of the educational events, policy conferences, and award ceremonies MOWPI has sponsored; the Committee believes that MOWPI could make an impact in facilitating direct service delivery, where the service addresses a women's issue or helps to reach underserved women.

- The Committee recommends that MOWPI develop more sophisticated performance measures to determine the effectiveness of its activities. MOWPI has indicated that it will prioritize the collection of contact and Ward information for residents who attend MOWPI-sponsored events in the future. The Committee encourages this effort, and wishes to see further performance measures that track MOWPI's success in connecting residents with government and social services.

- The Committee encourages MOWPI to reach out to other District government agencies to assess the possibility and potential benefits of having points of contact for MOWPI within other agencies. For example, MOWPI should consider a discussion with District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) about the feasibility of establishing multiple points of contact in the DCPS central office and across the school system. These points of contact should serve as liaisons that connect young women and girls in DCPS schools to services and events in the District catering to their particular needs or interests.

E. Office of GLBT Affairs (AA0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100 LOCAL FUND	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Personal Services (PS)	**2,395,178**	**2,135,242**	**0**	**2,135,242**	**-10.85%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	1,893,589	1,738,334	0	1,738,334	-8.20%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	0	61,300	0	61,300	/0
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	501,589	335,608	0	335,608	-33.09%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**218,150**	**232,750**	**75,405**	**308,155**	**41.26%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	29,300	32,000	0	32,000	9.22%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	77,600	89,500	0	89,500	15.34%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	106,250	106,250	75,405	181,655	70.97%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Program	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
5001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES	1,146,243	931,298		931,298	-18.75%
5002 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS	125,800	123,439		123,439	-1.88%
5004 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS	379,634	366,815		366,815	-3.38%
5005 - COMMISSION ON WOMEN	412,584	392,458		392,458	-4.88%
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS	203,039	209,275		209,275	3.07%
5007 - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,188	187,727		187,727	-2.83%
5009 - OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	152,839	156,979		156,979	2.71%
5010 - OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			75,405	75,405	/0
GROSS FUNDS	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs (OGLBTA) is the MOCA agency tasked with connecting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning (LGBTQ) residents, both as individuals and as a larger community, to government services, programs, and community engagement. OGLBTA also advocates to the District government on behalf of the LGBTQ community, to foster understanding, fellowship, and conscious policies.

OGLBTA has a large constituency: the District of Columbia has one of the highest local LGBTQ populations in the United States, with LGBTQ residents comprising 7-10% of the city's population.[1]

OGLBTA's staff consists of its director and a deputy director.[2] The agency also works in conjunction with the GLBT Advisory Committee, a group of residents appointed by the mayor to assist OGLBTA with outreach and assessing LGBTQ community needs.[3]

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[1] http://glbt.dc.gov/page/glbt-advisory-committee.

[2] *Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs (OGLBTA) Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 18, 2015) (Question #1 from the submitted responses of Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, OGLBTA).

[3] http://glbt.dc.gov/page/glbt-advisory-committee.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget for OGLBTA is $209,275, an increase of $6,236 from FY 2015, or 3.1%. The FTE level of 2.0 in FY 2016 reflects no change from FY 2015. The FY 2016 operating budget for OGLBTA is composed of entirely local funds, and includes no special purpose revenue, federal funds, or intra-District funds.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Telephone/Telegraph Expenditure: Documents provided by the Agency Fiscal Officer (AFO) for OLGBTA indicate that in FY2015 the agency expended $2,968, under the heading "Telephone, Telegraph," for which no funds were specifically budgeted. This expenditure was associated with the cost of office and phone line relocation for OGLBTA[4] which, according to OGLBTA's director, achieved a more convenient and effective location for the agency's office.[5]

OGLBTA FY 2015 Budget Allotments and Expenditures as of April 23, 2015

	CSG	Comptroller Source Group Title	Appropriation Budget	Current AY Expenditure	Intra-District Advances
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS					
0100 LOCAL FUND					
PERSONNEL SERVICES	0011	REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	$155,762	$74,083	$0
	0013	ADDITIONAL GROSS PAY	$0	$37,711	$0
	0014	FRINGE BENEFITS	$41,277	$15,399	$0
PERSONNEL SERVICES			$197,039	$127,192	$0
NON-PERSONNEL SERVICES	0020	SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	$2,000	$0	$0
	0031	TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, TELEGRAI	$0	$0	$2,968
	0040	OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	$4,000	$760	$0
NON-PERSONNEL SERVICES			$6,000	$760	$2,968
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS			$203,039	$127,952	$2,968

Source: MOCA Agency Fiscal Officer

Miscellaneous Personnel Expenditure: Documents provided by the AFO for OLGBTA indicate that in FY2015 the agency expended $37,000 for "Additional Gross Pay," for which no funds were specifically budgeted. This expenditure was an end of service payout for two employees who separated from the agency as part of the most recent transition between mayoral administrations, and thus appears under the heading "Additional Gross Pay."[6]

Increasing Success of Outreach and Intake: OBLGTA's director emphasizes that the frequency and number of its contacts within the District's LGBTQ community

[4] Information produced by Agency Fiscal Officer (AFO).
[5] *OGLBTA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* 3 (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, OGLBTA).
[6] Information produced by AFO.

are increasing.[7] OGLBTA's database of contacts reflects that in FY 2015, the agency made 3,000 contacts with LGBTQ residents and the agency also reports that 20-30 individuals have visited its office seeking information or services.[8] The agency also held an open house attended by 400 residents.[9]

Housing Specialist: The LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Act mandates that OGLBTA have a housing specialist within the agency.[10] OGLBTA has finalized its selection process and plans to fill this position in FY 2016.[11] The Department of Human Services (DHS) plans to fund this housing specialist via a $106,000 memorandum of understanding with OGLBTA.[12] The housing specialist's responsibilities will include ensuring that the expected additional $106,000 in grants funded by DHS are distributed appropriately to organizations that serve homeless LGBTQ youth.[13] The specialist will also sit on the Interagency Council on Homelessness on behalf of OGLBTA, and will bring expertise in the areas of housing, and youth and anti-bullying initiatives.[14]

Homeless Youth: OGLBTA's director stated that roughly 30% of homeless young people in the country are LGBTQ individuals.[15] The Committee recognizes the difficulties faced by LGBTQ young people who disproportionately experience homelessness, depression, other mental illnesses, and unemployment due to prejudice and rejection from those who misunderstand LGBTQ identities – often including close family members. The Committee accordingly recommends OGLBTA to track statistics measuring the number of LGBTQ residents in the District who face homelessness and other related barriers to financial stability, self-efficacy, and attaining the respect due to them as human beings, and to put the agency's budget into effect according to the level of these needs in the city.

Homeless Seniors: OGLBTA reports that it is currently working with agencies overseeing homeless shelters for LGBT seniors facing isolation as a result of their sexual orientation.[16] The Committee asks that OGLBTA keep the Committee informed on the availability of and demand for such shelters.

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[7] *Supra* note 5.
[8] *Id.*
[9] *Id.*
[10] D.C. Act 20-288 (February 28, 2014).
[11] *OGLBTA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016* (February 18, 2015) (Question #16 from the submitted responses of Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, OGLBTA).
[12] *Id.*
[13] *OGLBTA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* 4 (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, OGLBTA).
[14] *Id.*
[15] *Id.*
[16] *Supra* note 13.

Agency Accomplishments: OGLBTA is working with the Department of Health (DOH) to distribute an LGBTQ health survey[17] which, unlike previous surveys tracking health indicators in the District, will afford participants the option to indicate whether they identify as transgender.[18] Additionally, OGLBTA is also working with the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to give competency training on understanding and interacting with transgender individuals,[19] as well as participating in the "Stop Transgender Murders" campaign with the National LGBTQ task force.[20]

With respect to housing, OGLBTA has assisted with the opening of homeless shelter for LGBTQ youth, and has partnered with local shelters serving LGBTQ seniors.[21] OGLBTA also continually conducts LGBTQ competence training for District government employees twice per month.[22] OGLBTA reports that it has trained 10,000 employees, which amounts to roughly one-third of the District government workforce,[23] although such training is currently only required of agencies under the Mayor's authority.[24]

Agency Name Change: At the request of the Mayor's office, the Committee is recommending a name change for the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs to the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning (LGBTQ) Affairs. This change in the name of the office will bring the office's name in line with the community's current preferred and most commonly used verbiage, and will be contained in the FY 2016 Budget Support Act. The evolution from the preferred and common use of GLBT to LGBTQ by members of the community progressed to highlight the important role of lesbians in the community and to be inclusive to community members who are questioning their sexual orientation.

Priorities for FY 2016: As discussed above, housing the District's homeless LGBTQ population will take a higher priority for OGLBTA in FY 2016. This increase in focus on the issue will coincide with the filling of the housing specialist position in FY 2016, and that specialist's implementation of the requirements of the LGBTQ Homeless Youth Reform Act. Another OGLBTA priority for FY 2016 will be assisting LGBTQ individuals in seeking employment opportunities, recognizing that the LGBTQ

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[17] *OGLBTA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 18, 2015) (Question #18 from the submitted responses of Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, OGLBTA).
[18] *Supra* note 5.
[19] *Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* 3 (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs).
[20] *Id.*
[21] *OGLBTA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 18, 2015) (Question #31 from the submitted responses of Sheila Alexander-Reid, Director, OGLBTA).
[22] *Id.* at Question #31.
[23] *Id.* at Question #35.
[24] *Id.*

community – and the transgender community in particular[25] – is disproportionately under-employed.[26] Finally, OGLBTA will place an increased emphasis on accessibility to its office in FY 2016.[27] The agency's office has moved to a location one block from the U Street/African American Civil War Memorial metro station, which makes the office more accessible to more of the District's LGBTQ population, and to the offices of organizations that serve that community, than it had been in its previous location in the John A. Wilson Building.[28]

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs has no associated capital budget.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends OGLBTA to track statistics measuring the number of LGBTQ residents in the District who face homelessness and other related barriers to financial stability, self-efficacy, and attaining the respect due to them as human beings, and to put the agency's budget into effect according to the level of these needs in the city.

- The Committee asks that OGLBTA keep the Committee informed on the availability of and demand for homeless shelters serving LGBT seniors facing isolation as a result of their sexual orientation.

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[25] *Supra* note 17.
[26] *Supra* note 5.
[27] *Supra* note 17.
[28] *Id.*

F. YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL (AA0)

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS FTES

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100 LOCAL FUND	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**

OPERATING BUDGET BY CSG GROSS FUNDS

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Personal Services (PS)	**2,395,178**	**2,135,242**	**0**	**2,135,242**	**-10.85%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	1,893,589	1,738,334	0	1,738,334	-8.20%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	0	61,300	0	61,300	/0
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	501,589	335,608	0	335,608	-33.09%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**218,150**	**232,750**	**75,405**	**308,155**	**41.26%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	29,300	32,000	0	32,000	9.22%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	77,600	89,500	0	89,500	15.34%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	106,250	106,250	75,405	181,655	70.97%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Program	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	*-6.50%*
5001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES	1,146,243	931,298		931,298	*-18.75%*
5002 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS	125,800	123,439		123,439	*-1.88%*
5004 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS	379,634	366,815		366,815	*-3.38%*
5005 - COMMISSION ON WOMEN	412,584	392,458		392,458	*-4.88%*
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS	203,039	209,275		209,275	*3.07%*
5007 - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,188	187,727		187,727	*-2.83%*
5009 - OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	152,839	156,979		156,979	*2.71%*
5010 - OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			75,405	75,405	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	***-6.50%***

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The DC Youth Advisory Council (DCYAC) is the MOCA agency tasked with "provid[ing] an organized youth perspective regarding various issues to the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, District of Columbia Public Schools, public charter schools, key decision makers in the District of Columbia government, officials and community leaders."[1] DCYAC's professional staff consists of its Director, and two staff assistants.[2] The agency's professional staff works with the group of volunteer youth who comprise the council.[3] These volunteers must be between the ages of 13 and 22, and are selected based on their interest in community service and government, their ability to articulate issues in their wards, and their ability to engage with a diverse range of people, among other useful skills.[4]

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[1] http://dcyac.dc.gov/page/dcyac-program-overview.

[2] *DC Youth Advisory Council (DCYAC) Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 18, 2015) (Question #2 from the submitted responses of Dionne Burkett, Director, DCYAC).

[3] *Supra* note 1.

[4] *Id.*

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget for DCYAC is $187,727, a decrease of $5,461 from FY 2015, or 2.8%. The FTE level of 3.0 in FY 2016 reflects no change from FY 2015. The proposed FY 2016 operating budget is entirely local, and includes no special purpose revenue, federal funds, or intra-District funds.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Staff Vacancy: DCYAC's director reports that one of the agency's two staff assistants recently left the agency, and the director expects to fill this position before the end of FY 2015.[5]

Unused Non-Personnel Services Budget: DCYAC was budgeted a total of $10,000 for non-personnel services in FY 2015 ($5,000 for supplies and materials, and $5,000 for other services and charges).[6] DCYAC has not yet expended these funds,[7] but the agency reports that it plans to exhaust these funds during FY 2015 for workshops for the Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP), other workshops and community events, and office supplies.[8]

Miscellaneous Personnel Expenditures: DCYAC has expenditures for FY 2015 listed under the categories of "Regular Pay – Other" ($23,317) and "Additional Gross Pay" ($60,371), for which no funds were specifically budgeted.[9] The former expenditure was for a term-based employee who is not in a permanent position, and therefore that personnel expenditure appears in a separate category.[10] The latter expenditure was separation pay for a previous employee who separated from the agency as part of the transition between administrations.[11]

Summer Youth Enrichment Program: DCYAC will again coordinate the Summer Youth Enrichment Program (SYEP) in summer 2015.[12] SYEP is an annual six-week program that provides leadership, behavioral, and life skills training, as well as college and career preparation assistance.[13] DCYAC expects to host between 42-50

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[5] *DCYAC Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of Dionne Burkett, Director, DCYAC).
[6] *DCYAC Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016* (May 6, 2015) (Attachment to the submitted responses of Dionne Burkett, Director, DCYAC).
[7] *Id.*
[8] *Id.* at question #2.
[9] *DCYAC Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016* (May 6, 2015) (Attachment to the submitted responses of Dionne Burkett, Director, DCYAC).
[10] *Id at question #14.*
[11] *Id.*
[12] *Id.* at Question #32.
[13] *Id.* at question 15.

District youth at the 2015 SYEP.[14] DCYAC describes the SYEP more specifically as a series of "engaging, empowering program sessions, [through which] students will spend their summer developing an increased awareness of self, building human capital and gaining a better understanding of civic participation. The DCYAC's Summer Youth Enrichment Program helps to create leaders who realize the importance of playing a meaningful role in matters that impact not just themselves but also their communities."[15]

Priorities for FY 2016: The director plans for DCYAC to recruit a group of young people ages 15-18 from all eight wards for the Youth Ambassador/Leadership Development program. These Youth Ambassadors will work in conjunction with the young people of the Youth Council to identify issues affecting youth in DC, and to choose one such issue on which to propose legislation to the DC Council.[16] DCYAC will also continue building partnerships with similar youth councils across the country, and with other agencies and organizations that serve young people.[17] For example, DCYAC is in the planning stages of partnering with the Department of Employment Services to provide training, development, and leadership-building opportunities.[18]

In response to the civil unrest in Baltimore following the death of Freddie Gray in police custody,[19] DCYAC will host a Youth Summit in coordination with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), the U.S. Attorney's Office, and the East of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative.[20] The Youth Summit will center on a discussion of youth relations with law enforcement, with the goal of building a positive relationship between young people and the police.[21] This summit will be a precursor to quarterly meetings between DCYAC and MPD.[22]

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The DC Youth Advisory Council has no associated capital funds.

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[14] *Id.* at question 32.
[15] http://dcyac.dc.gov/page/dcyacs-summer-youth-enrichment-program.
[16] *DCYAC Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 3-4 (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Dionne Burkett, Director, DCYAC).
[17] *Id.* at 4.
[18] *Id.*
[19] *See e.g.*, http://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2015/04/27/baltimore-credible-threat/26454875.
[20] *DCYAC Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 4–5 (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Dionne Burkett, Director, DCYAC).
[21] *Id.* at 5.
[22] *Id.*

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the DC Youth Advisory Council, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The DC Youth Advisory Council has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee requests that DCYAC keep the Committee informed of any further payments necessary for separation pay not falling under any allotment for which funds were specifically appropriated.

- The Committee requests that DCYAC keep the Committee informed on the progress of the Youth Ambassador program and to see that the Youth Ambassadors' duties and activities are not duplicative of those for the Youth Council.

G. Office of Religious Affairs (AA0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100 LOCAL FUND	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Personal Services (PS)	**2,395,178**	**2,135,242**	**0**	**2,135,242**	**-10.85%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	1,893,589	1,738,334	0	1,738,334	-8.20%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	0	61,300	0	61,300	/0
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	501,589	335,608	0	335,608	-33.09%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**218,150**	**232,750**	**75,405**	**308,155**	**41.26%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	29,300	32,000	0	32,000	9.22%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	77,600	89,500	0	89,500	15.34%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	106,250	106,250	75,405	181,655	70.97%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	*% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget*
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Program	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	*-6.50%*
5001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES	1,146,243	931,298		931,298	*-18.75%*
5002 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS	125,800	123,439		123,439	*-1.88%*
5004 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS	379,634	366,815		366,815	*-3.38%*
5005 - COMMISSION ON WOMEN	412,584	392,458		392,458	*-4.88%*
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS	203,039	209,275		209,275	*3.07%*
5007 - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,188	187,727		187,727	*-2.83%*
5009 - OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	152,839	156,979		156,979	*2.71%*
5010 - OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			75,405	75,405	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	***-6.50%***

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs (MORA) is the MOCA agency tasked with connecting the District of Columbia government to the District's religious communities. The agency's mission is to cultivate policies that engage community and faith-based organizations in the creation of programs that address citywide issues, and to "collaborate with the Mayor's Interfaith Council to provide outside input into partnerships and other issues of concern to the religious community."[1]

MORA has no divisions. It operates through the Director and the Staff Assistant, who coordinate with other government agencies and faith institutions to assess needs and foster effective collaboration on programming. For outreach and assistance, MORA relies in large part on the assistance of the Mayor's Interfaith Council. The Interfaith Council consists of 30 faith group leaders, who are appointed by the Mayor to interface with D.C.'s religious communities.[2]

[1] About us website. http://ora.dc.gov/page/about-ora.
[2] http://ora.dc.gov/page/mayors-interfaith-council.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget for MORA is $156,979, an increase of $4,140 from FY 2015, or a 2.7% increase. The FTE level of 2.0 in FY 2016 reflects no change from FY 2015. The FY 2016 appropriation for MORA is comprised of solely local funds, and includes no special purpose revenue, federal funds, or intra-District funds.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Operating Budget and Liaison Functions: MORA's relatively small non-personnel operating budget of $3,000 reflects its primary function as a liaison between the District of Columbia government and faith groups. MORA conducts outreach to religious communities in support of programmatic activity conducted by other agencies, and MORA reports that $3,000 will be sufficient for these purposes in FY 2016.[3] MORA expects to use this funding specifically for supplies, printing, and other operational costs.[4]

Performance Measures: During MORA's Budget Oversight Hearing, the agency responded to the Committee's prior request for performance data on MORA's support of homeless assistance initiatives.[5] The testimony reflected that MORA's ongoing coordination of homeless outreach has resulted in 325 volunteers expressing interest in doing outreach work, 100 congregations having completed homeless outreach training, and 8 congregations being matched with families (with 9 additional matches pending in upcoming weeks).[6] The Committee acknowledges that MORA is in the process of further developing its performance measures, and that these measures will reflect the volume of community engagement that MORA facilitates.[7] The Committee encourages MORA to continue developing additional performance measures that reflect the results of MORA's outreach efforts, not only with respect to the number of volunteers and organizations engaging with residents, but also with respect to the number of residents engaged and issues resolved as a result of MORA's assistance.

Housing First: MORA supports the "housing first" approach to homeless assistance, as described by MORA's director in his testimony during MORA's FY 2016 budget oversight hearing. The "housing first" approach prioritizes the placement of homeless individuals in housing before and during the time those individuals work to

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[3] *Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016* (April 23, 2015) (Question #16 from the submitted responses of Rev. Donald Isaac, Sr., Director, Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs).

[4] *Id.*

[5] *Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* 3-4 (April 23, 2015) (written testimony of Rev. Donald Isaac, Sr., Director, Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs).

[6] *Id.*

[7] *Supra* note 3 at Question #11.

attain the conditions sustain housing, rather than placing individuals in housing only after they establish a given level of personal sustainability.[8] The Committee acknowledges the benefits of such an approach, especially for those individuals facing drug addiction or mental illness. The Committee sees a similar benefit for homeless families with children, who are likely to require the stability that adequate housing provides as a prerequisite condition for improving their quality of life.

Diversity on the Mayor's Interfaith Council: While the Committee greatly appreciates the work of each member of the Mayor's Interfaith Council, the Committee also notes that the vast majority of the members of that council are from Christian denominations. The Committee encourages MORA to work with the Mayor on identifying candidates for future appointments to the Mayor's Interfaith Council such that the diversity of represented faiths reflects the diversity of faiths practiced in the District at large.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office of Religious Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee urges MORA to continue its support of the "housing first" approach to homeless assistance in FY 2016.

- The Committee recommends MORA to continue developing additional performance measures that reflect the results of MORA's outreach efforts, not only with respect to the number of volunteers and organizations engaging with

[8] *See, e.g.,* http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/inspired-life/wp/2015/05/06/meet-the-outsider-who-accidentally-solved-chronic-homelessness.

residents, but also with respect to the number of residents engaged and issues resolved as a result of MORA's assistance.

- The Committee recommends MORA to develop measures of the approximate number of affordable housing units that are created as a result of its engagement on such projects.

- The Committee recommends MORA to work with the Mayor on identifying candidates for future appointments to the Mayor's Interfaith Council such that the diversity of represented faiths reflects the diversity of faiths practiced in the District at large.

H. OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (AA0)

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
100 LOCAL FUND	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Fund	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
100 LOCAL FUND	26.00	23.00	0	23.00	-11.54%
GROSS FTES	**26.00**	**23.00**	**0**	**23.00**	**-11.54%**

OPERATING BUDGET BY CSG GROSS FUNDS

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Personal Services (PS)	**2,395,178**	**2,135,242**	**0**	**2,135,242**	**-10.85%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	1,893,589	1,738,334	0	1,738,334	-8.20%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	0	61,300	0	61,300	/0
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	501,589	335,608	0	335,608	-33.09%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**218,150**	**232,750**	**75,405**	**308,155**	**41.26%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	29,300	32,000	0	32,000	9.22%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	77,600	89,500	0	89,500	15.34%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	106,250	106,250	75,405	181,655	70.97%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**2,613,328**	**2,367,992**	**75,405**	**2,443,397**	**-6.50%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS					
	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AA01 - OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (HCD only)					
Total Program	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%
5001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND SERVICES	1,146,243	931,298		931,298	-18.75%
5002 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS	125,800	123,439		123,439	-1.88%
5004 - OFFICE OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS	379,634	366,815		366,815	-3.38%
5005 - COMMISSION ON WOMEN	412,584	392,458		392,458	-4.88%
5006 - OFFICE OF LGBT AFFAIRS	203,039	209,275		209,275	3.07%
5007 - YOUTH ADVISORY COUNCIL	193,188	187,727		187,727	-2.83%
5009 - OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS	152,839	156,979		156,979	2.71%
5010 - OFFICE OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS			75,405	76,969	/0
GROSS FUNDS	2,613,328	2,367,992	75,405	2,443,397	-6.50%

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs (MACCCA) was established by the Mayor's Order 2012-127, effective August 15, 2012. The mission of MACCCA is to "advise the Mayor on best practices of mutual interests and to be a resource, facilitator and advocate for the Caribbean-American community in Washington, D.C. MACCCA reports to the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs (MOCA).

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget for the Mayor's Advisory Commission for Caribbean Community Affairs is currently unknown as it does not have its own line-item in the Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget.[1]

***Local Funds*:** The Mayor's proposed budget is $0.

***Private Donations*:** The Mayor's proposed budget is $0.[2]

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[1] *See Committee on Government Operations,* Budget Report for FY 2015 Proposed Budget.

[2] The Committee finds it important to note that this Commission has survived mostly from private donations in the past two fiscal years. *See Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs: FY 2016 Proposed Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia*

Committee Analysis and Comments

Agency Accomplishments: MACCCA has had some successes over the course of the year. This is especially true considering MACCCA's struggle to obtain funds in past fiscal years. Commission Chair Forde, along with a staff of 10 voluntary commissioners, has provided programs that both engage the Caribbean community and address their concerns. Similarly, she has made efforts to build cultural bridges between Washington, D.C. and their Caribbean residents. Since their creation, MACCCA has hosted workshops focused on stimulating local Caribbean businesses and on opportunities to invest within the community. MACCCA has committed itself to outreach, contacting Caribbean student groups at local universities and has even awarded a proclamation to the 1974 Howard University Men's Soccer Team, for their NCAA Division I championship.

Annually, MACCA's biggest event has been a Caribbean festival, "Jammin DC," which exemplifies the Commission's success in both outreach and flexibility. In the festival's first year, MACCCA saw over 5,000 attendees. At the second festival, in September 2014, MACCCA saw almost double the number of attendees. This is partially due to MACCCA's ability to overcome a lack of funding by partnering with Ethiopian community organizations, since the Ethiopian New Year coincided with the date of the festival.

Line Item Funding: The Committee recommends the creation of a separate line item for MACCCA in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY16. As it stands, any funds allocated to MACCCA are placed in MOCA's budget under "Community Relations and Services" along with other expenses. Providing a separate line item would promote transparency and accessibility to funds. Additionally, a separate line item would provide guidance to MACCCA on best practices, while allowing the Committee to hold the Commission more accountable.

In addition to the creation of a separate line item, the Committee accepts and receives the transfer of $75,405, from the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Committee accepts this transfer with a strong consideration toward the Senior Caribbean population in D.C.[3] In addition to using funds to establish the Commission's infrastructure, the transferred funds should be used to implement housing for the Senior Caribbean population of D.C. The Committee expects to be updated on the Commission initiatives, and will closely monitor how the Commission plans to use these funds.

Committee on Housing and Community Development, (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of Commission Chair Margaret Forde, DCOA).

[3] *See* Migration Policy, *Caribbean Immigrants United States* (stating most Caribbean immigrants have been in the United States for at least 15 years and as a result, are less likely to be "new arrivals" and more likely to represent an older demographic then most immigrant groups): Available at http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/caribbean-immigrants-united-states/.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs as proposed by the Mayor, with the following modifications:
    - The Committee recognizes the need of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs to have an activity code for the purpose of budget transparency and accessibility to funds. As such, the Committee accepts and receives the transfer of $76,968 to MACCCA from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to the newly established line item of the Office of Caribbean Community Affairs (Activity Code 5010).

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends the creation of a separate line item for MACCCA in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY16 as the Office of Caribbean Community Affairs (Activity Code 5010). As it stands, any funds allocated to MACCCA are placed in MOCA's budget under "Community Relations and Services" along with other expenses. Providing a separate line item would promote transparency and accessibility to funds. Additionally, a separate line item would provide guidance to MACCCA on best practices, while allowing the Committee to hold the Commission more accountable.

- In addition to the creation of a separate line item, the Committee accepts and receives the transfer of $75,405, from the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Committee accepts this transfer with a strong

consideration toward the Senior Caribbean population in D.C. In addition to using funds to establish the Commission's infrastructure, the transferred funds should be used to implement housing for the Senior Caribbean population of D.C. The Committee expects to be kept abreast of Commission initiatives, and to be made aware of how the Commission plans to use these funds.

I. Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (AP0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AP0 - OFFICE ON ASIAN/PACIFIC AFFAIRS					
100 LOCAL FUND	942,644	834,597	0	834,597	-11.46%
GROSS FUNDS	942,644	834,597	0	834,597	-11.46%

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
AP0 - OFFICE ON ASIAN/PACIFIC AFFAIRS					
100 LOCAL FUND	6.00	6.00	0	6.00	0.00%
GROSS FTES	6.00	6.00	0	6.00	0.00%

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
AP0 - OFFICE ON ASIAN/PACIFIC AFFAIRS					
Personal Services (PS)	598,094	608,815	0	608,815	1.79%
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	114,190	292,178	0	292,178	155.87%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	348,016	193,321	0	193,321	-44.45%
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	135,888	123,316	0	123,316	-9.25%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	344,550	225,782	0	225,782	-34.47%
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	3,285	3,546	0	3,546	7.95%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	7,765	8,736	0	8,736	12.50%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	333,500	213,500	0	213,500	-35.98%
GROSS FUNDS	942,644	834,597	0	834,597	-11.46%

Operating Budget by Program Gross Funds

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
AP0 - OFFICE ON ASIAN/PACIFIC AFFAIRS					
1000 - AGENCY MANAGEMENT	114,877	120,252	0	120,252	4.68%
2000 - APIA PROGRAMS	827,767	714,345	0	714,345	-13.70%
GROSS FUNDS	942,644	834,597	0	834,597	-11.46%

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) is the agency tasked with connecting the District of Columbia government to the District's Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities. OAPIA was created in 1987 as an agency within the Executive Office of the Mayor, but legislation passed by the Council in 2001 made it an independent agency. The agency's mission is to "improve the quality of life for District Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through advocacy and engagement. OAPIA advises the Mayor, the Council, and District agencies on the views, needs, and concerns of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community."[1] The agency also "provides recommendations on District programs and initiatives affecting the AAPI community, and helps coordinate programs and initiatives within the government that promote the overall welfare of the AAPI community."

OAPIA has no divisions. It operates through the Director, who manages a team of four other bilingual staff composed of an outreach specialist and three assistants, along with a community service representative and a program coordinator. OAPIA benefits from the outreach and liaison assistance of the Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, a body consisting of 15 DC residents representing the diversity of the District's AAPI community.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget for OAPIA is $834,599, a decrease of $108,047 from FY 2015, or 11.5%. The FTE level of 6.0 in FY 2016 reflects no change from FY 2015, although one FTE will be converted from "Regular Pay – Other" to "Regular Pay – Continuous Full-Time." The FY 2016 proposed operating budget for OAPIA is entirely local funds, and includes no special purpose revenue, federal funds, or intra-District funds. However, it is probable that OAPIA will negotiate similar intra-District funding agreements in FY 2016 as it did in FY 2014 and FY 2015.[2]

Committee Analysis and Comments

Decrease of Outreach Budget: The Mayor's FY 2016 Proposed Budget decreased OAPIA's Outreach/Education line item by $118,000 from its FY 2015 level.[3] This reflects a decrease from the FY 2015 funding available to OAPIA for grants to

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[1] http://apia.dc.gov/page/about-oapia.

[2] *Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA): Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of David Do, Director, OAPIA).

[3] Mayor's FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan at E-134.

community-based organizations for assisting victims of domestic violence with their cases.[4] The Executive Office viewed this FY 2015 funding as one-time,[5] while community-based organizations who received grants from that funding testified at OAPIA's FY 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing that the need for this money will continue in FY 2016.

The Committee notes that even given the Mayor's proposed funding decrease, OAPIA contends that it can maintain the level of domestic violence support services that existed in FY 2015.[6] The Committee will closely monitor the service output by the Agency in FY 2016.

Intra-District Funding: In FY 2014, OAPIA received intra-District transfers from the Department of Human Resources, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, totaling $223,403.[7] In FY 2015, OAPIA received transfers from these same agencies, totaling $232,913.[8] OAPIA used these transfers to fund four FY 2015 FTEs who assist non-English proficient AAPI residents in learning about and accessing the transferring agencies' services.[9] OAPIA's director stated that while similar transfers have not yet been confirmed for FY 2016, he is hopeful that they will recur.[10]

OAPIA FY 2015 Intra-District Transfers Received

FROM	AMOUNT	TO
DHS	$61,298	OAPIA
DHCD	$50,000	OAPIA
DCRA	$121,615	OAPIA

FTE Conversion: The chapter for OAPIA in the Mayor's FY 2016 Proposed Budget states that OAPIA will convert two FTEs from temporary status (Regular Pay – Other) to continuous full-time (Regular Pay – Full-Time).[11] However, OAPIA's director corrected this information in stating that OAPIA will only convert one FTE in FY 2016, in recognition of that FTE's length of service to the District government.[12]

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[4] *Supra* note 2.
[5] *Mayor's FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan at E-135.*
[6] *Supra* note 2. .
[7] *OAPIA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 18, 2015) (Question #8 submitted responses of David Do, Director, OAPIA).
[8] *Id.*
[9] *OAPIA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of David Do, Director, OAPIA).
[10] *Id.*
[11] *Supra* note 5.
[12] *Supra* note 2.

Language Access Act of 2004: Regulations under the Language Access Act of 2004 dictate requirements for OAPIA to provide language access services.[13] To carry out those responsibilities, OAPIA provides language access services to AAPI residents in part through the FTEs funded by intra-District transfers, described above.[14]

Agency Accomplishments: OAPIA's has made roughly 33,000 contacts with AAPI residents[15] through door-to-door outreach, events organized or attended by OAPIA staff, phone calls, mailings, and emails.[16] The agency resolved 56,000 service or information requests, and the director reports that roughly 40% of those requests were housing-related.[17] Some examples of programs or services for which OAPIA provided information for in FY 2015 include Section 8 housing in Museum Square, affordable housing in Chinatown, and linguistically appropriate domestic violence services.[18] OAPIA has provided outreach for the RiverSmart Homes program, which promotes eco-friendly practices and designs in neighborhoods and homes with respect to the rainwater of urban ecosystems.[19] The agency's Polystyrene (Styrofoam) Ban Initiative has assisted AAPI restaurants and other food vendors with moving away from environmentally harmful Styrofoam toward more sustainable alternatives (in response to a ban on Styrofoam passed by the DC Council).[20] The agency's Pre-K and School Choice Initiative provides information to AAPI families on their choices for pre-K and other educational opportunities.[21] OAPIA is also working on a database that will assist AAPI residents in finding linguistically appropriate mental health services.[22]

Priorities for FY 2016: OAPIA has placed its FY 2016 agency priorities under four broad headings: Education, Economic Opportunity, Neighborhoods, and Linking Vulnerable Residents with Government Services.[23] For Education, the agency plans to partner with community based organizations to support mentorship and extracurricular programs.[24] For Economic Opportunity, the agency plans to expand the agency's targeted professional development outreach to the AAPI community's LGBTQ individuals and to young professionals.[25] For Neighborhoods, OAPIA will prioritize the preservation of the AAPI community in Chinatown, by linking residents to affordable housing and related assistance in that part of the city. The agency simultaneously plans to maintain its capacity for housing assistance in all parts of the city.[26] Finally, the

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[13] 55 DCR 6348 (June 6, 2008).
[14] *Supra* note 2.
[15] *Id.*
[16] *Mayor's FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan* at E-136.
[17] *Supra* note 2.
[18] *Supra* note 7 at Question #29.
[19] *Id.* at Question #28.
[20] *Id.*
[21] *Id.*
[22] *Id.* at Question #29.
[23] *Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 3 (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of David Do, Director, Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs).
[24] *Id.*
[25] *Id.*
[26] *Id.*

OAPIA intends to maintain its reach and capacity in providing assistance to residents who require services in connection with domestic violence, language access, healthcare, and legal assistance, among others.[27]

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee urges OAPIA to provide a transparent account as soon as possible to CBOs and, more importantly, concerned victims of domestic violence, of how the agency will maintain its level of support in FY 2016 despite such a substantial cut to funding dedicated specifically to domestic violence support.

- The Committee requests that OAPIA keep the Committee informed on which languages its office supports for language access services, and which FTEs are proficient in those languages.

- The Committee requests that OAPIA keep the Committee informed on the progress of OAPIA's linguistically appropriate mental health provider database for AAPI residents.

- The Committee requests that OAPIA keep the Committee informed on the performance of its affordable housing programs for Museum Square, Chinatown, and any others.

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[27] *Id.*

J. Office on Aging (BY0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
BY0 - OFFICE ON AGING					
100 LOCAL FUND	32,973,923	31,069,065	200,000	31,269,065	-5.17%
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	7,735,719	7,814,808	0	7,814,808	1.02%
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	2,558,318	2,029,008	0	2,029,008	-20.69%
GROSS FUNDS	**43,267,960**	**40,912,881**	**200,000**	**41,112,881**	**-4.98%**

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
BY0 - OFFICE ON AGING					
100 LOCAL FUND	33.00	34.00	0	34.00	3.03%
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	10.00	10.00	0	10.00	0.00%
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	20.00	17.00	0	17.00	-15.00%
GROSS FTES	**63.00**	**61.00**	**0**	**61.00**	**-3.17%**

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
BY0 - OFFICE ON AGING					
Personal Services (PS)	**6,193,075**	**5,413,258**	**0**	**5,413,258**	**-12.59%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	2,556,533	2,253,733	0	2,253,733	-11.84%
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	2,293,174	2,334,451	0	2,334,451	1.80%
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	1,343,368	825,074	0	825,074	-38.58%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**37,074,885**	**35,499,623**	**200,000**	**35,699,623**	**-3.71%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	119,930	133,029	0	133,029	10.92%
31--TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, TELEGRAM, ETC	0	157,142	0	157,142	/0
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	1,371,726	590,769	0	590,769	-56.93%
41--CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER	9,155,271	8,850,556	0	8,850,556	-3.33%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	26,327,958	25,668,127	200,000	25,868,127	-1.75%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**43,267,960**	**40,912,881**	**200,000**	**41,112,881**	**-4.98%**

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
BY0 - OFFICE ON AGING					
1000 - AGENCY MANAGEMENT	7,571,869	5,578,918	0	5,578,918	*-26.32%*
9200 - CONSUMER INFO, ASSISTANCE, & OUTREACH	3,666,579	3,337,269	0	3,337,269	*-8.98%*
9300 - IN-HOME AND CONTINUING CARE	6,431,180	6,431,180	200,000	6,631,180	*3.11%*
9400 - COMMUNITY BASED SUPPORT	25,598,332	25,565,514	0	25,565,514	*-0.13%*
GROSS FUNDS	**43,267,960**	**40,912,881**	**200,000**	**41,112,881**	*-4.98%*

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The District of Columbia Office on Aging (DCOA) was established by the Government Reorganization Procedures Act of 1975, effective October 29, 1975. (22 DCR 2457). The mission of the DCOA is to develop and carry out a comprehensive system of health, education, employment and social services for the District's older residents, individuals living with disabilities, and their caregivers.[1] Through these services, DCOA is able to provide longevity, independence and dignity for these residents in their daily lives.

As an agency that works primarily as a "past-through entity",[2] DCOA primarily directs its efforts towards the operation of the Aging and Disability Recourse Center (ADRC) and agency funding of their Senior Service Network (the Network). The ADRC is a coordinated system that matches seniors, individuals with disabilities and caregivers to various services. This facilitation provides individuals seeking help with information, counseling and referrals to different organizations within their Senior Service Network. The Senior Service Network is a collection of 20 community-based organizations that provide direct services that range from legal and social assistance to nutritional and health services.[3] Several Network organizations operate the 6 Senior Wellness Centers[4]

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[1] Dr. John Thompson, *About DCOA*, available at http://dcoa.dc.gov/page/about-us-dcoa.

[2] *See* DCOA's Answer to Committee Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Question #14. In the agency response, DCOA noted that as a State Unit on Aging (SUA) that acts as a "pass-through entity", DCOA is responsible for distributing and monitoring Older Americans Act (OAA) dollars to local services.

[3] These services include the following: Senior Wellness Centers; Lead Agency services; in-home support services, home-meal delivery programs, adult day-care services, transportation services, recreation services, professional training, legal advocacy, congregate meal sites and residential care. *See* Dr. John Thompson, *DCOA's Senior Service Network Organizational Chart*, available at http://dcoa.dc.gov/publication/dcoas-senior-service-network-organizational-chart.

throughout the District of Columbia, and are frequently the Lead Agencies in individual wards, thus responsible for turning DCOA referrals into necessary services.

DCOA is led by a Director, who is appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. It operates through the following four programs:

***Consumer Information, Assistance and Outreach*:** Provides information and assistance, special events, training, education and employment services for District residents and caregivers so that they can be better informed about aging issues and maintain their independence.

In-Home and Day Care Services: Provides homemaker assistance, day care, nutrition, case management services, and caregiver support to allow older residents to age in place, in their own homes.

Community- Based Support: Provides residential facilities, elder rights assistance, health promotion, wellness, counseling, legal services, transportation, and recreation activities for District residents who are 60 years of age or older so that they can live independently in the community and minimize institutionalization.

Agency Management: provides for administrative support and the required tools to achieve operational and programmatic results. This program is standard for all agencies using performance-based budgeting.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's fiscal year 2016 budget proposal for the DCOA is $40,912,882 a decrease of $2,355,078 or 5.44 percent, below the current fiscal year. The proposed budget supports 61 FTEs, a decrease of 2 FTEs, or 3.2 percent, from the current fiscal year.

***Local Funds*:** The Mayor's proposed budget is $31,069,000, a decrease of $1,905,000, or 5.8 percent, below the fiscal year 2015 approved budget. This funding supports 34 FTEs, an increase of 1 FTEs, or 3.0 percent, from the fiscal year 2015 approved level.

***Federal Resources*:** The proposed budget is $7,815,000, an increase of $79,000, or 1 percent, from the fiscal year 2015 approved budget. This funding supports 10 FTEs, with no change of FTEs from the fiscal year 2015 approved level.

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[4] Senior Wellness Centers provide an array of health programs and classes that assist seniors in avoiding isolation, practicing strong health and disease prevention. *See* Dr. John Thompson, *Senior Wellness Centers*, available at http://dcoa.dc.gov/service/senior-wellness-centers.

***Intra-District Funds*:** The proposed budget is $2,029,000, a decrease of $529,000, or 20.4 percent, from the fiscal year 2015 approved budget. This funding supports 17.0 FTEs, a decrease of 3.0 FTEs, or 15.0 percent, from the fiscal year 2015 approved level.

Committee Analysis and Comments

The Mayor's FY 2016 proposal for DCOA represents a 5.4% decrease in funding. The budget proposal does much to find over $2 million dollars in savings via various agency reductions. However, the Committee will closely monitor whether the service delivery model[5] currently employed by DCOA is able to match the growing senior populations. While DCOA may operate under a philosophy that best prepares them to handle current demand, the Committee remains concerned whether this model can handle an impending surge in future demand that will likely outpace available allocations. The Committee recommends that DCOA consider alternative service-delivery models to its present system.

***Contracts and Sub-grants*:** DCOA allocated approximately 81 percent of its FY15 budget or $35.3 million, to Network organizations in the form of contracts or sub-grants.[6] Of that amount, 75% was awarded to sub-grantees with the remaining 25 percent being dispersed via contracts.[7]

Table 1: All Sub-Grants and Contracts Awarded by DCOA in FY15

Number of Sub-grants awarded	33
Sub-grants Grand Total[8]	$26,124,900
Number of Contracts awarded	34
Contracting Grand Total	$9,155,000
Sub-grants and Contracting Subtotals	$35,279,900
FY15 Revised Budget	$43,407,981
Percentage of FY15 Budget Allocated to Sub-grants	60.18%
Percentage of FY15 Budget Allocated to Sub-grants & Contracts	81.28%

The Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY16 allots a decrease to Network service providers by $965,000, with $305,000 and $660,000 being cut from "Contractual Services" and "Subsidies and Transfers", respectively. This is due to a decrease in Senior Wellness Centers' hours to better align with demand ($1 million); a decrease due to a

[5] Under this service- model, DCOA has seen their budget increase from $27.6 million in FY 2013 to $40.9 million in the Mayor's FY 2016 proposal. Similarly, DCOA staff has grown from 40.9 FTE in FY 2013 to 61.0 FTE in the Mayor's FY 2016 proposal. Additionally, the amount of funds that DCOA has awarded to sub-grantees in their Senior Service Network rose from $17.5 million in FY 2013 to $25.7 in the Mayor's 2016 proposal.

[6] *See* District of Columbia Office on Aging. *DCOA Senior Service Network Budget and History* (2015).

[7] *See Exhibit 1.*

[8] *Supra* note 6.

reduced reliance on outside technical assistance ($100,000); and a decrease due to the lack of need for information and software technology maintenance ($204,918).[9] In total, these cuts amount to a decrease of $1.3 million dollars. Yet, while these services were cut, other sub-grantees did receive increases of $340,000, with $250,000 going to Seabury Transportation services, and $90,000 to various other grantees. Thus, while some significant cuts were made to agency allotments, these were partially offset by increases awarded to other sub-grantees.

DCOA is one of 29 D.C. government agencies with independent grant-making authority.[10] As such, DCOA maintains control over the recipients of the grant money and the amount of the grants.[11] Though similar, it is important to distinguish between the contracting process and the sub-grantee process, as they are regulated differently. Contracts entered into by D.C. agencies that are over $1 million dollars require DC Council approval and review by the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP).[12] OCP conducts a process by which they determine the "reasonable price for goods", and then compare the prices of available vendors, before procuring a contract.[13] To award a contract without competitive bidding process, an agency must provide a "sole-source justification" to OCP, which may approve or deny the justification.

The process for allocating grants from District agencies with independent grant-making authority varies significantly. The minimum requirements speak to who may qualify as a grantee, even offering a general requirement that grants be competitively bid.[14] Still, the legislation supporting such action contains overly broad exceptions, such as the several allowances for sole-source bidding.[15] The Committee does recognize the fact that DCOA uses a semi-independent body when conducting their process for bidding grants.[16]

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[9]Both of these technological –based budget cuts were due to the one-time cost of implementing a computer database, and the staff to support it.

[10]*See* D.C. Office of Partnership and Grant Services, *Appendix 5: List of Agencies with Grantmaking Authority*, Citywide Grants Manual and Sourcebook (2015), *available at* http://opgs.dc.gov/book/citywide-grants-manual-and-sourcebook/appendix-5-list-agencies-grantmaking-authority.

[11] *Id.* at *Chapter 5.0 The Grantmaking Agency.*

[12] D.C. Code Section 2-352.02.

[13] *See* 27 dcmr §2200.4.. *See also* DCOA's Answer to Committee Fiscal Year 2015 Performance Oversight Attachments p. 48.

[14] *See* 27 dcmr §2200.4. *See also* DCOA's Answer to Committee Fiscal Year 2015 Performance Oversight Attachments p. 48.

[15] *Id.* The statute allows for agency's to award grants to a sole-source for several reasons. Of particular relevance, is if there is a "recognized coalition of service providers through which the broadest community participation may be obtained in serving the targeted clientele."

[16] As explained by the agency in the FY16 Budget Oversight Hearing, DCOA seeks out a paid panel that ranks grantees on an agency-provided criteria. The panel then submits their recommendation to the agency, with which final decision rests. *See District of Columbia Office on Aging: FY 2016 Proposed Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, (April 23, 2015) (oral testimony of Director John Thompson, DCOA).

Still, the over breadth of these regulations exposes the District government to overpaying for services. This concern is compounded upon reviewing the process for obtaining continuation grants. DCOA offers continuation grants on a non-competitive basis, annually to sub-grantees of the past year.[17] Thus, while no soul-source grants have been awarded under DCOA's current administration,[18] in FY15 the agency awarded funds to 33 sub-grantees, 24 of which were eligible for grant continuations of at least 5 years.[19]

Exhibit 2: All FY15 Sub-grants of DCOA that were Bid Competitively and which offer 5 years or less of renewal

SUBGRANTEE NAME	FY2015 Total Budget
Terrific Inc. (Lead Agency Ward 1)	$938,861
Terrific Inc. (Lead Agency Ward 2)	$1,051,921
Terrific Inc. (Lead Agency Ward 4)	$884,701
Seabury for Aging Services (Lead Agency Ward 6)	$792,730
Mary Center Inc.- Bernice Fontaau Wellness Center	$569,589
Howard University- Hayes Senior Wellness Center	$512,605
Capital Food Bank	$918,000
Total:	**$5,668,407**

This is of great concern to the Committee, as only 22 percent of DCOA's $26 million dollars allocated to sub-grantees is done through competitive-bidding.[20] Furthermore, in the chart provided by the agency prior to the FY15 Performance Oversight Hearing, it is clear that almost half of DCOA's sub-grantees are not presently being bid upon.[21] As previously stated, competitive bidding provides the greatest opportunity for the government to receive the best services at the lowest costs.[22]

[17] DCOA's Answer to Committee Follow-Up from FY16 Proposed Budget Oversight Hearing on DCOA Question #5.

[18] *Supra* note 16

[19] *Supra* note 7.

[20] *See exhibit 2.*

[21] *See exhibit 3.*

[22] *Supra* note 18.

Exhibit 3: All FY15 Sub-grants of DCOA that were non-competitively bid

SUBGRANTEE NAME	FY2015 Total Budget	0-5 Years	5-10 Years	10-15 Years
NON-COMPETITIVE GRANTS - NOT LEAD AGENCIES				
East River Family Collaborative - Weekend Nutrition	$86,120		x	
Seabury Resources for Aging - WEHTS Program	$6,087,760	x		
Seabury Resources for Aging - Home First Residence/AIP	$437,535			x
Family Matters - Senior Works	$142,457			x
Family Matters - Golden Washingtonian Program	$140,427			x
First Baptist - Senior Center	$227,301			x
George Washington University - HICAP	$240,902			x
Home Care Partner	$2,865,461			x
Howard University School of Social Works	$115,000			x
Legal Counsel for the Elderly	$1,308,541			x
SOME - Caregivers Program	$117,474			x
SOME - Senior Center	$130,404			x
SOME - Kuehner Place (Shelter for Abused Elderly)	$297,318			x
The Downtown Cluster - Geriatric Day Care Center	$606,267			x
University of the District of Columbia	$150,000			x
VIDA - Senior Center	$388,454			x
Washington DC Jewish Community Center	$57,454	x		
Zion Baptist Enterprize	$340,752			x
Subtotal	$13,739,627			

Source: D.C. Office on Aging

The Committee has one final concern regarding the sub-grant process as it relates to contracts. There is a lack of transparency as to when an interested vendor should seek a contract versus a grant. As it presently stands, vendors may be eligible for both contracts and grants even within the same transaction. In the FY16, Budget Oversight Hearing, DCOA spoke to how one sub-grantee receives grant funding to transport meals delivered to seniors, and then contract money for the actual meals provided.[23] For a process with so little oversight, it is of concern to the Committee that there is not even a review of grants by parties that have also contracted with agencies.

The Committee's concern about the need to promote greater grant transparency is supported by recently proposed legislation.[24] B21-0024, the Government Grant Administration Amendment Act of 2015, was introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Nadeau, Bonds, and Grosso on January 6, 2015. By establishing uniform guidelines and consistent grant processes for all D.C. agencies through this legislation, the Chairman seeks to ensure a transparent process citywide.[25] The bill also proposes reporting requirements to the Mayor, which will further promote transparency and better agency oversight, thus ensuring a better use of limited government resources. The Committee supports the goals of this bill.

[23] *Supra* note 16.

[24] *See* proposed bill, "Government Grant Administration Amendment Act of 2015".

[25] *Id.*

It is clear to the Committee that without strong grant monitoring by the agency, the proposed legislation will be ineffective. As applicable to DCOA, this issue is specifically raised in a report by the D.C. Auditor's Office.[26] This report was conducted on the Hayes Senior Wellness Center, operated by a DCOA sub-grantee. In this report, the auditor expresses concern that a lack of grant monitoring has led to the agency not receiving its expected benefit of services.[27] The Committee strongly urges that DCOA adopt a system of quarterly reports on the services provided by their sub-grantees. The Committee also hopes that these new reporting measures will provide clarity as to the frequency with which Seabury vehicles are being utilized, in addition to mass services produced by other sub-grantees and contractors.

Exhibit 4: DCOA New FTEs in FY14 and FY15 BY Department

Department	FTEs Hired in FY14	Total Salary of New FTEs for FY14	FTEs Hired in FY15	Total Salary of New FTEs for FY15
ADRC	7	$488,297.03	9	$634,033.38
Executive Office	2	$160,243.03	0	$0
External Affairs/ Communications	4	$292,855.03	0	$0
General Services	0	$0	3	$247,748.00
Policy, Planning & Evaluation	1	$94,000.00	1	$81,293.00
Programs & Budget	6	$509,086.81	2	$150,047.00
Total FTEs Hired	**20**		**15**	
Total Salary of New FTEs		**$1,544,481.90**		**$1,113,110.38**

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC): The Agency's biggest internal department by far is the ADRC. The ADRC has a staff of 33 FTEs in comparison with the other 34 FTEs throughout the rest of the agency. Between the FY14 and FY15 budgets, the ADRC has added 16 of the Agency's 35 new FTEs, with a total of $1.12 million in new salaries.[28]

The ADRC serves as the first responders of the agency, and are tasked with directing clients to the appropriate services through a referral process.[29] As a result of the service-model chosen by DCOA, which focuses on the indirect provision of services, staff is needed in-house to coordinate services to seniors. Following such, some ADRC

[26] *See* Daniel Lucas, *The District of Columbia Office on Aging: Hayes Senior Wellness Center*, Report of Inspection OIG No. 15-I-0065. January 2015.

[27] *Id.*

[28] *See* exhibit 4.

[29] *Supra* note 16.

members work at the satellite offices throughout the District, closely with employees of "Lead Agencies".[30]

There is some concern as to who exactly is receiving the services of the ADRC. In a follow-up to the FY16 Proposed Budget Hearing, the agency responded that the average ADRC referral call takes 2-20 minutes.[31] As calls are handled so quickly, it would seem that some of the FTEs present in the ADRC could be better allocated to other areas in the agency that allow them to directly assist our senior population. The Committee urges DCOA to track the number of individuals who are seniors and receiving service by the ADRC versus the numbers of individuals who are 18-59 with a disability and receiving services by the ADRC.

Wellness Centers: The Agency operates Senior Wellness Centers in six of D.C.'s eight wards. Over the past fiscal year, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) has published reports on several of the Agency's Senior Wellness Centers.[32] The two most recent reports, on the Hayes Senior Wellness Center (Ward 6) and the Washington Senior Wellness Center (Ward 7) respectively, spoke to similar concerns. Each report evaluated the Wellness Center in three various categories: 1) Wellness Center Security and Medical Preparedness; 2) Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Wellness Center; and 3) DCOA Oversight.

The IG Report on the Hayes Senior Wellness Center was published in January of 2015 and spoke to several necessary improvements. In the area of "Wellness Center Security and Medical Preparedness", the report focused on the lack of training by Wellness Center staff.[33] The report noted that Wellness Center staff lacked CPR training as well as Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) machine training.[34] Similarly, some AED machines had not been maintained as required, or even inspected since their delivery in 2013.[35]

In the area of "Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Wellness Center", it was found that health screening, nutrition counseling and other health-specific services were not being provided.[36] Equally concerning was the report's discussion of grant compliance at the Wellness Center. The staff Nutritionist, hired through DCOA grant funds, had not worked adequate hours to fulfill the funding of the grant.[37] This led to the OIG

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[30] *Id.*

[31] DCOA's Answer to Committee Follow-Up from FY16 Proposed Budget Oversight Hearing on DCOA Question #9.

[32] *Supra* note 26.

[33] *Id.*

[34] *Id.*

[35] *Id.*

[36] *Id.*

[37] *Id.*

recommending that DCOA seek a refund, for possible overpayment.[38] Likewise, monitoring of seniors was reported to need improvement as the OIG noticed seniors being allowed to engage in certain activities even though liability waivers or medical clearance forms were outdated.[39]

In the third area of "DCOA Oversight", the OIG requested future accountability stating that the Wellness Center did not provide sufficient data for DCOA grant monitors to track progress, *and* that DCOA was not adequately monitoring their grant.[40] This report did not provide updates as to any Agency remedies that had occurred by the time of publication.

The Washington Senior Wellness Center also faced strong criticism. However, the Committee would like to acknowledge the difference in DCOA's response in this case. Published within four months of the Hayes Senior Wellness Center IG Report, this latter report showed an agency in recovery and not decline. In the area of "Wellness Center Security and Medical Preparedness", the OIG again noted a lack of CPR and AED training by Wellness Center Staff.[41] The difference here is that DCOA quickly remedied this issue, coming into full compliance by the time of the IG Report's publication.[42] Another concern in this area, the OIG observed that Security Equipment at the Wellness Center was either not fully functional or entirely inoperable.[43] DCOA remedied this issue prior to the report's publication.[44] The only concern in this subsection that was not addressed goes to the size of the Wellness Center's parking lot.[45] At 12 spaces, it limits the amount of seniors who can drive to the center, and thus possibly the overall attendance at the center. Nevertheless, the Committee believes it would be unreasonable to expect this issue to have been remedied by the time of the IG report's publication.

In the area of "Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Wellness Center," the report faulted inefficient scheduling and poor program qualities for the lack of participation in programs.[46] DCOA claims to have since remedied this issue with a new system of scheduling.[47] Another concern in this area, echoed by the Hayes Wellness Center, was that seniors were being permitted to engage in activities even though liability waivers or

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[38] *Id.*

[39] *Id.*

[40] *Id.* Noting how DCOA must do heavier monitoring and how the Wellness Center must provide more sufficient data.

[41] *See* Daniel Lucas, *The District of Columbia Office on Aging: Washington Senior Wellness Center*, Report of Inspection OIG No. 15-I-0067. April 2015.

[42] *Id.*

[43] *Id.*

[44] *Id.*

[45] *Id.*

[46] *Id.*

[47] *Id.*

medical clearance forms were outdated.[48] At the time of publication, OIG noted that DCOA was in the process of remedying this solution.[49] The last concern of the IG here is that the Wellness Center had not implemented the "EnhanceFitness" Program in accordance with FY13 and FY14 grant requirements.[50] The Committee recognizes this issue as another sign of the need for stronger grant monitoring, and appreciates that DCOA remedied this instance in March 2015.[51]

The report's final area of concern was that the Wellness Center had not completed mandatory Comprehensive Uniform Reporting Tools (CURT) reports that document grantees services provided.[52] The Wellness Center is now up-to-date with their CURT reports.[53]

Outside of the OIG Reports, the Wellness Centers as a whole have lost $100,000 in sub-grant funding. FY15 saw the Wellness Centers receive an increase in funding so that they may stay open on weekends and evenings for extended hours. However, due to unequal demand, extended hours at many locations were cut, with the possibility of returning at some locations if DCOA determined adequate demand. The Committee encourages DCOA to keep abreast of any discussions as to where service hours should be extended at select Senior Wellness Centers. The Committee is highly interested in weighing in on factors that are considered. Additionally, based on the assessment of the Inspector General concerning Washington Senior Wellness Center, there are a total of 12 parking spaces available at the entire Senior Center. The Committee recommends DCOA consider solutions that will allow the Wellness Center to operate at its full capacity.

Transportation Services: DCOA currently offers several options regarding transportation in the District. The Seabury Transport System has 68 vehicles in its fleet and 63 drivers, of which 41 possess a Commercial Driver's License (CDL). The Committee has heard an array of feelings concerning the programs operation. Unfortunately, with current performance indicators, it is unclear how frequently sub-grantee Seabury uses.

DCOA also provides the alternative option of the Seabury Connector Card, which functions as a debit card for seniors, allowing them the independence to travel within the District at a subsidized cost. Whether due to funding or otherwise, still in its early stages, it does not appear that the infrastructure has been fully implemented. As such, the Committee is highly interested in any key performance indicators that compare the cost and effectiveness of the Seabury Transport and Seabury Connector.

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[48] *Id.*

[49] *Id.*

[50] *Id.*

[51] *Id.*

[52] *Id.*

[53] *Id.*

Food Delivery Services: One of the most frequently stated needs at the FY16 DCOA Budget Hearing was the need to feed D.C.'s seniors. DCOA offers four types of meals to seniors in need, in addition to working through community partners with the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Two of the meal sources are Congregate sites, where seniors pick-up meals throughout the month. The other two programs both deliver meals to the homes of seniors, providing a specific dietary meal for those seniors who require additional assistance.[54] While the agency denies that any waiting lists exist for these meal programs, no new seniors are being permitted to enroll for the remainder of FY15.[55] The Agency explained that they are presently at capacity as to the number of people that can be served under this contract.[56]

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The D.C. Office on Aging has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes a transfer of $200,000 from the Committee on Health and Human Services to the D.C. Office on Aging, Activity 9325-In-Home Continuing Care and CSG 50-Subsidies and Transfers to provide more meals to seniors through their Home-Meal Delivery program. Currently, the D.C. Office on Aging is no longer taking applications for the home-meal delivery program due to the fact that they are operating at maximum capacity.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The D.C. Office on Aging has no associated capital funds.

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[54] *See District of Columbia Office on Aging: FY 2016 Proposed Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, (April 23, 2015) (oral testimony of Director John Thompson, DCOA).

[55] *See District of Columbia Office on Aging: FY 2016 Proposed Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, (April 23, 2015) (oral testimony of Director John Thompson, DCOA). *But see* DCOA's Answer to Committee Fiscal Year 2014 Performance Oversight Question #37. DCOA reported to have a waitlist for the agency's various meal programs that was frequently monitored.

[56] *See District of Columbia Office on Aging: FY 2016 Proposed Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, (April 23, 2015) (oral testimony of Director John Thompson, DCOA).

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee strongly urges that DCOA adopt a system of quarterly reports on the services provided by their sub-grantees. The Committee strongly hopes that these new reporting measures will provide clarity as to the frequency in which Seabury vehicles are being utilized, in addition to mass services produced by other sub-grantees and contractors.

- The Committee recommends that DCOA consider alternative service delivery models to its present system. The Committee is concerned that, while DCOA may operate under a philosophy that best prepares them to handle current demand, the current model may be unable to handle the impending surge in future demand that will likely outpace available allocations.

- The Committee urges DCOA to track the number of individuals who are seniors and receiving service by the ADRC versus the numbers of individuals who are 18-59 with a disability and receiving services by the ADRC.

- Based on the assessment of the Inspector General concerning Washington Senior Wellness Center, there are a total of only 12 parking spaces available for the entire Senior Center. The Committee recommends that DCOA consider solutions that will allow the Wellness Center to operate at its full capacity.

- The Committee encourages DCOA to keep it informed of any discussions as to which Senior Wellness Centers should offer extended hours. The Committee is highly interested in weighing in on factors that are considered.

- The Committee is highly interested in any key performance indicators that compare the cost and effectiveness of the Seabury Transport and Seabury Connector.

- The Committee intends to request an audit from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor to investigate the transportation and food distribution programs to ensure heightened transparency and oversight, as well as the efficient expenditure of government funds. During audits, ODCA requires access to agency records, files and other information to complete the audit effectively. [57] The Committee will continue to provide comprehensive oversight to ensure the residents of the District receive the services they need and deserve, and to hold the Executive offices to the highest standards of accountability.

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[57] ODCA's right to access information required for audit purposes is detailed in D.C. Code Section 1-204.55 (c) which states: "The District of Columbia Auditor shall have access to all books, accounts, records, reports, findings, and all other papers, things or property belonging to or in use by any department, agency, or instrumentality of the District government and necessary to facilitate the audit."

K. Office of Latino Affairs (BZ0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2015 Revised	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
BZ0 - OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS						
100 LOCAL FUND	2,768,722	2,768,722	2,781,733	0	2,781,733	*0.47%*
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	200,000	200,000	395,575	0	395,575	*97.79%*
GROSS FUNDS	**2,968,722**	**2,968,722**	**3,177,308**	**0**	**3,177,308**	***7.03%***

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
BZ0 - OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS					
100 LOCAL FUND	10.00	10.00	0	10.00	*0.00%*
GROSS FTES	**10.00**	**10.00**	**0**	**10.00**	***0.00%***

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
BZ0 - OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS					
Personal Services (PS)	**862,636**	**885,687**	**0**	**885,687**	***2.67%***
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	394,808	548,576	0	548,576	*38.95%*
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	273,384	170,910	0	170,910	*-37.48%*
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	194,444	166,201	0	166,201	*-14.53%*
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**2,106,086**	**2,291,621**	**0**	**2,291,621**	***8.81%***
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	20,583	20,583	0	20,583	*0.00%*
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	87,598	78,802	0	78,802	*-10.04%*
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	1,988,885	2,184,460	0	2,184,460	*9.83%*
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	9,020	7,776	0	7,776	*-113.79%*
GROSS FUNDS	**2,968,722**	**3,177,308**	**0**	**3,177,308**	***7.03%***

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS					
	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
BZ0 - OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS					
1000 - AGENCY MANAGEMENT	337,206	350,151	0	350,151	3.84%
1001 - COMMUNITY-BASED GRANTS	2,157,004	2,357,454	0	2,357,454	9.29%
2001 - ADVOCACY AND LANGUAGE ACCESS	160,266	155,641	0	155,641	-2.89%
3001 - COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND OUTREACH	227,271	314,062	0	314,062	38.19%
4001 - PUBLIC AFFAIRS	86,975	0	0	0	-100.00%
GROSS FUNDS	2,968,722	3,177,308	0	3,177,308	7.03%

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The mission of the Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) is to provide access to health, education and other social services to the District's Latino population.[1] OLA provides advocacy, community relations and outreach services to the District's Latino residents in order to facilitate access to a full range of human services, health, education, housing, economic development and employment opportunities. Through OLA's strategic management of public and private partnerships and strong civic engagement, the Office addresses community needs in an effort to improve the quality of life for the District's Latino residents. Additionally, OLA is a key agency in the proper implementation of the Language Access Act collaborating with several DC agencies to ensure compliance.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget for the Office on Latino Affairs is $3,177,309, an increase of $208,585 or 7% percent of the FY 2015 approved budget of $2,968,724. The proposed budget supports 10.0 FTEs, which represents no change from FY 2015. The proposed budget is comprised of local funds and intra-district funds.

Local Funds: The Mayor's proposed local fund budget is $2,781,734, an increase of $13,010, or 0.5 percent, from the FY 2015 approved Local funds budget of $2,768,724. The proposed funding by local funds supports 3.0 FTEs, which is unchanged from FY 2015.

[1] http://ola.dc.gov/page/about-ola

Intra-District Funds: The Mayor's proposed Intra-District funds budget is $395,575, an increase of $195,575 or 97.8% percent of the FY 2015 approved budget of $200,000.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Personnel: OLA has a staff of 10.0 FTEs. Under the Mayor's Proposed FY 2016 Budget, a transfer of 1.0 FTE from Public Affairs to Community Relations and Outreach was supported. Similarly, the budget reflects a decrease of $88,287 in personal services under the Public Affairs program, and an increase of $83,709 to Community Relations and Outreach funding the transferred FTE. The agency also moved 1.0 FTE from Term Full Time to Continuing Full Time within the Community-Based Grants Program. The balance of the increase to personal services, $12,097, accounted primarily for step increases and fringe benefit adjustments.

Community-Based Grants: Under the Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget, OLA would receive an increase of $195,575 for its community-based grants from the approved budget for FY2015.[2] This money will allow OLA to provide 150 non-traditional youth with a meaningful work experience, via subsidized placements in both private and government sectors.[3] Currently OLA funds 80 programs and 59 grantees with over 2 million dollars in grant funds.[4]

The Committee commends OLA's demonstrated ability to maximize the conversion of funding into services for the community, and looks forward to working with the Agency to continue to deliver a high level of services with the additional funding.

Agency Accomplishments: The Office on Latino Affairs has continued to be successful in its outreach efforts. OLA has coordinated 25 events, engaging over 3,000 District residents in the first 100 days of Mayor Bowser's administration.[5] Even more notable is the magnitude of several of the agency's events. From monthly food distribution projects through the Capital Area Food Bank to their co-sponsorship with the Greater Hispanic Chambers Business Expo, OLA has demonstrated an early ability to produce services that are well attended by the Latino community.

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[2] However, the agency will not see the actual "increase" of funds. OLA's Community-based grants seemed to be decreased in FY15 by $225,000, with this $250,000 restoring those funds. Rather, the "cut" was an MOU with the Department of Employment Services for $195,575 for their Summer Youth Program and a reprogramming from savings in personal services. *See* OLA's Answer to Committee Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Specific Question #1-2.

[3] *Id.*

[4] *See Office on Latino Affairs: FY 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Jackie Reyes, Director of Office of Latino Affairs).

[5] *Supra* note 7.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office on Latino Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office on Latino Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office on Latino Affairs has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee has no policy recommendations for the Office on Latino Affairs.

L. Department of Housing and Community Development (DB0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
DB0 - DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT					
100 LOCAL FUND	15,125,092	12,694,801	-75,405	12,619,396	*-16.57%*
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	41,354,298	47,056,722	0	47,056,722	*13.79%*
600 SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS	6,500,002	2,046,441	0	2,046,441	*-68.52%*
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	133,886,280	223,606,880	-119,000	223,487,880	*66.92%*
GROSS FUNDS	**196,865,672**	**285,404,844**	**-194,405**	**285,210,439**	***44.88%***

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds FTEs

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
DB0 - DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT					
100 LOCAL FUND	35.00	48.00	-1.00	47.00	*34.29%*
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	77.50	48.00	0	48.00	*-38.06%*
600 SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS	16.00	0	0	0	*-100.00%*
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	30.50	75.00	0	75.00	*145.90%*
GROSS FTES	**159.00**	**171.00**	**-1.00**	**170.00**	***6.92%***

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
DB0 - DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT					
Personal Services (PS)	**15,831,957**	**18,597,729**	**-75,405**	**18,522,324**	***16.99%***
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	12,720,006	14,232,877	-62,215	14,170,662	*11.40%*
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	559,316	966,988	0	966,988	*72.89%*
13--ADDITIONAL GROSS PAY	175,633	175,633	0	175,633	*0.00%*
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	2,377,002	3,222,231	-13,190	3,209,041	*35.00%*
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**181,033,715**	**266,807,115**	**-119,000**	**266,688,115**	***47.31%***
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	298,538	303,607	0	303,607	*1.70%*
30--ENERGY, COMM. AND BLDG RENTALS	10,617	23,034	0	23,034	*116.95%*
31--TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, TELEGRAM, ETC	102,964	132,855	0	132,855	*29.03%*
32--RENTALS - LAND AND STRUCTURES	2,237,964	2,264,135	0	2,264,135	*1.17%*

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

34--SECURITY SERVICES	0	9,098	0	9,098	/0
35--OCCUPANCY FIXED COSTS	74,313	46,415	0	46,415	-37.54%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	7,530,921	7,624,095	0	7,624,095	1.24%
41--CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER	22,125,657	77,566,054	0	77,566,054	250.57%
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	139,822,859	170,240,439	-119,000	170,121,439	21.67%
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	829,882	597,383	0	597,383	-28.02%
80--DEBT SERVICE	8,000,000	8,000,000	0	8,000,000	0.00%
GROSS FUNDS	**196,865,672**	**285,404,844**	**-195,969**	**285,210,439**	**44.88%**

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
DB0 - DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT					
1000 - AGENCY MANAGEMENT	14,561,974	17,735,207	0	17,735,205	21.79%
1010 - PERSONNEL	0	2,120,807		2,120,807	/0
1015 - TRAINING AND EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT	1,640,609	466,764		466,764	-71.55%
1030 - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	4,450,625	4,852,432		4,852,432	9.03%
1040 - INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	1,401,920	1,422,117		1,422,117	1.44%
1050 - FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	1,900,000	3,189,140		3,189,140	67.85%
1060 - LEGAL	1,457,714	1,777,303		1,777,303	21.92%
1070 - FLEET MANAGEMENT	328,676	0		0	-100.00%
1080 - COMMUNICATIONS	822,989	1,450,541		1,450,541	76.25%
1085 - CUSTOMER SERVICE	40,280	119,981		119,981	197.87%
1087 - LANGUAGE ACCESS	9,010	6,000		6,000	-33.41%
1090 - PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT	2,510,153	2,330,123		2,330,123	-7.17%
100F - AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS	1,645,950	2,027,363	0	2,027,363	23.17%
110F - BUDGET OPERATIONS	560,824	722,903		722,903	28.90%
120F - ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS	269,093	679,095		679,095	152.36%
130F - FISCAL OFFICER	816,033	625,365		625,365	-23.37%
2000 - DEVELOPMENT FINANCE	132,959,406	226,893,327	-119,000	226,774,327	70.56%
2010 - AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECT FINANCING	131,232,343	223,448,328	-119,000	223,329,328	70.18%
2015 - COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROJECT FINANCING	1,727,062	3,445,000		3,445,000	99.47%
3000 - RESIDENTIAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE	31,789,352	24,986,640	0	24,986,640	-21.40%
3010 - NEIGHBORHOOD BASED ACTIVITIES	6,917,288	8,627,711	-3,000,000	5,627,711	-18.64%
3015 - SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE			3,000,000	3,000,000	/0
3020 - COMMUNITY SERVICES - COMM REVITALIZATION	2,390,407	2,594,358		2,594,358	8.53%
3030 - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES - HPAP	12,221,557	9,664,837		9,664,837	-20.92%
3040 - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES - EAHP	481,589	960,000		960,000	99.34%
3050 - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES - LEAD SAFE WASHING	1,707,622	1,337,606		1,337,606	-21.67%
3060 - RESIDENTIAL SERVICES - SINGLE FAM REHAB	8,070,887	1,802,129		1,802,129	-77.67%
4100 - PROPERTY ACQUISITION AND DISPOSITION	6,970,309	4,729,582	0	4,729,582	-32.15%
4120 - PROPERTY ACQUISITION	6,178,722	4,396,038		4,396,038	-28.85%
4130 - PROPERTY DISPOSITION	536,888	300,000		300,000	-44.12%

4140 - PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	254,699	33,544		33,544	-86.83%
4500 - PORTFOLIO AND ASSET MANAGEMENT	2,576,479	4,107,393	0	4,107,393	59.42%
4510 - PORTFOLIO AND ASSET MANAGEMENT	2,576,480	4,107,394		4,107,394	59.42%
7000 - PROGRAM MONITORING	2,940,217	1,741,318	0	1,741,318	-40.78%
7010 - CONTRACT COMPLIANCE	2,430,688	995,597		995,597	-59.04%
7020 - QUALITY ASSURANCE	414,478	745,722		745,722	79.92%
7030 - HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION COMPLIANCE	95,051	0		0	-100.00%
8100 - HOUSING REGULATION ADMINISTRATION	2,568,744	2,181,406	-75,405	2,106,001	-18.01%
8110 - RENTAL CONVERSION AND SALES DIVISION	915,487	669,836		669,836	-26.83%
8120 - HOUSING RESOURCE CENTER	78,043	1,356		1,356	-98.26%
8130 - INCLUSIONARY ZONING PROGRAM	535,620	632,306		632,306	18.05%
8140 - RENTAL ACCOMMODATIONS DIVISION	1,039,594	877,909	-75,405	802,504	-22.81%
9100 - RENTAL HOUSING COMMISSION	853,241	1,002,608	0	1,002,608	17.51%
GROSS FUNDS	**196,865,672**	**285,404,844**	**(194,405)**	**285,208,874**	**44.88%**

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) was established by the Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1975, effective July 3, 1975 (21 DCR 2793). The agency's mission is to "create and preserve opportunities for affordable housing and economic development and to revitalize underserved communities."[1]

DHCD is led by a Director, who is appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. The agency operates through the following nine divisions:

***Development Finance Division*:** Provides funding for the development of rental, homeownership and community facility developments that serve District of Columbia neighborhoods. Loans, grants and other financing sources are offered through a competitive process either by a Request for Proposals (RFP) or a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) to finance both affordable housing projects and community facilities projects.

***Residential and Community Services Division*:** Works through neighborhood-based organizations to provide comprehensive housing counseling, small business technical assistance and façade improvement opportunities; administers the District's Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP), and the Employer Assisted Housing Program (EAHP); and provides rehabilitation resources in the form of grants and loans to income eligible owner-occupant and rental units that address health, safety and building code violations, through programs including the Lead Safe Washington Program and Single Family Rehabilitation Program.

[1] Department of Housing and Community Development, Mission and Vision: http://dhcd.dc.gov/page/mission-and-vision-0

***Property Acquisition and Disposition Division*:** Stabilizes neighborhoods by (i) encouraging property owners to rehabilitate and/or occupy their vacant or abandoned residential property, (ii) acquiring vacant, abandoned and deteriorated properties through negotiated friendly sale, eminent domain, donation, or tax sale foreclosure, and (iii) disposing of such properties by selling them to individuals or developers to be rehabilitated into high quality affordable and market-rate single-family and/or multifamily for-sale housing in District neighborhoods.

***Portfolio and Asset Management Division*:** Provides portfolio management and oversight of outstanding loans to DHCD and manages the allocation of Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC). This division also monitors the status of existing loans to ensure compliance with loan covenants and collections of loans that are due and conducts the reviews of the risks and relationships of potential borrowers to protect the department's assets.

***Program Monitoring Division*:** Provides contract and regulatory compliance, as well as quality assurance, particularly in regard to federal grant programs that have extensive requirements such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs.

***Housing Regulation Administration*:** Administers residential housing regulations relating to condominium conversions and registrations, rent adjustment procedures, licensing and other related matters. This includes the tenant opportunity to purchase program, rental stabilization, inclusionary zoning, and affordable dwelling unit compliance.

***Rental Housing Commission*:** Enforces the Rental Housing Act of 1985, including service as neutral arbiter on appeals of disputes between tenants and landlords from the Office of Administrative Hearings and Rent Administrator.

***Agency Management*:** Provides administrative support and the required tools to achieve operational and programmatic results. This division is standard for all agencies using performance-based budgeting.

***Agency Financial Operations*:** Provides financial management services to, and on behalf of, District agencies so that the financial integrity of the District of Columbia is maintained. This division is standard for all agencies using performance-based budgeting.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget for DHCD is $285,404,845, an increase of $88,539,175 from FY 2015, or 45%. The FTE level of 171.0 in FY 2016 reflects an increase from 159.0 FTEs in FY 2015.

Local Funds: The Mayor's proposed local funds budget is $12,695,000, a decrease of $2,430,000, or 16.1%, over the FY 2015 approved budget of $15,125,000. This funding level supports 48.0 FTEs; an increase of 13.0, or 37.1%, compared to the FY 2015 approved level.

Special Purpose Revenue Funds: The Mayor's proposed special purpose revenue funds budget is $2,046,000, a decrease of $4,454,000, or 68.5%, from the FY 2015 approved budget of $6,500,000. This funding supports 0.0 FTEs, a decrease of 16.0, or 100%, compared to the FY 2015 approved level.

Federal Funds: The Mayor's proposed federal funds budget is $47,057,000, an increase of $5,702,000, or 13.8%, compared to the FY 2015 approved level. This funding supports 48.0 FTEs, a decrease of 29.5, or 38.1%, compared to the FY 2015 approved level.

Intra-District Funds: The Mayor's proposed intra-district funds budget (inclusive of the $100 million of Housing Production Trust Fund dollars[2]) is $223,607,000, an increase of $89,721,000, or 67.0%, compared to the FY 2015 approved budget of $133,886,000. This funding supports 75.0 FTEs, an increase of 44.5, or 145.9%, compared to the FY 2015 level.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Staffing: DHCD currently has 159.0 FTEs, and the Mayor's proposed budget increases these staffing levels to 171.0 FTEs. The additional FTEs are a reflection of the attorneys being deployed from the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) to work on all the development deals and loans. The cost of these added FTEs are being split between Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds as well as Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF), as their tasks and responsibilities embody the work impacting each of these funding sources.

In FY 2016, DHCD seeks to align the funding of positions to be consistent with the functions and descriptions of the positions. Administrative positions are now primarily funded with local appropriated funds. Programmatic functions including development finance, residential and community services, and asset management are

[2] B20-0708 – Housing Production Trust Fund Baseline Funding Amendment Act of 2014, effective March 11, 2015 (D.C. Law 20-208; 61 DCR 12725)

funded primarily through federal assistance funds via the CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds, as well as HPTF funds.

There are significant vacancies in senior management within critical divisions at DHCD. DHCD has prioritized the filling of these vacancies with quality seasoned professionals and plan to hire in the next quarter for the following positions:[3]

Positions to be Filled in FY 15	Position Description
Chief Program Officer	Oversee most of the DHCD program functions including: Portfolio Asset Management, Property Acquisition and Disposal, Residential and Community Services, and Program Monitoring
Development Finance Manager	Oversee the Development Finance Division
Housing and Compliance Manager	Oversee the Program Monitoring Division that provides all compliance functions for the agency
Performance, Policy, and Legislation Manager	Oversee performance management, policy, and legislation. This position will report directly to the Chief of Staff and work on the annual Comprehensive Plan.

The Committee urges DHCD to continue to work expeditiously to fill vacancies with capable experts so that move DHCD can forward. The Committee will continue to monitor the vacancy levels to ensure that all the essential positions are filled.

Cross Agency Coordination: DHCD is an active participant in the District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH), which is a group of cabinet-level leaders, providers of homeless services, advocates, homeless and former homeless leaders that come together to inform and guide the District's strategies and policies for meeting the needs of individuals and families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless. On March 31, 2015, ICH approved its next five year strategic plan to end homelessness, "Homeward DC." DHCD has committed to use the available various funding opportunities to achieve outcomes associated with this plan such as the production of Rapid Re-Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Targeted Affordable Housing units.[4] The agency has committed to a continued and active involvement in the ICH in order to end homelessness in the District.

The Mayor will also create a DC Preservation Strike Force in FY 2015 and the work of this strike force will continue into FY 2016.[5] The Strike Force will be led by the Director of DHCD and comprised of the Chairperson of the Committee on Housing and

[3] *Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Responses to Follow-up Questions after the Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development follow-up questions* (May 2, 2015)

[4] *DHCD Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (April 20, 2015) (written testimony of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

[5] *Ibid.*

Community Development and selected stakeholders from the public. This group will develop an action plan to preserve the existing affordable housing in the District, including a proactive strategy to plan the future use of affordable housing developments that have expiring subsidies or affordability covenants. The action plan will incorporate various financial resources funds to implement the recommendations, including local and federal affordable housing. The agency has ensured the Committee that it will conduct a coordinated effort with all members of the Strike Force to carry out initiatives that seek to achieve the preservation of affordable housing in the District.

Performance Management and Strategic Planning: DHCD currently maintains a database of DHCD's affordable rental and homeownership projects, which can be accessed through the dashboard of the agency's website.[6] This performance dashboard provides useful information about the affordable projects that are being developed with the assistance of government support.[7] This database serves as an internal accountability tool for the agency, and a means to improve transparency and communication with the public to allow better tracking of projects in the DHCD pipeline.

The District's rent control program is one of the city's most significant policy tools for maintaining affordable housing. However, despite the existence of rent control since 1985, the DHCD still does not know how many units are actually subject to rent control. A research source that cites the "best estimate" is that there are approximately 4,818 properties with 79,145 housing units *potentially* subject to rent control.[8] Much work needs to be done to improve the District's rent control regime and it is critical to establish a database of rent control-related information upon which the Committee could base policy decisions for future legislation. To that end, the Committee recently introduced a bill to mandate the establishment of a searchable, real-time, online database of all rental housing accommodations subject to the Rental Housing Act of 1985. The Committee will work closely with DHCD, where this database is to be housed, to create an effective rent control database. This legislation is discussed in greater detail in the Committee's Budget Support Act recommendations.

Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA): The Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) is the annual competitive solicitation process in which a host of programmatic funding is allocated to affordable housing projects. Each year, DHCD issues a NOFA to provide gap financing for affordable housing and lays out clear criteria about how projects will be selected and serve as a vehicle for capital financing, as well as services and operational funding for the production of permanent supportive housing units. The Development Finance Division at DHCD plans to issue the FY 2015 multi-agency NOFA in the summer of 2015 (no specific date set). Agencies participating in the NOFA include the DC Housing Finance Agency (HFA), DC Housing Authority (DCHA), the

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[6] DHCD performance dashboard: https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bit4krbdh?a=q&qid=65

[7] DHCD executed financing agreements (closed) on 23 projects in FY 2014. On average, projects spent 863 days in the pipeline, from application to closing. The shortest amount of time a project spent in the pipeline was 324 days, and the longest a project spent in the pipeline was 3,064 days. DHCD has reliable data on the 84 most recent projects to enter its pipeline. Of those, 12 have been withdrawn from the pipeline, 36 are still in the underwriting pipeline (pending), and 36 have successfully closed.

[8] *A Rent Control Report for the District of Columbia"* by Neighborhood Info DC, June 2011

Department of Human Services (DHS) and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH).[9] NOFA responses will be due in 60 days, and DHCD will use a single application submission system rather than a two-tiered response system.[10] DHCD has stated that the proposals for the FY 2015 NOFA will prioritize proposals that produce Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units in order to meet the goals of the Homeward DC plan, and the statutory requirement that 40% of Housing Production Trust Fund project delivery funds be dedicated to producing or preserving housing affordable to households earning 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) or below.[11] However, DHCD will also fund projects that focus on the production and preservation of affordable housing, including TOPA, acquisitions, pre-development, construction, and rehabilitation.

The Committee will actively communicate with DHCD to ensure that project proposals that are accepted through the NOFA process meet the statutory requirements for HPTF, and that the units produced will help to ameliorate the affordable housing crisis in the District. Additionally, to increase participation and the ability of developers to apply for financing of affordable housing projects, the Committee recommends that DHCD look to increasing the number of NOFA issuances throughout the first three quarters of the fiscal year.

***Acquisition Loan Program (ALP)*:** During FY 2014 and FY 2015, DHCD has worked with both the lending and development communities on expanding/ leveraging access to capital for non-profit and for-profit affordable housing developers with a mission. The increased capital (which would be provided by private lending institutions and credit enhanced by DHCD) would provide non-profit and for-profit developers with resources to acquire existing affordable housing properties, vacant land that can be developed for affordable housing, and predevelopment costs associated with creation or preservation of affordable housing. This initiative is called the Acquisition Loan Program (ALP) and will be launched via a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) in the 3rd quarter of FY 2015.

The primary difference between the existing Site Acquisition Funding Initiative (SAFI) and the ALP is that SAFI was designed to provide quickly accessible, revolving loan funds for acquisition and pre-development costs to non-profit developers. ALP, as proposed, would be made available to for profit developers with a mission. ALP has also been designed to require participants to match DHCD's investment 1:3, while SAFI has a 1:1 match.[12] The Committee will continue to monitor and work with DHCD as they review and evaluate the current plan so that participation opportunities are maximized.

***Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP)*:** HPAP is a relatively unique program in the District that seeks to provide down payment and closing cost assistance to

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[9] *DHCD Responses to Follow-up Questions after the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (May 7, 2015) (Question #5 from the submitted responses of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).
[10] *Ibid.*
[11] D.C. Official Code § 42-2802(b-1).
[12] *DHCD Responses to Follow-up Questions after the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (May 7, 2015) (Question #4 from the submitted responses of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

low and moderate income District residents to become first-time homebuyers in the District. The theories of economic, social, and psychological benefits of homeownership are numerous and well-recognized. Studies have shown that homeownership leads to wealth building, which in turn leads to an enhanced quality of life, improved health, and enriched parenting. Greater residential security and quality housing reaps the benefits of higher levels of high school and post-secondary completion, better school performance, improved youth behavior, social capital, as well as greater political participation. Nevertheless, obstacles to homeownership are many, including the particularly daunting barrier of families being able to save enough for a down payment, a hurdle this program seeks to break down.

In FY 2014, DHCD closed 208 loans out of a total of 565 applicants (37% success rate) to the HPAP program that assists low to moderate income first-time homebuyers to purchase a home. [13] Despite the steady number of applications received the total number of loans closed is the lowest in the past five fiscal years.[14] In FY 2014, $5,033,936 of the HPAP budget was not spent. [15] The approved budget for FY 2015 was $12,222,000, and as of April 2, 2015, DHCD has expended only $3,824, 814.[16] [17] Due to residual effects from the economic crisis, changes in the mortgage market and the credit approval process has negatively affected the number of loans being closed.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget for HPAP is $9,665,000, which represents a decrease of $2,556,000 from the previous year. DHCD stated that the Mayor's FY16 Proposed Budget for DHCD is an attempt to "right-size" and adjust the funding based on past under-spending. DHCD further has committed that if the demand increases, the agency will look access federal funds available for HPAP (Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)) and make internal adjustments.[18] The Committee will continue to monitor the number of applications and if the demand increases, ensure that DHCD is capable of meeting the demand as needed.

Additionally, changes in markets related to the price of a home make it difficult where the maximum loan amount towards a down payment may not be enough to address the gap for a very low-income person to purchase a home. Hence, in December 2014 DHCD increased the maximum amount of down payment assistance from $44,000 to $54,000 and in the near future, plans to further increase the down payment assistance

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[13] *DHCD Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (April 20, 2015) (written testimony of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

[14] *DHCD Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 17, 2015) (Question #68 from the submitted responses of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

[15] *Id.* at question #67

[16] FY16 Formulation and FY15 Year to Date Pivot Table (April 2, 2015), *Council of the District of Columbia Office of the Budget Director*

[17] FY 2015 encumbered funds indicate a balance of $7,109,499 (inclusive of overhead to GWUL and pending loan disbursements)

[18] *DHCD Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (April 20, 2015) (oral testimony of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

amount to $80,000.[19] With that said, there are unintended consequences of larger loan amount that may become a burden on low-income households, as compared to the higher-income borrowers. The Committee recommends that DHCD examines the restructuring of loan repayments for those with less income and higher loan amounts, possibly to a structure where the repayment of the loan would come due at the time of sale, or by dividing up the loan payments based on a length of time rather than number of payments (*i.e.* $80,000 assistance would be due over a period of 15 years). The Committee will work with DHCD on developing initiatives to improve and train potential homebuyers on credit worthiness, financial literacy, and the financial process so that they are successful borrowers.

At DHCD's Performance Oversight Hearing on February 26th and the Budget Oversight Hearing on April 20th before the Committee on Housing and Community Development, a significant number of witnesses testified to specific issues that caused delays in acquiring an HPAP loan.[20] DHCD stated that federal funds are used to fund HPAP and the gap in financing is addressed by Greater Washington Urban League's (GWUL) line of credit. Recently, GWUL's line of credit was increased to $2 million and this increase should rectify the issue of delayed reimbursements.[21] DHCD is continuing to conduct an internal review of the procedures so that this process will be better aligned with the market time frames. DHCD will also examine whether streamlining the two mandated home inspections could accelerate the application process. The Committee will continue to monitor DHCD and the HPAP loan application procedure and recommends that DHCD improve the loan processing procedures to reduce the overall time frame of the HPAP loan application to 120 days.

Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program (SFRRP): Administered by the Residential and Community Services Division, this program provides financial assistance to low-income homeowners for home repairs to alleviate DC building code violations and assists homeowners in repairing physical threats to health and safety, and modify or eliminate barriers to accessibility for persons with mobility or other physical impairments. In particular, this program seeks to allow the District's senior population to age-in-place. There are three specific programs under this title which is as follows:

Program Title	Program Description
Roof Repair Program	Provides a grant for seniors of up to $15,000 to replace and/or repair the roof. This grant pays for

[19] *DHCD Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (April 20, 2015) (written testimony of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

[20] The main issues outlined in the hearing are as follows: (1) the delay of reimbursements from DHCD to the community provider, Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL); (2) the gap between the time frame of the HPAP loan closing process (180 days) and the time frame of a loan closing in the regular market (30-60 days); (3) the redundancy of mandating two separate home inspections.

[21] *DHCD Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (April 20, 2015) (oral testimony of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

	exterior roofing and gutter work only.
Handicapped Accessibility Improvement Program (HAIP)	Provides a grant of up to $30,000 for accessibility modifications needed to adjust most physical barriers within a home for persons with mobility or other physical impairments
Permanent Deferred Loans for Seniors	This benefit allows households where the head of household is over 62 years of age to have the first $10,000 of their loan, provided as a permanently deferred loan. Deferral of additional amounts is considered on a case-by-case basis.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget for SFRRP is $1,802,000, which represents a significant decrease of $6,269,000 from FY 2015. The approved budget for FY 2015 was $8,071,000 and as of April 2, 2015, DHCD expended $336,945.[22] DHCD stated that the Mayor's proposed FY16 budget for this program is also a move to "right-size", and adjust the funding based on previous under-spending, and that should demand increase, the agency will look to make internal adjustments to meet any increased demand.[23] Moreover, first quarter production numbers for FY 2015 indicate that 23 homes were awarded loans for the Roof Repair Program, 11 homes were retro-fitted for the Handicapped Accessibility Improvement Program (HAIP), and 9 homes were rehabilitated. The first quarter production numbers in FY 2015 nearly equal the entire FY 2014 performance of 49 homes repaired or modified. Second quarter production numbers indicate that 5 homes were awarded loans through the Roof Repair Program and 3 homes were retro-fitted for HAIP. The Committee recommends DHCD continue to closely monitor the demands of SFRRP, to be able to address any increases in applicants to process and award the loans in 120 days to qualified recipients.

Lead SAFE Washington (LSW): Also administered by the Residential and Community Services Division, this program, seeks to create lead safe affordable housing for low-to-moderate income families with children under the age of 6. The LSW program will test eligible properties for lead-based paint hazards at no charge. If an eligible property is identified as having lead-based paint hazards, DHCD will provide grant funding to property owners for the removal of lead-based paint hazards.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget for LSW is $1,338,000, which represents a decrease of $370,000 from FY 2015. The approved budget for FY 2015 was $1,708,000. To perform lead hazard reduction intervention in 225 homes and perform Healthy Homes interventions in 150 units, between January 2015 and January 2018, the LSW Program was awarded a new Lead Hazard Reduction Demonstration Grant, No. DCLHD0268-14 from HUD's Office of Healthy Homes Lead Hazard Control (OHHLHC) in the amount of $3.346.551, with a $400.000 Healthy Homes supplemental

[22] FY16 Formulation and FY15 Year to Date Pivot Table (April 2, 2015), *Council of the District of Columbia Office of the Budget Director*

[23] *DHCD Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development* (April 20, 2015) (oral testimony of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

component and a District match of $983,564 of HPTF funds. This newly acquired grant will provide more federal funding in this program, thereby allowing DHCD to utilize local discretionary funds to address any increased demands throughout the fiscal year as they improve and streamline the existing programs. The Committee recommends that DHCD continue to monitor the demands and the expenditures for each of the programs to ensure that requests are met.

Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA): DHCD's Residential and Community Services Division operates a program called the Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA), which seeks to provide grants to neighborhood-based organizations for technical assistance to small business and storefront façade improvements in commercial corridors. SBTA supports the start-up, expansion, and improvement of small and retail businesses in eligible commercial areas in the District via Community Based Non-Profit Organizations (CBOs). The assistance provided can include micro-loan packaging, business planning, entrepreneurial training, one-on-one business technical assistance, tax preparation assistance, accounting assistance, or legal assistance. Providing assistance to small businesses plays a vital role in building and strengthening low to moderate income neighborhoods to improve the overall economic viability of neighborhood commercial corridors.

The SBTA program is under Neighborhood Based Activities (Activity 3010). The agency has been effective in using most if not all resources for this critical activity. The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget for Neighborhood Based Activities is $8,628,000, which represents a significant increase of $1,710,000 from FY 2015. However, SBTA does not have a specific amount allocated to the program. Therefore, in order to provide accessibility and transparency to this program, the Committee has created Activity 3015 designated as the Small Business Technical Assistance line item and committed $3 million to the program.

Rental Housing Commission (RHC): The Rental Housing Commission (the "Commission") is a three-member, independent quasi-judicial body with direct reporting responsibility to DHCD on administrative, management and budgetary matters. The Commission holds appellate hearings on appeals from either the Rent Administrator or the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH), regarding disputes concerning the District's rent control laws. The Commission is part of the Executive Branch of the D.C. Government.[24]

The three Commissioners are appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council. One of the commissioners is designated the Chairman of the Commission, and each Commissioner must be a member in good standing of the District of Columbia Bar.

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[24] *DHCD Responses to Questions in Advance of the Performance Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Years 2014/2015* (February 17, 2015) (Question #109 from the submitted responses of Polly Donaldson, Director, DHCD).

The Commission has three statutory functions designed to preserve and increase the supply of quality affordable rental housing for the residents of the District. These duties include the responsibility to:

1. Issue, amend and rescind regulations that are promulgated for enforcement of the Rental Housing Act of 1985;
2. Certify and publish the annual adjustment of general applicability to rents, which is based upon annual changes to the Consumer Price Index for the greater Washington, D.C. area; and
3. Decide appeals brought to the Commission from the Office of Administrative Hearings and the Rent Administrator.[25]

Regretfully, following the unsuitability of two out of the three nominees that were nominated to the Commission by Mayor Fenty, the Commission lacked a quorum for a substantial portion of FY 2010 and a smaller portion of FY 2011.[26] As a result, the Commission did not operate and fulfill its statutory duties for a period of one year from January 17, 2010 to January 31, 2011. During this period, the Commission only employed a single administrative staff person.[27] This situation resulted in excruciatingly long time periods for cases to be decided, despite the fact that important rent control cases had lain dormant before the Commission for long periods.

In order to help alleviate the situation and to allow cases to be heard, the Council temporarily reduced the Commission's quorum requirement from two Commissioners to one. This legislative action permitted the Commission's chairman, the only Commissioner nominated by Mayor Fenty and approved by the Council in 2010, to resume the statutory functions of the Commission.[28]

Finally, in August of 2011, the Council approved incoming-Mayor Gray's two nominations to the Commission, which resulted in the restoration of the Commission's customary statutory functions and operations. Since August 2011 to date, the Commission has operated with the three Commissioners required by the Rental Housing Act.[29]

With the confirmation of the most recent commissioner in January 2014, the Commission has been fully empaneled, thereby helping the Commission reduce its backlog of cases and average disposition times.[30]

The Committee acknowledges the Commission for its efforts thus far to reduce its long backlog of cases, and further expects to see continued progress on this front. The Committee recommends the Commission work to complete a standard operating

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[25] *Ibid.*
[26] *Id.* at question #112b.
[27] *Id.* at question #112a.
[28] *Id.* at question #112b.
[29] *Id.* at question #112b.
[30] *Id.* at question #112c.

procedures manual that the Commission will follow, predicated on the regulations and the interpretation of the law, so that more cases are resolved quickly and consistently. The residents and providers of housing accommodations under rent control deserve no less.

The Committee urges the Commission to consult extensively with a variety of stakeholders inclusive of the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA), the Rental Accommodations Division at DHCD, Legal Aid of the District of Columbia, and the University Legal Services (ULS), representatives of housing providers and other relevant tenant advocate non-profits before regulations are promulgated, in order to help ensure that their initial promulgation results in the regulations being as close as possible to the final product.

The Committee recommends the Commission draft a comprehensive manual describing the procedures for administrative adjudication of disputes under the Rental Housing Act by the end of calendar year 2015.

Since the passing of L16-0145, the Rent Control Reform Amendment Act of 2006[31], for a variety of reasons, the District's rent control regime has under gone many significant changes. Unfortunately, to the neglect of its responsibilities to issue, amend, and rescind regulations that enforce the Rental Housing Act, due to the reasons described above, the Commission has had to focus its time on reducing the backlog of dormant cases[32].

The Committee therefore urges the Commission to expedite its efforts to promulgate a single, comprehensive rulemaking regarding 14 DCMR §§ 3800-4400 (2004) that addresses legislative amendments to the Rental Housing of 1985 and other related laws, that is completed by the end of FY 2015. As appropriate, the rulemaking should also take into consideration:

- The transferred of the Commission, the Rent Administrator, and the Rental Accommodations Division from the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to DHCD.
- The transfer of the jurisdiction over hearings on contested cases to OAH.
- A general clarification of the language and structure of the regulations.
- Improvements to administrative and adjudicative processes under the Rental Housing Act.
- The incorporation of the results of published decisions of the D.C. Court of Appeals arising from cases under the under the Rental Housing Act.

With the near universal expansion of the internet, and with the availability of internet access at many public libraries and other government facilities, the District

[31] L16-0145, the Rent Control Reform Amendment Act of 2006 (D.C. Official Code § 42-3501.01 et seq.), effective from Aug 5, 2006 < http://lims.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B16-0109?FromSearchResults=true>

[32] *Id.* at question #116a.

government should be consistently moving to make more and more of its activities available for online public review.

The Committee therefore urges the Commission to make Commission decisions and orders available to the general public via the DHCD website.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Department of Housing and Community Development has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes the importance of transparency and commitment to successful programs, and recommends that Activity 3010-Neighborhood Based Activities, CSG 50-Subsidies and Transfers be reduced by $3 million, and that this amount be transferred to a newly established line item Activity 3015-Small Business Technical Assistance.

- The Committee reduces FTE authority by $75,404 at the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) as follows:

    - Rental Accommodations, Contact Representative: $75,404

  The Committee recognizes the need for the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs to have an activity code for the purpose of budget transparency and accessibility to funds. Therefore, the Committee newly establishes a line item Activity 5010-Office on Caribbean Community Affairs under the Office of the Mayor's (EOM) Office of Community Affairs, and that same funding is transferred to Activity 5010- Office on Caribbean Community Affairs. The focus of the Commission is addressing the various disparities associated with health, education, housing affordability and homelessness experienced by members of the Caribbean community.

- The Committee reduces the Program 2000-Development Finance Division, Activity 2010-Affordable Housing Project Financing by $119,000 to send to the Committee on Business, Consumer, and Regulatory Affairs to restore funding to the Emergency Housing Assistance Program (EHAP) in the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA). This program is fundamental to the well-being of District tenants – particularly tenants who live in areas where poor housing conditions are more prevalent – by providing emergency housing to tenants who have been

temporarily displaced from their homes usually due to a government closure or fire.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Department of Housing and Community Development has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee applauds the progress that Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has made in working expeditiously to fill vacancies at the senior management level. The Committee recognizes that capable housing experts are essential to move DHCD forward. Therefore, the Committee urges the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to continue this work to hire the competent and talented individuals, particularly in those divisions concerned with underwriting and loan processing. The Committee will continue to monitor the vacancy levels to ensure that all the essential positions are filled.

- Every year the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is released, the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) balance appears to be alarmingly high due to this difference in accounting techniques. Despite the large number of projects underway in the pipeline, this difference results in a sense of public mistrust in the agency's ability to spend the taxpayers' dollars in an effective and efficient manner. The Committee urges DHCD to work with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) to bridge the gap in reporting encumbrances of housing pipeline projects between the accounting software SOAR and DHCD's internal tracking system.

- The Committee recommends that DHCD conduct bimonthly reviews of the legacy/inherited projects in the pipeline to make a determination of their viability. The Committee also urges DHCD to henceforth, conduct a review on a quarterly basis to reevaluate the feasibility of any longstanding project that is 18 months or older.

- The Committee recommends that DHCD explore whether increasing the number of Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) issuances from the current annual system to quarterly in order to increase participation and provide more flexibility to developers that apply for government financing of affordable housing projects. The Committee will actively communicate with DHCD to ensure that project proposals that are accepted through the NOFA process will meet the statutory requirements for HPTF, and that the units produced will help to address the affordable housing crisis in the District.

- The Committee urges DHCD to review, streamline, and improve the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP), so that with the cooperation of practitioners, DHCD will be able to achieve a realistically less cumbersome process of applying for HPAP assistance. The goal of the review is to help low and moderate income individuals and families of the District to become first-time homebuyers by reducing both the number of forms and of days (120) it takes to process an HPAP application. Furthermore, the Committee requests a monthly status update on steps taken and improvements realized through the initiatives to meet the goal of accelerating the processing of HPAP loan applications.

- The Committee requests that DHCD provide a date for when the agency intends to increase the maximum loan amount of $80,000. The Committee also recommends that DHCD examines the restructuring of loan repayments for those with less income and higher loan amounts, possibly to a structure where the repayment of the loan would come due at the time of sale, or by dividing the loan payments based on a length of time rather than current structure of 100 interest-free payments (*i.e.* $80,000 assistance would be due over a period of 15 years).

- The Committee recommends that DHCD continue its close monitoring of the demands of Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program (SFRRP), so that despite any increases in applicants, the agency would be better able to process and award the loans to qualified recipients within 120 days. Further, the Committee requests a monthly status update on expanded outreach and revised implementation procedures.

- The Committee recommends that DHCD regularly inform the Committee an updated list of government-owned vacant properties and the status thereof. DHCD is requested, in the second and fourth quarter of every fiscal year, to provide the Committee with a list of the government-owned vacant properties and a list of units slated to be used for affordable housing projects.

- The Committee urges DHCD to generate and maintain a list of candidates eligible for Affordable Dwelling Units (ADUs) in development projects The agency should use this list to direct the interested parties to the developers to jumpstart the process of obtaining an ADU. By redirecting the registration of eligible candidates to DHCD, away from the confusion that frequently exists with private developers, eligible candidates will have greater access to and additional options for locating ADUs citywide.

- With regards to the work of the Rental Housing Commission, the Committee applauds them for its efforts thus far to reduce its long backlog of cases, and further expects to see continued progress on this front. The Committee recommends the Commission work to complete a standard operating procedures manual that the Commission will follow, predicated on the regulations and the interpretation of the law, so that more cases are resolved quickly and consistently.

The residents and providers of housing accommodations under rent control deserve no less.

- The Committee urges the Rental Housing Commission to consult extensively with a variety of stakeholders inclusive of the Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA), the Rental Accommodations Division (RAD) at DHCD, Legal Aid of the District of Columbia, and the University Legal Services (ULS),representatives of housing providers and other relevant tenant advocate non-profits before regulations are promulgated, in order to help ensure that their initial promulgation results in the regulations being as close as possible to the final product.

- The Committee recommends that the Rental Housing Commission draft a comprehensive manual describing the procedures for administrative adjudication of disputes under the Rental Housing Act by the end of the calendar year 2015.

- The Committee therefore urges the Rental Housing Commission to expedite its efforts to promulgate a single, comprehensive rulemaking regarding 14 DCMR §§ 3800-4400 (2004) to address legislative amendments to the Rental Housing of 1985 and other related laws, to be completed by the end of FY 2015.

- With the near universal expansion of the internet, and with the availability of internet access at many public libraries and other government facilities, the District government should be consistently moving to make more and more of its activities available for online public review. The Committee therefore urges the Commission to make Rental Housing Commission decisions and orders available to the general public via the DHCD website.

M. ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS (DX0)

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
DX0 - ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS					
100 LOCAL FUND	924,012	926,617	0	926,617	*0.28%*
GROSS FUNDS	**924,012**	**926,617**	**0**	**926,617**	***0.28%***

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS FTES

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
DX0 - ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS					
100 LOCAL FUND	2.50	2.50	0	2.50	*0.00%*
GROSS FTES	**2.50**	**2.50**	**0**	**2.50**	***0.00%***

OPERATING BUDGET BY CSG GROSS FUNDS

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
DX0 - ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS					
Personal Services (PS)	**239,024**	**233,624**	**0**	**233,624**	***-2.26%***
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	163,628	171,961	0	171,961	*5.09%*
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	29,294	31,014	0	31,014	*5.87%*
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	46,102	30,649	0	30,649	*-33.52%*
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**684,988**	**692,993**	**0**	**692,993**	***1.17%***
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	*0.00%*
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	2,300	8,305	0	8,305	*261.09%*
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	677,688	677,688	0	677,688	*0.00%*
70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	0	2,000	0	2,000	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**924,012**	**926,617**	**0**	**926,617**	***0.28%***

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
DX0 - ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS					
1000 - AGENCY MANAGEMENT	246,324	248,929	0	248,929	*1.06%*
2000 - ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSIONS	677,688	677,688	0	677,688	*0.00%*
GROSS FUNDS	**924,012**	**926,617**	**0**	**926,617**	***0.28%***

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The mission of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) is to advise the D.C. government on the public policies that currently affect and may potentially affect their neighborhood areas.[1] This mission includes considering policies on police protection, economic development, health, safety, and zoning in their respective neighborhoods.[2] As the organ of District government with the closest official ties to individual residents, Commissioners are the government's liaison to local communities, thus ensuring effective service by the government.[3]

The Commissioners supported in their mission by the Office of ANC (OANC), which provides technical, administrative, and financial reporting assistance to the 40 ANCs and nearly 300 Single Member District Commissioners who comprise them.[4]

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross budget is $926,616, an increase of $2,604 or 0.3 percent, from FY 2015.[5] OANC's budget consists of local funds only.

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 operating budget for OANC is $248,928. Personnel costs, benefits, and salaries cost $242,923. This includes a decrease in fringe

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[1] Gottlieb Simon, *About ANC*: Available at http://anc.dc.gov/page/about-anc.
[2] *Id.*
[3] *Id.*
[4] *Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Performance Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (Feb. 15, 2015) (written testimony of Gottlieb Simon, Executive Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commission).
[5] $678,000 of the gross budget goes towards ANCs, while the remaining budget is for the Office of ANCs.

benefits of $12,270 to align with projected salaries. Additionally, the agency will receive an increase of $2,000 for equipment or equipment rentals.[6]

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget grants OANC 2.5 FTEs. These staffing levels are identical to FY 2015.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Equipment and Support: In the FY 2015 budget, the Committee provided the OANC with one-time funding of $2,000 to account for web and printing services as well as other agency management needs.[7] The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget would provide the OANC with an additional $6,000 based on demand in FY 2015 and previous years.

Agency Accomplishments: Director Gottlieb Simon, with a staff that includes 1.5 other FTEs, has conducted trainings for all new commissioners, as well as make-up sessions for those Commissioners that were unavailable. Furthermore, this staff is considering additional training sessions; a refresher course for old Commissioners that have returned to their positions; and a separate refresher for long-time continuous Commissioners. The Committee supports these additional trainings and foresees them as increasing the agency's efficiency.

Connecting the Legislative Branch with ANCs: The Committee is aware of potential areas for legislation that would amend the powers and procedures of the OANC. The Committee is currently meeting with every ANC Commissioner in the District, along with other stakeholders and interested members of the public. At each meeting, the Committee is recording ideas for feedback on the current system, as well as potential changes to enhance current procedures. After these face-to-face meetings, the Committee will hold public meetings with a set of ANC Commissioners, out in the community. At these roundtable discussions, the Committee will outline the ideas and concerns collected from each meeting and solicit feedback for a framework on ANC reform. In addition, the meetings will be used to increase inter-ward communication between ANCs, to create a more coordinated coverage of the District in the future.

The Committee recommends the Executive Director to participate in coordinated efforts to review these policies and implement changes that can maximize the expansiveness and effectiveness of the OANC in its support of the Commissioners and their work in the neighborhoods.

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[6] In past years, the OANC has required equipment expenditures during the Fiscal Year, and this increase should at least partially mitigate such requests.

[7] D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer, *Advisory Neighborhood Commissions*, 2 FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan A15 (2016).

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends the Executive Director participates in coordinated efforts to review present ANC policies, and work with the Committee to implement changes that can maximize the expansiveness and effectiveness of the OANC in its support of the Commissioners and their work in the neighborhoods.

N. HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY (HF0)

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2015 Revised	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
HF0 - HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY						
100 LOCAL FUND	0	0	0	0	0	/0
110 DEDICATED TAXES	0	0	0	0	0	/0
150 FEDERAL PAYMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	/0
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	0	0	0	0	0	/0
250 FEDERAL MEDICAID PAYMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	/0
400 PRIVATE GRANT FUND	0	0	0	0	0	/0
450 PRIVATE DONATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	/0
600 SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	/0
610 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS-DEDICATED TAX	0	0	0	0	0	/0
620 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS - O TYPES	9,661,513	9,661,513	10,798,000	0	10,798,000	11.76%
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	/0
GROSS FUNDS	**9,661,513**	**9,661,513**	**10,798,000**	**0**	**10,798,000**	**11.76%**

OPERATING BUDGET BY CSG GROSS FUNDS

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
HF0 - HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY					
Personal Services (PS)	**6,392,213**	**6,490,000**	**0**	**6,490,000**	**1.53%**
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	5,285,228	4,984,000	0	4,984,000	-5.70%
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	1,076,985	1,486,000	0	1,486,000	37.98%
15--OVERTIME PAY	30,000	20,000	0	20,000	-33.33%
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**3,269,300**	**4,308,000**	**0**	**4,308,000**	**31.77%**
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	100,000	100,000	0	100,000	0.00%
30--ENERGY, COMM. AND BLDG RENTALS	135,000	120,000	0	120,000	-11.11%
31--TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH, TELEGRAM, ETC	69,000	70,000	0	70,000	1.45%
33--JANITORIAL SERVICES	75,900	78,000	0	78,000	2.77%
34--SECURITY SERVICES	20,000	10,000	0	10,000	-50.00%
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	1,000,000	1,200,000	0	1,200,000	20.00%
41--CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER	1,400,000	2,200,000	0	2,200,000	57.14%

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

70--EQUIPMENT & EQUIPMENT RENTAL	190,000	170,000	0	170,000	*-10.53%*
80--DEBT SERVICE	279,400	360,000	0	360,000	*28.85%*
GROSS FUNDS	**9,661,513**	**10,798,000**	**0**	**10,798,000**	***11.76%***

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	*% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget*
HF0 - HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY					
1000 - HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY	9,661,513	10,798,000	0	10,798,000	*11.76%*
GROSS FUNDS	**9,661,513**	**10,798,000**	**0**	**10,798,000**	***11.76%***

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency (HFA) was established in 1979 to support and expand homeownership and rental housing opportunities for low- to moderate-income residents of the District of Columbia.[1] HFA accomplishes this by issuing mortgage revenue bonds, which in turn lower homebuyers' expenses of purchasing homes, as well as the developers' costs of developing rental-housing units. HFA's multifamily financing program involves the financing of affordable housing through the issuance of tax-exempt bonds, taxable bonds, 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits, and McKinney Act Savings Funds.

HFA is a corporate instrumentality with a legal existence separate from the District government. By statute, the agency's budget is independent of the D.C. Government's Executive Branch. The agency has its own financial reporting system and is not tied to the financial reporting system of the District. The agency's budget preparation, review and approval for each following fiscal year are completed in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year. The budget is also approved by the Board of Directors in the fourth quarter of the current fiscal year.[2]

The HFA receives no dedicated taxes or special purpose funding. All revenues that support the agency are generated by the agency through fees and other revenues associated with its programs. The agency is entirely self-supporting, and none of its proposed budget funds is derived from District Government revenues. To support its

[1] FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan "Pathways to the Middle Class", Agency Budget Chap – Part III, Housing Finance Agency, page H-31, submitted to the Council of the District of Columbia, by Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia, April 2, 2015.

[2] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #I-10 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

operations and lending programs, the agency utilizes a variety of revenue sources, including the issuance of tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds, earned income, fees and grants. Nevertheless, the agency's budget is subject to the Council of the District of Columbia's review and is included in the annual Budget Book. The agency is governed by a Board of Directors and does not utilize District full-time equivalent employee levels (FTEs). HFA administers the following programs:

Multifamily Mortgage Revenue Bond Program (MMRB): provides tax-exempt and taxable bonds, tax credits, and McKinney Act Savings Loan funds as financial tools that are integral to development of the community's ability to provide affordable, safe and decent housing to low-income and special needs populations. The multi-family mortgage revenue bond and tax credit products serve as vehicles for developers to access low-cost institutional debt and equity tools that enhance return on investment. When combined with 4 percent Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and other subsidies, the HFA's mortgage revenue bond product, which is offered in enhanced structures, provides competitive, below-market rate pricing and helps to preserve, rehabilitate, or construct affordable and mixed-income housing in the District.

Under the MMRB program, nonprofit, for-profit and 501(c)(3) developers can access tax exempt, taxable and 501(c)(3) bonds for the following eligible uses: acquisition, construction and permanent loans, fixed and variable rate loans, rated and un-rated tax exempt and taxable bond financing, credit enhanced or un-enhanced financing, including financing under FHA Multifamily Insurance Programs, DCHFA-HUD Risk Sharing Program, Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, DUS lending and letters of credit.

The financing can be used to rehabilitate or construct: rental housing (affordable, mixed income, market rate), cooperatives (Limited Equity), elderly housing, assisted-living facilities, and transitional housing. Federal regulations require that developers/sponsors who utilize MMRB financing which is funded through the sale of tax exempt private activity bonds set aside at least 20% of their units for individuals or families earning at or below 50% of the area median income (AMI) or at least 40% of their units for individuals or families earning at or below 60% of AMI adjusted for family size. Projects approved for multifamily mortgage revenue bond financing that will be financed through the sale of tax exempt private activity bonds are then eligible to receive 4% low income housing tax credits (LIHTCs).[3]

4% Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program (LIHTC): A companion financing tool for MMRB Program financings funded through the sale of tax exempt private activity bonds is the 4% LIHTC Program. Similar to the private activity bond selection, to realize the benefits of this federal program, developers/sponsors are required to set aside at least 20% of their units for individuals or families earning at or below 50% of the area median income (AMI) or at least 40% of their units for individuals or families earning at or below 60% of AMI adjusted for family size. LIHTCs can be syndicated to

[3] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #II-7 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

generate part of the required equity a borrower must contribute to the financing, or they can be utilized to offset the borrower's tax payments.[4]

McKinney Act Loan Program provides short term predevelopment "bridge" loans that can be used to finance the acquisition, predevelopment and rehabilitation costs associated with housing development. Non-profit and for profit developers building affordable housing in the District of Columbia are eligible for McKinney Act Loans. The funds may be used for one or the more of the following purposes in furtherance of the DCHFA's single family and multifamily programs. The funds may be used for: pre-development and development soft costs, acquisition, construction or rehabilitation, down payment closing cost assistance, mortgage interest rate buy down, credit enhancement or loan guarantee, ancillary or functionally related recreational, health, educational or social services facilities that are integral to housing occupied by very low income persons and families, and equity bridge loans.[5]

Single Family Programs: HFA's Single Family Development programs provide low-interest mortgages for persons purchasing a home in the District at or below the national and local conventional rates. The program includes homebuyer assistance, which provides 30-year fixed rate mortgages and assistance with down payment and closing costs, as funds are available; and homeownership education, which provides regular seminars and community outreach in an effort to empower persons seeking to become homeowners in the District. Through the HFA, information is made available to residents on the Single Family Bond products, financing options, the District government's employer assistance program, tax credits, tax abatements, the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP), other programs to help with closing costs, and other incentives for homebuyers.[6]

DC Open Doors: With an approximate median price of a home in the District at $470,000, much of the housing inventory in the District is only affordable to individuals earning above that 80% AMI threshold. Despite healthy salaries, many potential homebuyers in the District have not amassed a sufficient down payment needed to purchase a home in the District. The result is an entire class of current and prospective District residents who, due to lack of financing assistance, personal savings, or intergenerational resources, are left on the sidelines of a market in which they are otherwise well-qualified to participate.

The implications here are profound for those excluded individuals, but they are also profound for a city working to grow its tax base by attracting and retaining working families and individuals. DCHFA has recognized the opportunity, and therefore sought to meet this unmet need through the DC Open Doors single family mortgage program.

Thus in May 2013, HFA's Office of Single Family Programs launched DC Open Doors, a single-family mortgage payment assistance program. DC Open Doors provides

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[4] *Ibid.*
[5] *Ibid.*
[6] *Ibid.*

assistance to first-time and repeat homebuyers, as well as for refinancing. The program offers both FHA and Fannie Mae mortgage loan products that provide up to 3.5% down payment assistance to borrowers earning at or below 120% of AMI, which is $123,050 per year for the District of Columbia. Working with participating lenders and real estate agent partners, the program has quickly grown in popularity as evidenced by a total of 32 local participating lenders and $97,999,896 million in closed loans as of April 10, 2015.

The program also forgives 20% of the initial 3.5% down-payment loan per year. To participate, the maximum income limit is 115% of the Area Median Income. HFA administers DC Open Doors via a network of national and local lenders. DC Open Doors is compatible and has been used with the following programs and products: DC Employer Assisted Housing Program (EAHAP), DC Negotiated Employee Affordable Home Purchase Program (NEHAP), DC Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP), and Wells Fargo City LIFT Down Payment Assistance Program.[7]

***HFA Small Building/Small Sponsor Loan Program (SBSS)*:** The HFA's Public Finance team is developing the DCHFA Small Building/Small Sponsor Loan Program (SBSS) Multifamily Program. The Program will reduce the transactional cost to small building owners by splitting the cost of a single bond issuance among multiple projects. The program as conceived is called the Small Building/Small Sponsor Program. The target population to be served comprises private owners of multifamily buildings with 1-50 units. SBSS is in its development phase. No funds have been budgeted toward the program.[8]

Single Family Programs: HomeSaver Phase II – Tax Lien Extinguishment Program - The "HomeSaver Phase I Program" and the "HomeSaver Phase II-Tax Lien Extinguishment Program". In February 2010, the Obama Administration announced $1.5 billion in Housing Finance Agency Innovation Fund dollars for the US Treasury's Hardest-Hit program. Through the program, select state housing finance agencies received funding in support of innovative programs intended to stabilize the local housing markets and help families avoid foreclosure.[9]

In 2010, the Housing Finance Agency applied and was awarded over $20 million to implement its Hardest Hit foreclosure program in the District, called HomeSaver. By November, 2013, HomeSaver had committed all but $2.9 million of its funding, when the agency suspended applicant intake. What followed was, in coordination with the US

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[7] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #II-9 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

[8] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #I-13 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

[9] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #I-13 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

Treasury and the DC Office of Tax and Revenue, was the HomeSaver Phase II-Tax Lien Extinguishment Program was established.[10]

HFA also offers a Tax Lien Extinguishment component of its HomeSaver Program. Under its new Tax Lien Extinguishment component, DCHFA will make a one-time payment to extinguish the delinquent real property taxes for all eligible District of Columbia homeowners. DCHFA is currently piloting this program, during which time eligibility will be restricted to District homeowners whose real property has not been sold at tax sale. After the pilot period, DCHFA will expand its eligibility criteria to District homeowners whose real property has previously been sold at tax sale, but whose right to redemption of the real property has not been extinguished. The agency is currently in discussions with the US Treasury regarding the expansion of the Program.

The target population to be served is comprised of District residents who are currently subject to tax liens on their primary District residences. Available funding currently stands at roughly $2.9 million. DCHFA has made no projection of how much of those funds will be available at the start of FY2016. The development of SBSS and HomeSaver Phase II has no budgetary impact on the District government whatsoever.

Summary of HFA generated funds and associated agency revenues for FY 2014:[11]

- **Issuance of Multifamily Housing Mortgage Revenue Bonds**
  - The agency issued $194.6 million in Multifamily Housing Mortgage Revenue Bonds (MRB).
  - Generated $4,140,927 in revenue from the issuance of MRBs.
- **Financing of single family home loans**
  - The agency financed $60.3 million in single family mortgage loans.
  - Generated $55,595 in revenue from the financing of single family mortgage loans.
- **Investment of bond proceeds and related funds**
  - The agency invested $908 million.
  - Realized a $37,812,529 return on its investment of bond proceeds and related funds. The use of these funds is restricted.
- **4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits**
  - Underwrote and otherwise administered $24.17 million in LIHTC equity.

[10] *Ibid.*

[11] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #II-1 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

- Generated $265,452 in revenue from its administration of 4% Low Income Housing Tax Credits.

- **McKinney Act Savings Funds**

  - The agency currently has $8.6 million in holdings generated from McKinney Act Savings Funds.
  - Generated $61,936 in revenue from loaned McKinney Act Savings Funds.

- **Compliance and Asset Management Group**
  - Generated $269,462 in revenue through its Compliance and Asset Management Group.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 operating budget for HFA is $10,798,000, which represents an increase of 11.8% from the FY 2015 approved budget of $9,661,513. The HFA receives no dedicated taxes or special purpose funding.[12]

HFA's budget is entirely comprised of Enterprise and Other funds, which makes it easier for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to avoid double-counting budget that appears in certain transfer paper agencies and Enterprise agencies. This budget supports no FTEs, as HFA employees are not covered by the merit personnel system of the District of Columbia.[13]

Committee Analysis and Comments

The FY 2016 proposed budget includes a 38 percent increase in agency Fringe Benefits, from $1,077,000 to $1,486,000, which is due to increases in the cost of agency-paid health insurance as well as the amount needed to match employee retirement contributions, which are currently unmatched. The budget also includes a 20 percent increase in agency Other Services and Charges, from $1,000,000 to $1,200,000, which is due to necessary increases in reserves needed to support the agency's growing portfolio of financed transactions. Additionally, there is a 57 percent increase in agency Contractual Services – Other, from $1,400,000 to $2,200,000, which is primarily due to the planned acquisition and maintenance of a new financial management and accounting software system. There is also a 28.8 percent increase in agency Debt Service, from $279,000 to $360,000, resulting from a planned borrowing from the agency's lines of credit to provide interim financing for the agency's Single Family programming (i.e., DC

[12] All revenues that support the agency are generated by the agency through fees and other revenues associated with its programs.

[13] FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan "Pathways to the Middle Class", Agency Budget Chap – Part III, Housing Finance Agency, page H-32, submitted to the Council of the District of Columbia, by Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia, April 2, 2015.

Open Doors) as well as necessary improvements to agency headquarters. Finally, there are decreases of $20,000 to the Equipment and Equipment Rental budget; and a decrease of $21,900 in Fixed Costs due to decreased projections for Energy and Security costs.[14]

The Committee commends HFA for its continued success in operating existing programs, and in launching and developing new programs for single and multifamily homeowners. The Committee encourages the agency to continue expanding its programs, and to consistently review the programs to make them more cost effective, and so that they reach more District residents.

Marketing Efforts: HFA has been active in its efforts to market heavily to banks through participation in events held by banking industry trade groups (*e.g.* Mortgage Bankers Association). HFA also conducts monthly homebuyer seminars and lender training sessions. HFA representatives participate on a number of other industry panels, provide informational sessions for industry participants and utilize social media to market the program. In addition, the Agency has been present and marketed to potential homebuyers at the annual District-sponsored housing fair held at the Walter E Washington Convention Center. HFA's programs' compatibility with District government homebuyer assistance products has offered the Agency opportunities to reach prospective homebuyers at the ground-level. Nevertheless, many District potential homebuyers remain unaware of the services HFA offers, and the availability of its many loan products.

The Committee urges HFA to expand its marketing efforts by identifying additional avenues, as advertisement on television and radio, which would provide information to District residents about HFA programs, including partnering with large employers and the District government to provide information to their employees.

Small Multifamily Loans: The need for improvements to small affordable multifamily housing has received widespread attention from state housing finance agencies nationwide. Federal government agencies have publicly emphasized the need to finance the renovation of properties of 1-49 units, which comprise upwards of 89% of the nation's affordable housing stock. Federal agencies (*i.e.*, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Administration) and Government Sponsored entities (*i.e.* Fannie Mae) have also developed loan guarantee products designed to support the implementation of small building programs by housing finance agencies nationwide.

HFA has conducted preliminary research that revealed that there are over 10,000 multifamily addresses in the District with improvements that contain one (1) to fifty (50) dwelling units. Additional research revealed that many of these 1-50 unit properties are older and in need of repair. Additionally, the properties generally have lower than market rate rents due to location or rent control. These buildings are generally owned by smaller "mom and pop" owners or smaller investors who may lack the knowledge or the

[14] *Ibid.*

sophistication required to access the capital markets (debt and equity), particularly longer term credit facilities.[15]

The Committee urges HFA to accelerate its efforts to develop a small multifamily loan product that addresses the need to help "mom and pop" owners or smaller investors in buildings of 1-50 unit that are older and in need of repair.

Partnership with Sister Agencies: As of 2014, there were roughly 7,750 homeless individuals in the District of Columbia – an increase of 13% from 2013.[16] Furthermore, on many nights in the winter of 2013-2014, homeless shelters took in double the number of homeless individuals that they generally had during the previous winter.[17] This rise occurred even as the total number of homeless individuals in the region outside of the District dropped,[18] indicating that the District is facing a dynamic unique to the area, whereby unsustainable numbers of homeless individuals and families are becoming homeless in the District. The D.C. Coalition for the Homeless has identified the lack of affordable housing as the primary contributor to this problem, with more than 80% of homeless families attempting to subsist on incomes of less than $5,000 per year.[19] Moreover, the number of affordable housing units in the District is not only small, but has dropped rapidly over the past ten years.[20]

The Committee urges HFA to work with in partnership with its sister agencies to raise the Agency's priority for creating loan products that will help to increase the development of permanent supportive housing for the homeless.

Limited Equity Co-op Opportunities: Limited equity co-ops are important tools by which low-income families can attain the stability of homeownership without facing the out-of-reach prices of market-rate units. With the help of subsidies, corporations that own such co-ops restrict the purchase of a share in ownership (and the right to occupy a unit in the co-op) to lower income families.[21] By thus purchasing a share in the subsidized corporation that owns the co-op, rather than facing the market price for a similar unit elsewhere, low-income shareholders can share the expenses of running the co-op while broadly pooling expenses.[22]

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[15] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #II-12 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

[16] http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/number-of-homeless-in-dc-region-rises-as-rents-increase/2014/05/14/db4638e4-dac4-11e3-b745-87d39690c5c0_story.html.

[17] http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-homeless-crisis-puts-in-play-grays-record-as-city-steward/2014/02/09/098d518a-8dca-11e3-95dd-36ff657a4dae_story.html.

[18] http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/number-of-homeless-in-dc-region-rises-as-rents-increase/2014/05/14/db4638e4-dac4-11e3-b745-87d39690c5c0_story.html.

[19] *Id.*

[20] http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/dc-politics/dc-homeless-crisis-puts-in-play-grays-record-as-city-steward/2014/02/09/098d518a-8dca-11e3-95dd-36ff657a4dae_story.html.

[21] "A Study of Limited-equity Cooperatives in the District of Columbia", Coalition for Nonprofit Housing & Economic Development, spring 2004, www.cnhed.org < http://community-wealth.org/content/study-limited-equity-cooperatives-district-columbia >

[22] *Id.*

Shares in these co-ops remain affordable for future buyers because equity accrues to current shareholders according to the down payments they make, rather than the full value of a unit. Accordingly, these co-ops can provide a feasible means of housing low-income families affordably, especially in neighborhoods in the District that are gentrifying rapidly. This is especially important given the high (and increasing) rate of homelessness in the District, and the attendant need for more affordable housing.

The Committee urges HFA to expand its efforts to create more limited equity co-op opportunities available to residents of the District.

Increased Home Ownership Opportunities in Ward 7 & 8: Home purchase prices in the District have tripled in the past 15 years,[23] with the median price for homes sold reaching nearly $500,000 in April 2014.[24] During that same time period, homeownership among low-income residents has dropped gradually.[25] From 2008 through 2012, the rate of homeownership in Ward 8 was a District-low 23%.[26] Homeownership in adjacent Ward 7 hovered near the District average at 41%,[27] but the foreclosure rate in Ward 7 was a District-high 10% in 2013.[28]

Accordingly, it is very rare in the District that a low-income family can afford the financial burdens of homeownership. A home provides a family with an essential source of stability in their lives, and neighborhoods comprised of homeowners reap the benefits of that stability as homeownership encourages improved housing conditions, neighborhood safety, and generally higher-quality neighborhoods. To some extent, homeownership for low-income families can be achieved through the work of nonprofit housing organizations. In addition, both federal and District of Columbia income tax laws encourage private investments in shared equity arrangements that facilitate low-income homeownership. Further property tax abatements and other incentives that support such organizations and equity arrangements could encourage increased homeownership for low-income families, with little to no fiscal impact on the government and taxpayers. The public interest is well-served in general, and particularly in terms of health and safety, where low-income families can access such assistance on the path to homeownership.

The Committee urges HFA to identify methods to increase homeownership across the District of Columbia, especially in Wards 7 and 8.

Current Headquarters: The only facility maintained by the HFA is its headquarters building, which is owned by the DC Building Finance Corporation, an HFA subsidiary, and leased to the HFA. The agency financed the lease/purchase of the

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[23] http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/local/wp/2015/05/04/d-c-home-prices-have-tripled-in-15-years-heres-how-that-affects-low-income-residents/?hpid=z3

[24] http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/where-we-live/wp/2014/05/12/d-c-area-housing-market-is-having-a-disappointing-spring/

[25] http://districtmeasured.com/author/yesimsayin/

[26] http://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/wards/Nbr_prof_wrdc8.html#sec_3_owner

[27] http://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/wards/Nbr_prof_wrdc7.html#sec_3_owner

[28] http://www.neighborhoodinfodc.org/wards/Nbr_prof_wrdd7.html

building through the issuance of tax-exempt certificates of participation in 1998. The annual rent for the building is currently $279,000.00, which includes no other fixed cost. The agency's facilities-related fixed costs are as follows: utilities -$91,000.00, security - $7,470.00, telecommunications- $69,000.00, insurance-$192,000.00, other maintenance services -$33,000.00. There are currently no planned facility changes for FY 2016. The building is located in Ward 1 at 815 Florida Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20001.[29]

The Committee recommends the agency consider whether its current headquarters location at the intersection of 8th and U Street, NW is the highest and best use of that property, or whether there might be a time in the near future when relocation to another location is financially beneficial for the agency, and for the economic development of the U Street corridor.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- Housing Finance Agency does not receive capital funds from the District of Columbia.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Housing Finance Agency, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The District of Columbia Housing Finance Agency has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends HFA to expand its marketing efforts by identifying additional avenues, as advertisement on television and radio, which would provide information to District residents about HFA programs, including partnering with large employers and the District government to provide information to their employees.

[29] DCHFA Responses to Questions in Advance of the Budget Oversight Public Hearing on Fiscal Year 2016 (April 20, 2015) (Question #9 from the submitted responses of Maria K. Day-Marshall, Interim Executive Director, DCHFA).

- The Committee recommends HFA to accelerate its efforts to develop a small multifamily loan product that addresses the need to help "mom and pop" owners or smaller investors in buildings of 1-50 unit that are older and in need of repair.

- The Committee recommends HFA to work with in partnership with its sister agencies to raise the Agency's priority for creating loan products that will help to increase the development of permanent supportive housing for the homeless.

- The Committee urges HFA to expand its efforts to create more limited equity co-op opportunities available to residents of the District.

- The Committee urges HFA to identify methods to increase homeownership across the District of Columbia, especially in Wards 7 and 8.

O. Housing Production Trust Fund Subsidy (HP0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2015 Revised	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	*% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget*
HP0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (SUBSIDY)						
100 LOCAL FUND	0	0	50,179,389	0	50,179,389	*/0*
110 DEDICATED TAXES	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
150 FEDERAL PAYMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
200 FEDERAL GRANT FUND	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
250 FEDERAL MEDICAID PAYMENTS	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
400 PRIVATE GRANT FUND	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
450 PRIVATE DONATIONS	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
600 SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
610 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS-DEDICATED TAX	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
620 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS - O TYPES	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
700 INTRA-DISTRICT FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**0**	**0**	**50,179,389**	**0**	**50,179,389**	***/0***

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee
HP0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (SUBSIDY)				
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**0**	**50,179,389**	**0**	**50,179,389**
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	0	50,179,389	0	50,179,389
GROSS FUNDS	**0**	**50,179,389**	**0**	**50,179,389**

Operating Budget by Program Gross Funds

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	*% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget*
HP0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (SUBSIDY)					
1000 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (SUBSIDY)	0	50,179,389	0	50,179,389	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**0**	**50,179,389**	**0**	**50,179,389**	***/0***

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

P. District of Columbia Housing Authority (HY0)

Operating Budget Fund Type Gross Funds (Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2015 Revised	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
HY0 - HOUSING AUTHORITY SUBSIDY						
100 LOCAL FUND	45,963,276	45,963,276	52,077,704	647,579	52,725,283	*14.71%*
GROSS FUNDS	**45,963,276**	**45,963,276**	**52,077,704**	**647,579**	**52,725,283**	*14.71%*

Operating Budget by CSG Gross Funds

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
HY0 - HOUSING AUTHORITY SUBSIDY					
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**45,963,276**	**52,077,704**	**0**	**52,725,283**	*14.71%*
50--SUBSIDIES AND TRANSFERS	45,963,276	52,077,704	647,579	52,725,283	*14.71%*
GROSS FUNDS	**45,963,276**	**52,077,704**	**647,579**	**52,725,283**	*14.71%*

Operating Budget by Program Gross Funds

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
HY0 - HOUSING AUTHORITY SUBSIDY					
1000 - HOUSING AUTHOIRTY SUBSIDY	45,963,276	52,077,704	-52,077,704	0	*-100.00%*
2000 - RENTAL ASSISTANCE SUPPORT			7,140,000	7,140,000	*/0*
3000 - LOCAL RENT SUPPLEMENT PROGRAM			41,585,283	41,585,283	*/0*
4000 - PUBLIC SAFETY			4,000,000	4,000,000	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**45,963,276**	**52,077,704**	**647,579**	**52,725,283**	*14.71%*

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) was established by the "District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999." [1]

DCHA is led by a Director, who is appointed by the Board of Commissioners[2]. The DCHA Board of Commissioners is an 11-member governing body made up of District community and business leaders, including three members representing the diverse constituency of DC public housing and one member representing Housing Choice Voucher Program participants.

The public housing community elects the resident members of the Board of Commissioners. Five commissioners are nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council of the District of Columbia. The Metropolitan Central Labor Council and the Consortium of Legal Services Providers each appoint one Commissioner. The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development is an ex-officio member of the Board.

DCHA is devoted to providing quality affordable housing to low-income households, fostering sustainable communities, and cultivating opportunities for residents to improve their lives. To that end, DCHA works to achieve the following goals: (1) create opportunities, through collaboration and partnerships, to improve the quality of life for DCHA residents; (2) increase access to quality affordable housing; (3) provide livable housing to support healthy and sustainable communities; (4) foster a collaborative work environment that is outcome-driven and meets the highest expectations of the affordable housing industry, and (5) effectively communicate DCHA's accomplishments and advocate for its mission.[3]

The District public housing portfolio consists of more than 8,000 apartment or townhome units in 56 properties owned and managed by the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA).[4] DCHA serves as the landlord for close to 20,000 residents who call public housing their home.[5] Public housing units provide very low-income families, seniors and persons with a disability the financial assistance they need to live in

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[1] May 9, 2000, D.C. Law 13-105, § 3, 47 DCR 1325; Oct. 20, 2005, D.C. Law 16-33, § 2022, 52 DCR 7503

2 *See* D.C. Code § 6–211 (Board of Commissioners); see also http://www.dchousing.org/topic.aspx?topid=23

[3] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (Question #36)(February 25, 2015)

[4] *DCHA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 2 (April 15, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

[5] *DCHA Performance Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 3 (February 27, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

safe, well maintained and affordable rental homes. There are income requirements for public housing[6] and priority is given to those who are in the greatest need.

Residents take a leadership role within the Public Housing program. Three public housing residents are elected by their peers to serve a 3 year term on the eleven-member DCHA Board of Commissioners. A citywide Resident Advisory Board assists DCHA leadership in developing and reviewing housing policies and programs. Finally, elected Resident Councils in all public housing developments serve residents' needs and help build stronger communities.

While DCHA's core mission is to provide quality affordable housing to low-income families, DCHA also closely collaborates with its sister agencies and foundations to help public housing residents lead independent and productive lives. This is accomplished through on-site programs that improve job skills, continue education, promote public safety, and encourage youth summer employment, education and recreation.[7]

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

Local Funds: The Mayor's FY 2016 proposed local funds subsidy for DCHA is $52,077,704, which represents a 13.3%, or a $9,114,428 increase, from the FY 2015 approved local subsidy of $45,963,276.

Committee Analysis and Comments

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 operating budget for the Housing Authority Subsidy represents a 10.3% increase in funding. In general, the Committee is supportive of the Mayor's proposed budget for the Housing Authority Subsidy. While the proposal includes needed increases to the local rent supplement program, the need for vouchers will continue to grow as the demand for rental assistance grows with the accelerating rising home prices. The Committee remains concerned that overall funding accessible to DCHA is insufficient to address the immediate maintenance needs in the subsidized rental housing communities, while still moving towards a goal of all units being rehabilitated with a 20 year viability.

[6] 0-30% of the Average Median Income, approximately $32,000 for a household of 4 persons.
[7] *See* generally DHCA Agency Plans, available at: http://www.dchousing.org/topic.aspx?topid=101 (May 11.2015)

Table 1: Current FY 2015 Budget Allocation and Expenditure Summary[8]

Budget Allocation	Description	Expenditures YTD 1st
$34,823,276	Local Rent Supplement Program*	$6,466,747
$ 7,140,000	DC Local – Local assistance	$1,701,284
$4,000,000	Support of DCHA Public Safety	$1,000,000
$45,963,276	**FY15 HYO Budget**	**$9,168,031**

Table 2: Mayor's Proposed FY 2016 Budget Allocation[9]

Budget Allocation	Description
$40,937,704	Local Rent Supplement Program[10]
$ 7,140,000	DC Local – Local assistance
$4,000,000	Support of DCHA Public Safety
$52,077,704	**FY16 HYO Budget**

Budget Transparency: The budget chapter for the Housing Authority Subsidy lacks sufficient detail to make it accessible and transparent. Although the District subsidizes rental assistance, public safety, and Local Rent Supplement programs,[11] the budget does not indicate what is to be spent on each program. The Committee recommends the Housing Authority Subsidy budget be restructured as follows:

Program	Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget
2000 - Rental Assistance Support	$7,140,000
3000 - Local Rent Supplement	$40,937,704
4000 - Public Safety	$4,000,000

***Housing Assistance Payments (DC Local)*:** In each fiscal year since FY 2006, over $7,000,000 of the DCHA local subsidy has been dedicated to providing housing assistance payments to approximately 500 families. For years, these families had been on the waiting list of the Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP), which is federally funded and administered by DCHA. When federal cuts minimized the likelihood of these families being housed under the HCVP, the District created local funding for these households to receive vouchers. The Committee recommends the District continue the funding stream for this vital rental assistance program.

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[8] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #1) (April 13, 2015)

[9] *Ibid.*

[10] Fund balance for LRSP Project/Sponsor - $4,969,048 is carried over from previous years.

[11] (1) Rental Assistance Support (DC Local); (2) Local Rent Supplement Program, which provides rental assistance through a voucher program, and; (3) Public Safety, which provides funding support for the DCHA's public safety force.

Mayor's Budget FY16 Funding Proposal for Housing Assistance Payments
(Dollars in Thousands)

	FY 2015 Approved	Mayor's FY 2016 Proposed	Committee's FY 2016 Proposed	Variance	Percent Growth FY14 Approved to FY 15 Committee
Rental Assistance Support – 500 families	6,569	6,569	6,569	0	0%
Admin. Support – 500 families	571	571	571	0	0%
Total	**7,140**	**7,140**	**7,140**	**0**	**0%**

Office of Public Safety: The DCHAPD was created in 1995 to increase security for residents of public housing through a grassroots approach to community policing.[12] The DCHA Police Department (DCHAPD), also known as the DCHA Office of Public Safety, is a fully operating, 24-hour police force in the District.[13] The DCHAPD covers fixed security stations and conducts police patrols throughout the District's public housing sites. The DCHAPD is staffed by: (1) sworn police officers who have concurrent jurisdiction with the Metropolitan Police Department of the District; (2) special police officers commissioned by the Mayor of the District to have full arrest powers on DCHA properties; (3) security officers who screen visitors at DCHA developments; and (4) civilian administrative support personnel.[14]

DCHA's Public Safety Force is critical to the District's public safety as well as DCHA's role as property manager of the public housing developments. In each fiscal year since FY 2007, stemming from federal funding reductions, the District has provided $4,000,000 in operating funds to sustain the Office of Public Safety.[15] Such funds are used to support the equivalent of 73 FTEs within the Office of Public Safety.[16] In addition to the $4,000,000 in Local funds, DCHA receives a matching amount of

[12] *See* Public Safety, Available at http://www.dchousing.org/doc.aspx?docid=56
[13] Id.
[14] Id.
[15] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (Question #30)(February 25, 2015)
[16] *DCHA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 3 (April 15, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

$4,000,000 from the Federal government to support the remainder of officers in the Public Safety division.[17] The Committee continues to supports the funding of the vital employees who help preserve the peace in the housing developments.

Position	General Description	# Positions[18]
Sworn Police Officers	same powers as MPD officers	44
Special Police Officers	Officers patrol sites	29
Security Officers	Staff stationed at fixed posts in elderly/disabled and elderly only properties	51

Local Rent Supplement Program: DCHA administers a locally funded voucher program on behalf of the District government called the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP). It was created in 2007 to preserve and increase the stock of permanent affordable housing units for extremely low-income District residents, i.e., residents who earn no more than 30% of Area Median Income (AMI), or approximately $33,000 a year for a household of 4 persons. To date, LRSP has provided housing for over 3,000 households in the District.[19] In FY 2016, approximately $40.9 million is allocated for LRSP.[20] A breakdown in the subsections provided below.

LRSP is comprised of three programs: (1) tenant-based; (2) project-based; and (3) sponsor-based. The tenant-based program operationally resembles the federal Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP) and provides voucher subsidies directly to families from DCHA's waiting list. The voucher will continue with the individual even if the individual decides to move. Eligible families and individuals may only use the voucher in the District of Columbia.

The project- and sponsor-based programs bolster the production of new low-income units by supplementing their operational costs. The subsidy is attached to the units or sponsor, as opposed to the renter, and DCHA supports these units once they are built or rehabilitated. For project based assistance, it may be provided to existing, substantially rehabilitated, or new construction units that meet Housing Quality Standards. Project-based units may include supportive services, but are not required to do so. For sponsor based vouchers, assistance is attached to the Housing Provider for

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[17] *Id.*

[18] Total number of federal funded and locally funded FTEs in Public Safety Division; *DCHA Responses to Follow-up Questions after the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (February 25, 2015) (Question #6 from the submitted responses of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

[19] *DCHA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 3 (April 15, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

[20] A $4.969 million Local funds balance reduction will be carried over from FY 2015.

units that the provider owns, operates or leases. LRSP funds may only be used to directly pay for housing and may not be used for supportive services or administrative costs.[21]

The demand side of affordable housing desperately needs increased funding. For the elderly, disabled, youth and homeless of the District, waiting years for housing units to come online is unacceptable. In total, the District of Columbia currently administers over 12,000 vouchers.[22] With housing prices in the District consistently rising, the path to home ownership is tougher than ever before, and more residents are reliant on rental assistance to be able to stay in the District. The Committee strongly recommends a continued increase in funding to both tenant and project/sponsor based vouchers in FY 2016, as well as FY 2017, to meet the pressing needs of the District's most vulnerable residents.

Project-and sponsor-based LRSP: The Mayor's FY 2016 proposed budget includes an increase of $2,400,000 of funding to support approximately 200 project and sponsor-based LRSP vouchers for individuals and families at or below the 30% AMI threshold.[23] The Committee supports the $2.4 million increase to project- and sponsor-based LRSP, which is consistent with the Committee's priority to increase the participation and distribution of rent assistance vouchers.

DCHA currently has awarded 1580 project/sponsor based vouchers, with 957 units online, and another 623 units under construction or committed.[24] A breakdown of the units by ward is provided below.

Table 3: Project/Sponsor Based Projects by Ward[25]

	Total	% in Ward		Total	% in Ward
Ward 1	229	14%	**Ward 6**	139	9%
Ward 2	63	4%	**Ward 7**	359	23%
Ward 3	0	0%	**Ward 8**	229	14%
Ward 4	220	14%	**Varies**	216	14%
Ward 5	129	8%			

[21] However, housing providers may shift the LRSP subsidy from unit to unit provided the occupant meets all DCHA requirements.

[22] DHCA POH Director Todman p.4 (2/26/15)

[23] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #3)(April 13,2015) (stating the total number of units and the breakdown of how many units are Permanent Supportive Housing will be determined based upon successful respondents to the FY 15 Consolidated Notice of Funding Available)

[24] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #3)(April 13,2015)

[25] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (Attachment #8)(February 23, 2015)

While the Committee supports the $2.4 million increase to the project- and sponsor-based components of LRSP, it is the view of the Committee that the District needs to continue increasing funding for this valuable source of housing assistance. Increased development and rehabilitation of affordable housing units is crucial for the long-term well-being of the District's most vulnerable resident. This building effort must be done consistently throughout the District, and not primarily east of the Anacostia River in Ward 7 and Ward 8.

The Committee recommends to continue to increase support for the project based voucher program, but urge the Agency to find more projects located in the northwest corridor of the District, in order to enable people who live in public housing to still have access to the schools, grocery stores, transportation, and neighborhood infrastructure present in the more developed and affluent parts of the city.

Tenant-based LRSP: The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget includes an additional $3,700,000 dollars of funding to support tenant-based LRSP, and to create an additional 250 extremely low-income residents with affordable housing opportunities throughout the District. The Committee is supportive of the increase of tenant based vouchers as the waiting lists in the District of Columbia are longest for tenant based vouchers.[26] Currently in FY 2015, DCHA administers 1250 vouchers, with 966 currently used in leases.[27]

In addition to the waiting list, approximately 340 LRSP tenant based vouchers are allocated for referral by the Department of Human Services (DHS). To date, DHS has provided over 260 referrals, with no referrals currently pending.[28] The referrals are given to residents who require immediate housing based upon a disability, mental health disorder, or physical safety concerns present in the person's life.

While the increased funding for tenant based vouchers is a positive start, the Committee strongly recommends a continued increase in funding to tenant based vouchers in the near future to meet the pressing needs of the District's most vulnerable residents. With less people able to purchase homes, the reliance on vouchers for rental assistance is critical to keeping residents of the lowest income levels in homes in the District.

The demand side of affordable housing desperately needs increased funding. For the elderly, disabled, youth and homeless of the District, having to wait years for housing units to come online is unacceptable. In total, the District currently administers over

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[26]Housing Choice Voucher Tenant Based Program: 38,283; *See Waiting list subsection below*

[27] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (Question #4)(February 23, 2015) (Information includes only households with active leases and additional eligible households currently searching for available units not included)

[28] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #5)(April 13,2015)

12,000 vouchers.[29] With housing prices in the District consistently rising, the path to home ownership is tougher than ever before, and more residents are reliant on rental assistance to be able to stay in the District. The Committee strongly recommends a continued increase in funding to both tenant and project based vouchers in FY 2017 to meet the pressing needs of the District's most vulnerable residents.

Veterans Assistance and Homeless Prevention: Along with referrals from local agencies, DCHA also receives allocations for Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers. Every year since 2008, HUD and VA have awarded HUD-VASH vouchers based on geographic need and public housing agency (PHA) administrative performance.[30] The allocation process for HUD-VASH vouchers is a collaborative approach that relies on three sets of data.[31] After determining which areas of the country have the highest number of homeless Veterans, the VA Central Office identifies VA facilities in the corresponding communities. HUD then selects PHAs near to the identified VA facilities, taking into consideration the PHAs' administrative performance, and sends the PHAs invitations to apply for the vouchers.

DCHA received an allocation of 121 vouchers in FY 2014, which brought the total allocation to 930 VASH Vouchers in the District of Columbia. In FY 2015, a new allocation of $1.2 million, creating 104 new VASH vouchers, bringing the total to 1,034 veteran families that can are assisted with affordable housing. The Committee commends the Agency for its work to help veterans get off the street and into support networks and safe housing.

Suspension of Waiting List: The DCHA waiting list is a database of applicants who have applied for housing in one or more of DCHA's housing assistance programs: Public Housing, Housing Choice Voucher Program, and the Modern Rehabilitation Project Based Program. District residents are housed from the waiting list based on the date and time they apply and their selected preferences.

On April 12, 2013, DCHA suspended the intake of new applications on its waiting list so that DCHA can update the list to ensure that those on the list still seek and are eligible for housing.[32] DCHA expects to reopen the waiting list for a limited time to accept new applications when sufficient public housing or vouchers are available, but currently does not have a hard estimate of when this will occur. DCHA completed an outreach campaign to make sure certain applicants were still in need of housing

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[29] *DCHA Public Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 3 (February 27, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

[30] *See* Department on Housing and Urban Development (**Federal Register** /Vol. 77, No. 57 / Friday, March 23, 2012) Available at: http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/public_indian_housing/programs/hcv/vash

[31] (1)HUD's point-in-time data submitted by Continuums of Care (CoCs), (2)VAMC data on the number of contacts with homeless Veterans, and (3) performance data from PHAs and VAMCs. (available at: http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-03-23/pdf/2012-7081.pdf)

[32] *See* FY2015 Committee on Economic Development Committee Budget Report

assistance.[33] All applicants who had not updated their information in the past year were targeted using an extensive outreach. The campaign included notifications send by email, traditional mail, visibility, and direct contact in the community through posters, signage, and information circulated through churches, organizations, District agencies, and retail establishments. All applicants who contacted DCHA to confirm their need for housing assistance are now identified as an active member on this list. As of April 15, 2015, the waiting lists[34] were as follows:

Public Housing: 27,797
Housing Choice Voucher Tenant Based Program: 38,283
Modern Rehabilitation Project Based Program: 21,076

To increase transparency moving forward, DCHA is creating a site-based waiting list where applicants can select preferred communities to reside once their names reach the top of the waiting list. Current applicants will be sent site selection forms to choose a minimum of three preferred communities. The Agency stated this initiative is to be completed by the first quarter of FY 2016.[35]

While the Committee commends the Agency for reducing the waiting list through the outreach campaign from approximately 72,000 households down to approximately 41,000, there is much work to be done to reopen the waiting lists, and reinvigorate the hope of those not fortunate enough to be on the list. To better assist the Agency in moving efficiently through the list, the Committee recommends prompt implementation of enhanced selection features for the online waiting list

ADA/504 Program: DCHA is subject to several laws governing rights of the disabled, including Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.[36] Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act mandates that federal fund recipients such as DCHA, ensure that their programs are accessible to qualified individuals with disabilities.[37] Section 504 also requires DCHA to ensure that individuals with physical and mental disabilities have the opportunity to participate equally in programs and activities.[38] It aims to protect persons with disabilities in programs and activities, and to eliminate discrimination against people with disabilities by ensuring certain accessibility standards are met when building or altering facilities.

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[33] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #4) (April 13, 2015)
[34] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #4) (April 13, 2015)
[35] *DCHA Performance Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (February 27, 2015) (oral testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).
[36] 29 U.S.C. 794
[37] *See* DCHA Website: ADA/504 Program; available at: http://www.dchousing.org/doc.aspx?docid=61
[38] *Id.*

The Reasonable Accommodation Policy applies to qualified individuals with disabilities in programs provided by the DCHA.[39] A Reasonable Accommodation is a change, modification, alteration or adaptation in a policy, procedure, practice, program, or facility that provides a person with a disability the opportunity to participate in, or benefit from, a program (housing or non-housing) or activity. A person with a disability means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.[40] Major life activities means functions such as caring for one's self, performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working.[41]

The Committee received testimony that states sometimes accommodation requests are denied when they involve a request for DCHA to absorb costs to fulfill the request.[42] The Committee will continue to monitor the ADA/504 program and recommends the Agency properly staffs and funds the department that provides legally required, critical support to keep citizens with disabilities in their homes.

New Communities

General information: The New Communities Initiative (NCI) is a comprehensive public-private partnership that began in 2005 and intended to improve the quality of life for families and individuals living in the following four neighborhoods in the District of Columbia: (1) Northwest One (Ward 6); Barry Farm (Ward 8); Lincoln Heights/Richardson Dwellings (Ward 7); and Park Morton (Ward 1).[43] These designated New Communities sites are characterized by high rates of poverty, unemployment, and dilapidated housing stock. NCI seeks to revitalize such distressed public housing sites by building mixed-income and vibrant communities.

NCI operates under four guiding principles: (1) one for one replacement of units; (2) the opportunity to stay or return; (3) the redevelopment of mixed income housing; and (4) the policy of building first, prior to demolition, in order to minimize displacement.[44]

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[39] (a) Applicants of public housing;(b) Applicants of all Housing Choice Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation Programs; (c) Residents of public housing developments; (d) Participants of the Housing Choice Voucher and Moderate Rehabilitation Programs; (e) Participants in all other programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance that are conducted or sponsored by the DCHA, its agents or contractors including all non-housing facilities and common areas owned or operated by the DCHA

[40] 29 U.S.C. 794; *See* DCHA Website: ADA/504 Program; available at: http://www.dchousing.org/doc.aspx?docid=61

[41] 29 U.S.C. 794 *See* DCHA Website: ADA/504 Program; available at: http://www.dchousing.org/doc.aspx?docid=61

[42] Testimony submitted stating one person requested that, as a reasonable accommodation, a bathroom be installed on the ground level of her public housing town house because she has trouble ascending and descending stairs. According to the person, the request was denied and she was offered a transfer to a single level unit instead. The resident has lived in her home for decades, and cannot imagine leaving, so she stays in the apartment "to make do"

[43] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (Attachment #10) (February 25, 2015)

[44] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #2(d)) (February 25, 2015)

Additionally, NCI adheres to the following goals: protecting and expanding affordable housing, promoting mixed-income communities, creating economic opportunities through better jobs, education, training and human services programs, rebuilding schools, libraries and recreation centers, and engaging residents in the decision-making process and design of their neighborhood.[45]

NCI is funded through the securitization of a dedicated portion of the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF). This funding acts as a gap-financing tool and is managed by the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED). Since May 1, 2013, all new bonds issued for NCI will be secured with income tax revenue, consistent with the FY 2014 Budget Support Technical Clarification Amendment Act of 2013. [46]

Under Phase I of the New Communities Implementation Strategy, an estimated creation of 3,500 mixed-income housing units is expected, including 900 affordable replacement units. However, to date, approximately only 1,070 units have been built or are under construction, 149 replacement units have been developed, and 127 residents have relocated to these new replacement units.[47]

The state of the economy had an impact on NCI's progress. Although the local economy is strong and has shown growth, the need for significant investment from both federal and private sources is vital to the success of the program. DCHA and DMPED state they meet with the resident leadership of each NCI site regularly.[48] DCHA states these meetings provide an opportunity to inform and educate the resident leadership about the redevelopment process and each individual project as well as gain insight from the resident leaders about the issues that are most pressing in their respective communities.[49]

On February 12, 2013 and October 22, 2013, the Committee on Economic Development held public roundtable hearings on NCI to assess its progress and challenges with members of the public, real estate developers as well as DCHA and DMPED. In August 2014, Quadel Consulting, by request of DMPED, filed a report called "Policy Advisor's Recommendations On The District Of Columbia's New Communities Initiative," a 37 page report with recommendations and guidelines on how to proceed with both financing and developing the project. At both February 27, 2015 Performance Oversight Hearing and the April 15, 2015 Budget Oversight Hearing,

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[45] Available at: http://dcnewcommunities.org/

[46] *See* FY2015 Committee on Economic Development Committee Budget Report

[47] DCHA POH Agency Responses Attachment 10; *See also* Economic Dev FY15 Budget Committee Report

[48] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #10) (February 25, 2015)

[49] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (Attachment#10) (February 25, 2015) (stating as an example, DCHA cited meetings with the residents of Barry Farm have significantly increased as a result of the master planning activities underway and meetings occur on an average of twice a week)

Committee Chairperson Bonds requested an update on the development projects. The Committee will summarize the Agency responses below under each development project.

Interaction between DMPED and DCHA: DMPED oversees the NCI program as a funder and policy maker.[50] In addition, DMPED has overseen the development for offsite projects within the NCI portfolio.[51] DCHA is a landowner, policy advisor, and developer for NCI sites. DHCA is also the provider for the replacement housing units. DMPED and DCHA coordinate regularly on NCI activities.[52] However, without future direction or a concrete plan on how to proceed, the role of DCHA is to continue ongoing maintenance to the building and common areas.

Northwest One: DCHA provided relocation services for residents of Temple Courts when the community was initially vacated. DMPED is continuing to track and communicate with all affected families through its Human Capital Provider. DMPED and DCHA will be soliciting a master planner and developer for the site. Green space and public parks, along with housing, infrastructure and human capital will be part of the master planning process. Once a developer is selected, the process of updating the master plan will begin.

Barry Farm: DCHA received a Choice Neighborhood Initiative planning grant for Barry Farm in 2012. The Master Planner and Development team, POAH/A&R, for Barry Farm was selected in July 2013and in coordination with DMPED, the master planner and developer are continuing to educate the residents on the redevelopment process and developing a master plan for the site. A Steering Committee that was established in October 2013 and has met regularly, is composed of Barry Farm residents; community stakeholders; DCHA staff, DMPED staff, representatives of the Developer and representatives from other District and Federal government.[53] The committee has initiated three sub-committees to assist with developing the transformation; 1) Housing, 2) Neighborhood and 3) People. The transformation plan is due to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to meet the requirements of the planning grant funding.

DCHA stated the redevelopment plan has recently been updated, and calls for 1400 units of mixed income housing and 50,000 sq. ft. of commercial space.[54] The

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[50] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #3) (April 13, 2015)

[51] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #3) (April 13, 2015)

[52] *Ibid.*

[53] Examples of the meetings include: (1) Residents play the "Planning Game" and present what they would like in their community and alternate plans are developed by the community which the planners use to determine the common themes; (2) DCHA sponsored tours of its HOPE VI and redevelopment sites to show residents and members of the community various housing types; and (3) Residents are invited to informational sessions covering the various aspects of the redevelopment process, sometimes using case study model to illustrate the various considerations and factors involved to engage resident input.

[54] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Attachment#10) (February 25, 2015)

developers have indicated to undertake the first phase of replacing 400 units, it would require possible gap financing for housing development, and approximately 55 million will be required for public infrastructure improvements to support the redevelopment.[55]

DCHA and DMPED have been meeting with residents and holding educational sessions focused on Section 3 Hiring, Public Safety, Health and other subjects as requested. Relocation and Re-Entry will also be addressed in future educational sessions. DCHA meets at least twice a week with residents at Barry Farm. Fifty-four Barry Farm families have been relocated to replacement units to date.

Lincoln Heights: DCHA has selected a national architecture and design firm, Torti Gallas, as the Master Planner for Lincoln Heights / Richardson Dwellings. The goal of the planner is to first review the current plan and then work with Lincoln Heights/Richardson Dwellings residents and community stakeholders to update the plan and make necessary changes based on financing, need and desires of the community. As the plan is updated, the estimated cost and timeline should be reported to the Committee. Thirty-two families have been relocated from Lincoln Heights to other replacement units to date.

***Park Morton*:** On March 31, 2014, DCHA, in partnership with DMPED, issued a Request For Proposals ("RFP") from interested firms for a Master Planning and Development Team for the redevelopment of Park Morton. Park View Community Partners [56] was the team selected to lead this effort. The development team was recently selected and will facilitate a community driven process to update the 2008 NCI conceptual redevelopment plan.

As the plan is updated, the Agency states the estimated cost and timeline will be determined.[57] In the meantime, DCHA is continuing ongoing maintenance and small exterior improvements. DCHA states it is also monitoring occupancy rates at each building and making adjustments to ensure that families are not in isolated pockets and wherever necessary, families will be located to buildings that are more occupies so that vacant units can be amassed and secured. Eleven families have been relocated from Park Morton to the other replacement units to date.

Overall Recommendations: The Committee urges DMPED and DCHA to increase transparency and urgency as the agencies work with the residents of the sites to determine the best path forward. To advocates and residents alike, the details of the demolition and relocation remain murky. The timeline and estimated cost also appear to continue to change. The apparent lack of transparency makes it difficult to see NCI's progress, money spent and whether the funding is sufficient. Lack of transparency also

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[55] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Attachment#10) (February 25, 2015)

[56] Comprised of The Community Builders, Inc.; Dantes Partners, LLC; Torti Gallas Urban; Harkins Builders, Inc.; and Klein Hornig, LLP,

[57] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Question #3) (April 13, 2015)

means that the Committee is unable to ascertain whether the four guiding principles are being respected.

Additionally, the Committee urges DMPED and DCHA to establish a long term financing plan to complete the NCI developments. The August 2014 Report by Qualis states the original plans had an initial gap of $566 million dollars, and recommended new funding opportunities and strategies need to be crafted to bridge the financing gap, and restart development.[58]

The Committee recommends that DCHA provide quarterly status updates on each of the New Communities sites. The Committee will closely monitor each of the phases at each site, and will work with DCHA, DMPED, and the residents to ensure the process remains transparent and fair, as the agencies are anticipated to undergo start of Phase 1 construction at Barry Farms, the release of a new development plan for Park Morton, the issuance of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Northwest One, as well as the renovations at Lincoln Heights to stop gap the erosion of units until full modernization can take place.

Regular Maintenance and Replacement Plan: The District of Columbia Housing Authority is responsible for providing safe, affordable housing for the District's low-income population – including seniors, disabled, families with children, and veterans. For several years running, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and Congress have undercapitalized housing agencies in the nation, including DC Housing Authority. DCHA receives only about 83 percent to 86 percent of what is required to maintain the residential properties.[59] The District is not alone. Public housing is home to 1.2 million households nationwide with a total of $26 billion in deferred maintenance.[60]

Of the 261,192 households in the District in 2013, about 18 percent of them were living below poverty level, according to U.S. Census data.[61] However, D.C. has barely a 6 percent vacancy rate for nearly 156,000 apartments.[62] And nearly 8 percent of renters receive housing assistance from DCHA in for the form of public housing or rent subsidies.[63]

DCHA owns, manages, or subsidizes more than 8,300 of these affordable units and is dedicated to preserving and enhancing its entire housing stock. A portion of those units recently were rehabilitated and are not in need of immediate redevelopment.

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[58] *See* Policy Advisor's Recommendations On The District Of Columbia's New Communities Initiative (August 2014) (available at: http://dcnewcommunities.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Policy-Advisors-Recommendations-on-the-NCI-Program.pdf)

[59] *DCHA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, (April 15, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

[60] Available at : http://www.dcfpi.org/poverty-rates-remain-high-for-some-groups-of-dc-residents

[61] Available at : http://www.dcfpi.org/poverty-rates-remain-high-for-some-groups-of-dc-residents

[62] *DCHA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, (April 15, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

[63] Available at : http://www.dcfpi.org/poverty-rates-remain-high-for-some-groups-of-dc-residents

However, DCHA is pursuing a large scale effort to bring the remainder of its inventory to a 20-year viability and is moving aggressively to re-engineer sites that are in the redevelopment pipeline. This effort will require approximately $1.3 billion in additional capital funding.[64]

Property Type	Number of Units
Redeveloped or recently rehabilitated units	1,831
Senior/Disabled Properties requiring major rehabilitation	2,083
Family/mixed populations requiring major rehabilitation	4,449
Total Units	**8,363**

Of the over 8,300 units subsidized, almost 1,800 are part of a redeveloped community or were recently rehabbed, and are not in immediate need of modernization.[65] The remaining units, just over 6,500, are located in our family and senior/disabled conventional sites.[66] DCHA estimates that it would cost $1.3 billion to bring its 6,500 units in distress to a 20-year viability.[67]

To reach this number, DCHA assumed the following: (1) completion of each development and rehabilitation activity in the pipeline (Sheridan Station – Phase II & III, Metro Towns at Parkside, Capital Gateway, Highland Dwellings, Capitol Quarter, Kenilworth Courts, Barry Farm, Park Morton, and Lincoln Heights); and (2) a 20-year viability upgrade of all remaining conventional public housing sites.

The current redevelopment pipeline, consisting of 1,584 units, will require $366,700,000 in funding to complete. Some of the Senior / Mixed-Population sites have already undergone some level of rehabilitation, whether through energy efficiency initiatives or building systems upgrades and renovations.[68] The estimated cost of redeveloping the 2,083 units for senior / disabled population is $346,970,000.[69] The family sites that are not already in the development pipeline, totaling over 2,800 units, will require significant investment and planning to ensure long term viability. DCHA has completed a preliminary review of each site and have developed an estimate for the cost

[64] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Attachment #3) (April 13, 2015)
[65] *Id.*
[66] *Id.*
[67] *DCHA Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, (April 15, 2015) (oral testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).
[68] *See DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Attachment #3) (April 13, 2015)(stating the capital needs are still significant, however, in order to bring all buildings to a 20-year viability, i.e. all major systems and features to be upgraded to like new conditions so that only ordinary maintenance is needed over the next 20 years (new roofs, kitchen, windows, mechanical, electric systems)).
[69] *DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Attachment #3) (April 13, 2015)

of simple rehabilitation to 20 year viability versus cost of major redevelopment as outlined below.[70]

Property Type	Units	Estimated Cost of Development
Development Projects in Pipeline	1,584	$366,700,000
Senior/Disabled Properties	2,083	$346,970,000
Family Sites	2,865	$628,600,000
Total	**6,552**	**$1,342,270,000**

As DCHA continues to work with residents, stakeholders and community partners on the redevelopment options for each site, DCHA's property management operations division is responsible for the regular maintenance and management of all of DCHA's conventional public housing communities.[71]

Preventative maintenance efforts include inspections of dwelling units for housekeeping and unit conditions as well as comprehensive pest management. In an effort to prevent systemic infestation, DCHA also partners with agencies such as Department of Health and Department of the Environment to conduct walkthroughs and training workshops. Additionally, the Agency has recently implemented a work survey program that requests feedback from residents on the quality of repairs.

While the Committee commends DCHA for implementing a great long term plan for the Agency and the public housing unit revitalization, the Committee has heard abundant complaints from residents about substandard living conditions and outstanding maintenance issues at DCHA-managed properties.

The Committee recommends the Agency to give additional focus on the quality and long term viability of routine repairs, faulty plumbing, and repairing doors and windows. While the extent of some of these repairs will cost more money, these types of repairs prevent greater spending and harm down the road. Leaky pipes leads to mold, while broken doors and windows can lead to safety issues and crime. The Committee does not believe that public housing must be synonymous with a lower standard of life, and recommends immediate action to help enhance the habitability of units that are not pending major rehabilitations. It is important for the District to support of all its residents, including those who technically live in federal housing units.

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[70] *See DCHA Responses to Advance Questions to the Budget Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016* (Attachment #3) (April 13, 2015) (stating the development tools that will be explored in this effort include federal and local resources)

[71] The Operations division staff includes property management, maintenance foreman, mechanics, laborers and skilled trades. Property Management Operations focuses their attention on preventative maintenance as well as abatement and repair of units as needed.

The Committee recommends DHCD to explore establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the District of Columbia Housing Authority for small repairs of public housing units in FY 2016 to accomplish the goal of preservation. A detailed action plan will need to be submitted to DHCD and the Committee prior to the disbursement of any funds. The Committee will continue to work with the Agency to ensure substantive, maintenance repairs are performed on habited public housing units in a timely manner, in order to help preserve the valuable rental housing stock for extremely low household incomes.

Federal Funding: It is important to note that while the Housing Authority Subsidy is funded through local funding, DCHA receives the majority of its funding and support through the U.S. Department on Housing and Urban Development, approximately six times the amount of local funding (*See chart below).* While some of the Agency employees (FTE) are funded by local funding (Public Safety employees), the majority of the 751 positions are federally funded.

Amount of US HUD funding for DCHA in FY 13, FY14, and FY15 to date. [72]

Budget	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015
Revenue			
Federal MTW Block Grant	236,952,652	226,595,197	237,044,473
Federal NMTW Vouchers, VASH	12,562,000	13,642,809	23,538,040
Total US HUD funding for DCHA	**249,514,652**	**240,238,006**	**260,582,513**

Although DCHA owns, manages, or subsidizes over 8300 units of affordable housing units for low to extremely low income households, with over 20,000 residents in the units. Unfortunately, this precious resource of housing stock is being threatened due to severe underfunding by the federal government, which is taking place nationwide. Funding for public housing is not derived based on the actual costs to operate and maintain the units, but rather on a national formula that is widely considered flawed.[73] Even by this flawed formulaic standard, the program is still receiving less than the formula dictates the District should receive. This is because all public housing authorities across the country receive 15% less in funding the formula actually dictates.[74] That equals approximately $8 million dollars less in funding each year for DCHA, while the costs and demands on service rise annually. Additionally, the agency currently receives

[72] *DCHA Responses to Follow up Questions to the Performance Oversight Public Hearing for Fiscal Year 2015* (Question #1)(February 24,2015)

[73] Available at: http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/facts/Federal.pdf

[74] *DCHA Performance Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 4 (February 27, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

less in capital funds from the federal government every fiscal year, resulting in a capital funding level that is $10 million dollars less than what was once received years ago. [75]

The Committee recommends to HUD to fund at minimum the amount dictated by the housing formula, and to step up into its role as financier of housing for some of the District's most vulnerable residents. Public housing is often one of the last points in the pathway to homelessness, and it is essential to providing housing opportunities for those who are not on the pathway to homeownership.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2020 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- DCHA does not receive any direct capital appropriations in the budget. DCHA regularly partners with DHCD for District support on redevelopment activities.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recognizes a transfer of $647,579 from the Committee on Transportation and the Environment to the District of Columbia Housing Authority Subsidy, new Program Code 3000-Local Rent Supplement Program and CSG 50-Subsidies and Transfers, for the Targeted Affordable Housing program as proposed by the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness. This program shall be designed to meet the needs of individuals who no longer need the intensive wraparound services of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) but still need a housing subsidy to afford rent and for individuals who don't succeed in Rapid Re-Housing, but also don't need PSH.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The District of Columbia Housing Authority has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee advises DCHA to collaborate with its sister agencies and foundations to help public housing residents achieve financial self-sufficiency through on-site programs, and combat homelessness in the District.

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[75] *DCHA Performance Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development*, 5 (February 27, 2015) (written testimony of Adrienne Todman, Director, DCHA).

- The Committee recommends the Housing Authority Subsidy budget be restructured to include the amount District subsidizes for rental assistance, public safety, and Local Rent Supplement programs. The budget chapter for the Housing Authority Subsidy lacks sufficient detail to make it accessible and transparent to indicate what is to be spent on each program.

- The Committee strongly recommends a continued increase in funding to both tenant and project/sponsor based vouchers in FY 2016, as well as FY 2017, to meet the pressing needs of the District's most vulnerable residents.

- The Committee recommends DHCD to explore establishing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the District of Columbia Housing Authority for small repairs of public housing units in FY 2016 to accomplish the goal of preservation. A detailed action plan will need to be submitted to DHCD and the Committee prior to the disbursement of any funds.

- The Committee intends to request an audit from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor to investigate the administration and operation of the Housing Authority Subsidy to ensure heightened transparency and oversight, as well as the efficient expenditure of government funds. During audits, ODCA requires access to agency records, files and other information to complete the audit effectively. The Committee will continue to provide comprehensive oversight to ensure the residents of the District receive the services they need and deserve, and to hold the Executive offices to the highest standards of accountability.

- The Committee makes an unfunded recommendation for the District of Columbia Housing Authority to seek a transfer of $1,652,421 dollars for targeted affordable housing, meeting the total goal of $2.3 Million dollars, which will provide housing opportunities for an estimated 188 residents who make below 30% of the average median income for the District.

- The Committee makes an unfunded recommendation for the District of Columbia Housing Authority to seek a transfer of $5,000,000 dollars, to be added to the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP), to fund approximately 330 additional tenant-based vouchers for families who are currently on the waiting list, and have been for several years.

Q. HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (UZ0)

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
UZ0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND					
610 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS-DEDICATED TAX	40,421,811	49,820,611	0	49,820,611	*23.25%*
620 ENTERPRISE AND OTHER FUNDS - O TYPES	0	50,179,389	0	50,179,389	*/0*
GROSS FUNDS	**40,421,811**	**100,000,000**	**0**	**100,000,000**	***147.39%***

OPERATING BUDGET BY CSG GROSS FUNDS

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
UZ0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND					
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**40,421,811**	**100,000,000**	**0**	**100,000,000**	***147.39%***
41--CONTRACTUAL SERVICES - OTHER	40,421,811	100,000,000	0	100,000,000	*147.39%*
GROSS FUNDS	**40,421,811**	**100,000,000**	**0**	**100,000,000**	***147.39%***

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
UZ0 - HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND					
1000 - HOUSING PROUCTION TRUST FUND	40,421,811	100,000,000	0	100,000,000	*147.39%*
GROSS FUNDS	**40,421,811**	**100,000,000**	**0**	**100,000,000**	***147.39%***

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

In 2012, U.S. households spent the largest share of average annual expenditures (33 percent, or $16,887) on housing.[1] Since households spend the largest share of their average annual expenditures on housing, increases or decreases in housing expenditures

[1] U.S. Bureau of Labor "Statistics on Housing: Before, During, And After The Great Recession" (September 2014) *Available at* http://www.bls.gov/spotlight/2014/housing/pdf/housing.pdf

typically have a significant impact on whether households can spend more or less on non-household items such as food, apparel, and transportation. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics 2014 report, it stated that — on average — Washingtonians spend more on housing and related expenses (utilities, furnishings and equipment) than New Yorkers and San Franciscans.[2] For this reason, it is critical for the District government to pay a strong role in the regulation, creation, and preservation of affordable housing.

The Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) is the District's primary tool for funding affordable housing projects and programs. Since 2002, it has produced or preserved over 7,500 units of affordable housing across every ward.[3] Through grants and loans to both for and non-profit developers, the HPTF can be used for either rental or homeownership housing opportunities. HPTF is also seen as an effective financing tool, as it often serves as "gap financing" for projects that have substantial amounts of private financing, and only require a partial contribution from the District.[4] According to agency calculations, each dollar in HPTF awards leverages $2.50 in private financing on average.[5]

Although the HPTF was established in 1988, it did not receive regular funding until FY 2001, when the District made a one-time $25 million contribution. The "Housing Act of 2002" dedicated 15 percent of the District's real estate recordation and transfer taxes each year to fund the HPTF.[6]

In FY 2007, a subsidy account for this entity was created to show the annual transfer of dedicated deed recordation and deed transfer taxes from the District's General Fund to the HPTF. Beginning in FY2013, these funds were deposited directly into the HPTF, thus there is no transfer of Dedicated Taxes through the General Fund. There was a transfer of Local funds to the HPTF through this agency in FY 2013, FY2014, and FY 2016.

The HPTF is a paper agency managed by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), which is also the largest recipient of HPTF resources. However, funds are also distributed via intra-district transfers to other agencies, including the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) and the Department of Human Services (DHS), as well as developers. These payments, called intra-district transfers, are a mechanism that district agencies (buying agencies - HPTF) use to pay for services rendered by other district agencies (selling agencies - DHCD).[7]

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[2] *Id.*

[3] "A Decade of Progress, Investing in Lives and Neighborhoods through the Housing Production Trust Fund" (Coalition for Nonprofit and Economic Development) (Available at: https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/95427853/CNHED%20Reports%20%26%20Papers%20%26%20Testimony/CNHED%20Housing%20Production%20Trust%20Fund%20Report.pdf)

[4] DC Housing Production Trust Fund and Affordable Housing FY 2012 Annual Report, 22 (Available at: http://dhcd.dc.gov/publication/2012-housing-production-and-affordable-housing-annual-report.)

[5] DC Housing Production Trust Fund and Affordable Housing FY 2012 Annual Report, 24, (Available at: http://dhcd.dc.gov/publication/2012-housing-production-and-affordable-housing-annual-report.)

[6], § 2, 36 DCR 444; Apr. 19, 2002; *See also* Mar. 16, 1989, D.C. Law 7-202

[7] The intra-district process creates an advance of cash from one agency fund to another agency fund.

To ensure the HPTF is used to create and preserve affordable housing to households whose income levels are below the average median income ("AMI") for the area, accompanying legislation was passed that provides several statutory restrictions to ensure good stewardship and accountability of these resources.[8] For example, the law requires at least 40% of HPTF expenditures to go toward housing affordable for households at or below 30% of the AMI, 40% of funds to be spent on housing affordable for households at 50% of AMI, and 20% of the funds to be spent on housing affordable for households at 80% of the AMI.[9]

Table 1: HPTF INCOME LIMITS

INCOME BAND	Household Size							
	1 person	2 person	3 person	4 person	5 person	6 person	7 person	8 person
0 - 30%	22,575	25,800	29,025	32,250	35,475	38,700	41,925	45,150
31 - 50%	37,625	43,000	48,375	53,750	59,125	64,500	69,875	75,250
51 - 80%	60,200	68,800	77,400	86,000	94,600	103,200	111,800	120,400

In addition, the statute requires half of the funds in the HPTF must be used for the purpose of assisting in the provision of rental housing.[10] It also restricts administrative costs of the Fund from exceeding 10% of its budget.[11] The Mayor is required to file an annual report that reports on the actions and spending of the HPTF.[12]

Along with the statutory requirements mentioned, to ensure qualified individuals under HPTF do not spend a majority of their income on rent, the fund has established rent limits for residents who obtain a rental unit that has been funded with HPTF money. Although approximately one fifth of DC households spend more than half of their income on housing costs, nearly two thirds of households with incomes below 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI) spend more than half of their income on housing costs.[13] The more disposable income a resident has free for transportation, health care, food, or education, the less impact the housing crisis can have on an individual.

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[8] According the Housing and Urban Development Agency ("HUD"), the FY 2014 AMI for the District of Columbia is $107,000 for a family of 4. *Available at http://www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/il/il2014/2014MedCalc.odn*

[9] D.C. Official Code § 42-2802(b-1).

[10] D.C. Official Code § 42-2802(b-1).

[11] D.C. Official Code § 42-2802(b)(10).

[12] D.C. Official Code § 42-2803.02.

[13] Reed, Jenny.Disappearing Act: Affordable Housing In DC Is Vanishing Amid Sharply Rising Housing CostsRep. DC Fiscal Policy Institute, 7 May 2012.

Table 2: HPTF Rent Limits

	0 - 30%	31 - 50%	51 - 80%
Efficiency	564	941	1,505
1 Bedroom	645	1,075	1,720
2 Bedroom	726	1,209	1,935
3 Bedroom	806	1,344	2,150
4 Bedroom	887	1,478	2,365
5 Bedroom	968	1,613	2,580

Finally, the HPTF has a 9-member Board, which is appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Council, and serves to advise the Mayor on how to spend the funds and confirm compliance with District law.[14] The Panel has been very active, meeting monthly with DHCD and other government officials as well as private and non-profit stakeholders. The Board has focused in particular on streamlining the Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process and leveraging government resources to boost private financing of affordable housing in the District. To address concerns about transparency, the Board gives public notice of its meetings and posted detailed minutes.[15] Most importantly, the Agency has a link on its homepage to a dashboard that provides a live snapshot into any projects that are currently pending, or have passed through the HPTF pipeline.[16]

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 gross funds budget is $50,179,389, an increase of $50,179,389, an increase from the FY 2015 approved budget of $0. The budget is comprised entirely of local funds. This budget does not support any full-time equivalents (FTEs) since the HPTF is a paper agency administered by DHCD.

Dedicated Taxes: The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 dedicated taxes budget is $0, the same amount as proposed in FY 2015. The subsidy account previously reflected the total Dedicated Taxes (General Fund) transfer to the Housing Production Trust Fund to fulfill its operational obligations during a budgetary year. It now reflects any Local fund transfer to the HPTF.

Special Purpose Revenue Funds: The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 special purpose revenue funds budget is $0, the same amount as proposed in FY 2015.

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[14] D.C. Official Code § 42-2802.01.
[15] Available at: http://dhcd.dc.gov/page/housing-production-trust-fund-advisory-board
[16] Available at: https://octo.quickbase.com/db/bit4kvfmq

Enterprise Funds: The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 enterprise funds budget is $49,179,389, an increase $8,757,389 from the FY 2015 approved budget of $40,422,000.

Committee Analysis and Comments

***Consistent Funding Support*:** Because the HPTF's funding is tied to the volume of sales in the District's real estate market, available money for the program is uncertain from year to year. Never was it so evident as between FY 2007 and FY 2010, when HPTF funding dropped by nearly 80 percent. Large unexpected drops in funding can lead the HPTF to take on more commitments for funding than it has funds. This can delay affordable housing projects that may be otherwise shovel ready. The Committee commends Mayor Bowser for her continued support and pledge of future funding to HPTF, and implementation of legislation that guarantees a baseline of 100 Million Dollars in the HPTF.[17] In the Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget, the HPTF will meet the baseline funding amount, with a total of hundred million dollars being added to the fund.[18]

***Administrative Costs*:** Addressing the District's housing needs also requires utilizing as much of the HPTF's resources for actual programs and tangible projects as possible, through working efficiently and minimizing administrative overhead. District law caps administrative expenses from exceeding 10% of HPTF funds. DHCD assures the Committee that it complies with this statutory requirement, and the Committee will work with the Agency to ensure detailed and transparent accounting is achieved with respect to the statutory requirement. In the proposed FY 2016 Budget, HPTF is anticipated to remain within compliance of the law.

40/40/20 Rule: D.C. Code Section 42-2802 (b)(1) through (3) states that the HPTF must be allocated on projects in the following ratios:

- 40% on the 0-30% AMI level;
- 40% on the 31-50% AMI level;
- 20% on the 51-80% AMI level.

Based on information submitted to the Committee by DHCD on April 9, 2015, as well as data from the pipeline dashboard found on DHCD website, DCHD has to make some improvements to the selection process for which projects are making it through the pipeline and receiving government funding. In both FY 2013 and FY 2014, DHCD failed to meet the statutory requirement of 40/40/20 allocation of funding.[19]

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[17] B20-0708 – Housing Production Trust Fund Baseline Funding Amendment Act of 2014, effective March 11, 2015 (D.C. Law 20-208; 61 DCR 12725)

[18] $50,179,389 in Recordation and deed transfer taxes + 49,179,389 in Local Funding

[19] Housing Production Trust Fund – Income Target Performance Report – February 2, 2015

Table 3: FY 2013 HPTF Closed Projects Report

Targeted Income Level	0-30%	31-50%	51-80%
Fund Allocated	$7.09 Million	$4.82 Million	$1.71 Million
Percentage	**52.1%**	**35.4%**	**12.5%**
Compliant?	**YES**	**NO**	**NO**

Table 4: FY 2014 HPTF Closed Projects Report

Targeted Income Level	0-30%	31-50%	51-80%
Fund Allocated	$4.0 Million	$9.2 Million	$26.65 Million
Percentage	**10.0%**	**23.1%**	**66.9%**
Compliant?	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**

Furthermore, as of February 2, 2015, the Agency had still not properly "designed the doorway" to allow projects creating housing opportunities for the lowest income levels to come through (*See tables 5 & 6 below*).[20] The Committee is aware projects that are directed towards lower income levels require higher financial commitments; however the Agency must adjust its practices during the remainder of the current fiscal year to ensure the allocation of funding remains compliant with the law.

The Committee is encouraged by the fact the projects in the pipeline are moving the Agency towards compliance, but projects in the pipeline are not always certain to be financed, and the Agency must ensure the projects are financed and completed.

Table 5: FY 2015 HPTF Closed Projects Report (As of February 2, 2015)

Targeted Income Level	0-30%	31-50%	51-80%
Fund Allocated	$5.87 Million	$0.84 Million	$36.6 Million
Percentage	**16.1%**	**2.3%**	**81.7%**
Compliant?	**NO**	**NO**	**NO**

Table 6: Current HPTF Projects in Pipeline (As of February 2, 2015)

Targeted Income Level	0-30%	31-50%	51-80%
Fund Allocated	$79.5 Million	$40.1 Million	$71.1 Million
Percentage	**41.7%**	**21.1%**	**37.2%**
Compliant?	**YES**	**NO**	**NO**

The Committee is confident the new Director, Polly Donaldson, has an agency plan to bring the HPTF spending into compliance with law, and will closely monitor the results of the summer 2015 Notice for Funding Availability (NOFA) to ensure projects that meet the standards of the code are receiving funding. The Committee recommends

[20] Housing Production Trust Fund – Income Target Performance Report – February 2, 2015

the Agency remain compliant with the statutory requirement to allocate HPTF funding in accordance with the 40/40/20 rule.

Umbrella of HPTF loans: For a better understanding of the flow of money in and out of HPTF, the Committee requested the amount of money that is returned to HPTF through loans. The chart has been included below, and is a good snapshot of the thousands of housing opportunities that have been created through HPTF, and the various types of pathways to housing that are created. In total, HPTF funds 11 different types of loans, totaling approximately $810 million dollars connected with 7,556 individual loans.

Transparency and Uniformity of Accounting: Every year the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) is released, the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) balance appears to be alarmingly high due to a difference in accounting techniques. The Housing Production Trust Fund money, despite it being used on affordable housing developments, projects that would normally be deemed as "capital" projects, is recorded using accounting techniques pertaining to an operating budget. Therefore, at the end of every fiscal year, HPTF funds that was previously "obligated" or "committed" is de-obligated and then re-obligated once the new fiscal year begins. Despite the large number of projects underway in the DHCD pipeline, this difference results in a sense of public mistrust in the agency's ability to spend the taxpayers' dollars in an effective and efficient manner. The Committee recommends that the administering agency, DHCD, work with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO) to address this gap in the accounting methodology to ensure that the money path is followed and recorded in a timely manner so that taxpayers are aware of what and when the dollars are being used.

Spending down the account. The $100 million investment into the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) in FY 2016 will help create pathways to the middle class by building and/or preserving more than 1,100 units of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income families across DC's vibrant communities.

This new investment will be on top of the more than 3,400 units of affordable housing that are currently in the Department of Housing and Community Development's (DHCD) pipeline. Table 1 below provides a snapshot today of the available resources and how those funds are planned to be spent down by FY 2017. With the new $100 million investment in FY 2016, DHCD will release a funding announcement in the early summer to award the new funds. Given that much of the FY 2015 and earlier FY's HPTF dollars have been committed, per the attached pipeline report, DHCD will focus the Summer Funding Announcement on the new total of $100 million in FY 2016 HPTF funds, along with other DHCD resources (such as the federal HOME and CDBG grants, funding from the Department of Behavioral Health, etc.).

Table 1[21]					
($ in millions)	**FY 13**	**FY 14**	**FY 15**	**FY 16**	**FY 17**
Total Revenue	$119.2	$95.6	$55.2	$56.4*	$58.0
Total Expenditures**	-$55.9	-$61.4	-$110.7	-$149.3	-$90.3
Year End Balance	**$139.7**	**$173.9**	**$118.4**	**$25.5**	**-$6.8**
*this is before the Mayor's total investment of $100 million **total expenditures includes: loans, debt service for New Communities, acquisition loan program and administrative costs.					

In addition, DHCD will use some of the new resources to help carry out two important goals; the creation of the *preservation strike force* and use of the District Opportunity to Purchase Act (DOPA). The preservation strike force (comprised of District agency heads and key community stakeholders) will quickly deploy to help Mayor Bowser preserve important affordable housing and devise an action plan and strategy for dedicating HPTF resources to prevent loss due to expiring covenants and subsidies. DOPA will provide the Mayor a tool to quickly obtain affordable buildings that might otherwise be lost. DHCD plans to announce its implementation plans for both tools in the coming months.

In the first half the fiscal year, DHCD has already obligated almost as much funding to HPTF projects, as it has each year for the last three years and it expects to continue to increase its capacity. The Committee will monitor the agency, but is supportive of its efforts and ability to fully obligate the $100 million to high-quality affordable housing production and preservation projects.

The Committee urges the Agency to maintain the continued commitment of $100 million dollars each year, to ensure the housing stock is replenished with opportunities for low income residents. In addition, the Committee will closely monitor the Agency's ability to consistently spend the funding at a similar rate that it accrues. Cutting any of the HPTF funding would jeopardize the plan and stifle efforts to combat the housing crisis. Those families at 30% and less of AMI are the most at risk to become homeless. Producing and preserving needed housing for these individuals and families is a key part of the permanent housing strategy in the cross agency strategic plan to end homelessness.

[21] *DHCD Information submitted to Committee via email*

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2020 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Housing Production Trust Fund has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Housing Production Trust Fund, as proposed by the Mayor.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Housing Production Trust Fund has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendations

- The Committee recommends that DHCD file the annual HPTF reports in a timely manner.

- The Committee will closely monitor Agency compliance to ensure HPTF meets the statutory requirements and the 40/40/20 rule: 40% on the 0-30% AMI level; 40% on the 31-50% AMI level; and 20% on the 51-80% AMI level.

- The Committee intends to request an audit from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor to investigate the administration and operation of HPTF to ensure heightened transparency and oversight, as well as the efficient expenditure of government funds. During audits, ODCA requires access to agency records, files and other information to complete the audit effectively. The Committee will continue to provide comprehensive oversight to ensure the residents of the District receive the services they need and deserve, and to hold the Executive offices to highest standards of accountability.

R. OFFICE OF VETERAN AFFAIRS (VA0)

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS (DOLLARS IN THOUSANDS)

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
VA0 - OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
100 LOCAL FUND	410,591	413,963	0	413,963	*0.82%*
600 SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE FUNDS	5,000	5,000	0	5,000	*0.00%*
GROSS FUNDS	**415,591**	**418,963**	**0**	**418,963**	***0.81%***

OPERATING BUDGET FUND TYPE GROSS FUNDS FTES

	FY 2016 Approved FTE	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed FTE	Committee Variance FTE	FY 2016 Committee FTE	% Growth FY 2015 Approved FTE to FY 2016 Committee FTE
VA0 - OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
100 LOCAL FUND	4.00	4.00	0	4.00	*0.00%*
GROSS FTES	**4.00**	**4.00**	**0**	**4.00**	***0.00%***

OPERATING BUDGET BY CSG GROSS FUNDS

	FY15 Approved	FY16 Mayor's Proposed	Committee Variance	FY16 Committee	% Growth FY15 Approved to FY16 Committee Budget
VA0 - OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
Personal Services (PS)	**386,840**	**349,709**	**0**	**349,709**	***-9.60%***
11--REGULAR PAY - CONT FULL TIME	170,272	237,423	0	237,423	*39.44%*
12--REGULAR PAY - OTHER	118,200	39,243	0	39,243	*-66.80%*
14--FRINGE BENEFITS - CURR PERSONNEL	98,368	73,043	0	73,043	*-25.75%*
Nonpersonal Services (NPS)	**28,751**	**69,254**	**0**	**69,254**	***140.88%***
20--SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS	3,029	3,029	0	3,029	*0.00%*
40--OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES	25,722	28,676	0	28,676	*11.48%*
GROSS FUNDS	**415,591**	**418,963**	**0**	**418,963**	***0.81%***

COUNCIL BUDGET DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION: _____ DATE: _____

OPERATING BUDGET BY PROGRAM GROSS FUNDS

	FY 2015 Approved	FY 2016 Mayor Proposed	Committee Variance	FY 2016 Committee	% Growth FY 2015 Approved to FY 2016 Committee Budget
VA0 - OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS					
1000 - AGENCY MANAGEMENT	227,495	218,775	0	218,775	*-3.83%*
2000 - VETERANS	188,096	200,188	0	200,188	*6.43%*
GROSS FUNDS	**415,591**	**418,963**	**0**	**418,963**	***0.81%***

1. COMMITTEE ANALYSIS AND COMMENTS

a. Agency Mission and Overview

The mission of the District of Columbia Office of Veterans' Affairs (OVA) is to assist, recognize, and effectively advocate on behalf of District of Columbia veterans and their families. OVA assists District veterans, their dependents, and survivors in applying for and using federal Department of Veterans Affairs benefit entitlements. OVA also supports veterans recently released from active duty service with transitional assistance from military life to civilian life. This support includes a financial planning and budget counseling program (VALOR) that is offered to Veterans in all 8 wards; the Veteran's License Tag Program; and the Furniture Donation Program, which assists that assists Veterans' and their families obtain essential furniture.[1] Finally, OVA connects District veterans with supportive wrap-around services and District and federal services that address homelessness, employment, education, housing, and other services that will improve their quality of life.

b. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget

Proposed Operating Budget Summary

The Mayor's proposed FY 2016 proposed operating budget is $418,959 an increase of $3,364 or 0.8% percent over the FY 2015 approved budget of $415,595. The proposed operating budget supports 4.0 FTEs, which represents no change from FY 2015. The proposed budget is comprised of local funds, as well as Special Purpose Revenue Funds.

Local Funds: The Mayor's proposed local fund budget is $413,959, an increase of $3,364, or 0.8 percent, increase over the FY 2016 approved Local funds budget of $410,595. The proposed funding by local funds supports 4.0 FTEs, which is unchanged from FY 2015.

[1] Sharon Hines, *About OVA*, available at http://ova.dc.gov/page/about-ova.

Special Purpose Revenue Funds: The Mayor's proposed Special Purpose Revenue funds budget is $5,000, which is unchanged from FY 2015.

Committee Analysis and Comments

Personnel: OVA has a staff of 4.0 FTEs. OVA has recently filled the vacancy of their Director, who will begin handling responsibilities by the end of May 2015.[2] As such, the agency is forecasting a surplus of $45,641.[3] Under the Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget, personal services will be decreased by $40,503 to reflect salary adjustments and offset non-personal services decreases.

The Committee looks forward to meeting the new Director and discussing their vision for the agency.

Furniture Donation Program: One of OVA's most notable programs is their Furniture Donation Program. After a March 2015 assessment of facilities, which determined almost 75% of items were unfit for distribution, the agency halted this program temporarily.[4] Efforts have been taken to discard unusable furniture and coordinate a furniture delivery process that will use quality assurance measures to protect future donations.[5] Prior to this program's re-design, 18 veterans had been successfully provided furniture, with a waitlist of 62 additional veterans.[6]

The Committee recommends a re-structuring of this program that will provide Veterans with quality pieces of furniture. Additionally, the Committee recommends that OVA make efforts to see if this program can be paired with any federal programs that provide complimentary services to Veterans.

Proud DC Veterans License Plate Program: Through a program with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), OVA provides vanity license plates to Veterans.[7] After verifying that a Veteran has served, OVA sends notification to the DMV and Veterans are offered the option of purchasing these license plates.[8] The cost to each Veteran is regular licensing fees plus an additional $52 annually.[9] To date, OVA has raised approximately $7,000 through this program.[10] The money raised from this

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[2] *See Office of Veterans Affairs: FY 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (May 6, 2015) (oral testimony of Sharon Hines, Director of Mayor's Office of Community Affairs).
[3] BOH 5.6.15 gen. ques 4
[4] *See Office of Veterans Affairs: FY 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing before the Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Housing and Community Development,* (May 6, 2015) (written testimony of Sharon Hines, Director of Mayor's Office of Community Affairs).
[5] *Id.*
[6] Agency boh answer specific agency ques 5
[7] *Supra* note **2.**
[8] *Id.*
[9] *Id.*
[10] *Id.*

program goes into OVA's Special Purpose Fund for which the agency has not yet made plans to allocate.[11]

The Committee recommends that OVA establish a plan to use a percentage of the proceeds from the "Proud Veterans License Plate" Program for veteran services that would provide assistance to low-income veterans. The Committee will follow up with the agency on these plans.

New Claims Division: OVA is in the process of implementing a New Claims Division that will allow them to directly handle benefits claims of Veterans and their family members.[12] OVA has designated an area solely for this purpose in it new office space.[13] Through local veteran services, and an established system of volunteers, OVA intends to implement this service fully before the end of FY15.[14] This will be assisted under the Mayor's Proposal for FY16, which allots a net increase to non-personal services of $40,503 that offsets personal services decreases. This increase will fund computer systems as well as system software and professional services.[15]

The Committee will closely monitor the implementation of this New Claims Division and expects the Office to update the Committee on any progress made in this program's establishment.

Agency Accomplishments: The Office of Veterans Affairs has been able to function with little interruption to services, despite being without a Director for several months. The Committee recognizes this as a credit to current staff, and encourages their continued hard work behind the scenes.

c. Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2016-2021 Capital Budget

Proposed Capital Budget Summary

- The Office of Veteran Affairs has no associated capital funds.

2. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

a. Fiscal Year 2016 Operating Budget Recommendations

- The Committee recommends approval of the FY 2016 budget for the Office of Veterans Affairs, as proposed by the Mayor.

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[11] Agency boh answer specific agency ques 7
[12] *Id.* at specific agency question 3-4.
[13] *Supra* note 2.
[14] *Id.*
[15] *Id.* Director Hines also noted that a total of 4 computers have been purchased, and will thus allow for 4 new work-stations.

b. Fiscal Year 2016 Capital Budget Recommendations

- The Office of Veteran Affairs has no associated capital funds.

c. Policy Recommendation

- The Committee recommends a re-structuring of the Furniture Donation program that will provide Veterans with quality pieces of furniture. Additionally, the Committee recommends that OVA make efforts to see if this program can be paired with any federal programs that provide complimentary services to Veterans.

- The Committee recommends that OVA establish a plan to use a percentage of the proceeds from the "Proud Veterans License Plate" Program for veteran services that would provide assistance to low-income veterans. The Committee will follow up with the agency on these plans.

- The Committee will closely monitor the implementation of this New Claims Division and expects the Office to update the Committee on any progress made in this program's establishment.

III. FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET REQUEST ACT APPROPRIATION LANGUAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

On Wednesday, April 02, 2014, Chairman Mendelson introduced, on behalf of the Mayor, the "FY 2016 Budget Request Act of 2015" (Bill 21-157). The Committee makes the following recommendations:

IV. FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET SUPPORT ACT RECOMMENDATIONS

On Wednesday, April 02, 2014, Chairman Mendelson introduced, on behalf of the Mayor, the "Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Support Act of 2015" (Bill 21-158). The bill contains a number of subtitles for which the Committee has provided comments in addition to new subtitles that the Committee recommends.

A. RECOMMENDATIONS ON BUDGET SUPPORT ACT SUBTITLES PROPOSED BY THE MAYOR

The Committee provides comments on the following subtitles of the "Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Support Act of 2015":

1. Title I, Subtitle C, Office of LGBTQ
2. Title II, Subtitle G, Local Rent Supplement

1. TITLE I, SUBTITLE C. OFFICE OF LGBTQ AFFAIRS

a. Purpose, Effect, and Impact on Existing Law

This subtitle changes the name of the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs to the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs. This modernization of the name of the office is being made at the request of the Mayor.

b. Committee Reasoning

The Committee supports the change in the name of the office, as this change will bring the office's name in line with the community's current preferred and most commonly used verbiage. The evolution from the preferred and common use of GLBT to LGBTQ by members of the community progressed to highlight the important role of lesbians in the community and to be inclusive to community members who are questioning their sexual orientation.

c. **Section-by-Section Analysis**

Sec. 1021. Short title.

Sec. 1022. Amends the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs Act of 2006 to change the name of the office from the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, to the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs.

Sec. 1023. Amends the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005 to change the name of the office from the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, to the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs.

Sec. 1024. Amends the Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008 to change the name of the office from the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, to the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs.

Sec. 1025. Amend the Choice of Drug Treatment Act of 2000 to change the name of the office from the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, to the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs.

Sec. 1026. Amend the Cable Television Communications Act of 1981 to change the name of the office from the Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, to the Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs.

d. **Legislative Recommendations for Committee of the Whole**

Sec. 1021. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs Name Modernization Amendment Act of 2015".

Sec. 1022. The Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs Act of 2006, effective April 4, 2006 (D.C. Law 16-89; D.C. Official Code § 2-1381 *et seq.*) is amended as follows:

(a) Section 2 (D.C. Official Code § 2-1381) is amended as follows:

(1) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase "Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs" and inserting the phrase "Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs" in its place.

(2) Paragraph (2) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) "Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning" or "LGBTQ" means individuals who identify themselves as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender or are questioning or exploring their sexuality or sexual identity, or are concerned about applying a social label to themselves related to their sexuality or sexual identity and who are residents of the District of Columbia.

(3) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking the phrase "Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs" and inserting the phrase "Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs" in its place.

(b) Section 3 (D.C. Official Code § 2-1382) is amended as follows:

(1) Strike the phrase "Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs" wherever it appears and insert the phrase "Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs" in its place.

(2) Strike the phrase "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community" wherever it appears and insert the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community" in its place.

(c) Section 4 (D.C. Official Code § 2-1383) is amended as follows:

(1) Subsection (a)(1) is amended by striking the phrase "full-time" and inserting the phrase "full time" in its place.

(2) Subsection (b) is amended as follows:

(A) Paragraph (1) is amended by striking the phrase "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community" in its place.

(B) Paragraph (3) is amended by striking the phrase "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community" in its place.

(C) Paragraph (8) is amended by:

(i) Striking the phrase "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Program Coordinators" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning services coordinators" in its place; and

(ii) Striking the phrase "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community" in its place.

(D) Paragraph (9) is amended by striking the phrase "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Program Coordinator" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning services coordinator" in its place

(E) Paragraph (10) is amended by:

(i) Striking the phrase "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered program coordinator" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning services coordinator" in its place; and

(ii) Striking the phrase "gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender health" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning health" in its place.

(d) Section 4a(a) (D.C. Official Code § 2-1384(a)) is amended by striking the phrase "Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs" and inserting the phrase "Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs" in its place.

Sec. 1023. Section 4(b)(2)(M) of the Homeless Services Reform Act of 2005, effective October 22, 2005 (D.C. Law 16-65; D.C. Official Code § 4752.01(b)(2)(M)), is amended by striking the phrase "Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs" and inserting the phrase "Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning Affairs" in its place.

Sec. 1024. Section 23(d)(1)(F)(iv) of the Emergency Medical Services Act of 2008, effective March 25, 2009 (D.C. Law 17-357; D.C. Official Code § 7-2341.22(d)(1)(F)(iv)), is amended by striking the phrase "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning community" in its place.

Sec. 1025. Section 10(c) of the Choice of Drug Treatment Act of 2000, effective July 18, 2000 (D.C. Law 13-146; D.C. Official Code § 7-3009(c)), is amended by striking the phrase "gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgenders" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning persons" in its place.

Sec. 1026. Section 302(d) of the Cable Television Communications Act of 1981, effective August 21, 1982 (D.C. Law 4-142; D.C. Official Code § 34-1253.02(d)), is amended by striking the phrase "gays and lesbians" and inserting the phrase "lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning persons" in its place.

2. TITLE II, SUBTITLE G. LOCAL RENT SUPPLEMENT

a. Purpose, Effect, and Impact on Existing Law

The subtitle authorizes the Department of Human Services (DHS) or any other District agency designated by the Mayor to make referrals to the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) to receive tenant-based Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) vouchers.

b. Committee Reasoning

DHS operates various programs that address the needs of rental assistance and wraparound services for homeless families and individuals. DHS's two main programs are the Rapid Re-Housing Program and the Permanent Supportive Housing Program. Rapid Re-Housing Program aims to transition families from the shelter system onto the path of self-sufficiency by providing short-term rental assistance. Nevertheless, this program is short term and people remain in this program for four months to a year. Permanent Supportive Housing Program provides permanent supportive housing and supportive services to chronically homeless individuals and families with histories of homelessness to ensure housing stabilization, maximum levels of self-sufficiency and an overall better quality of life. However, the different parameters of these programs expose the participants, subsequent to completing the program, to the potential of falling back into the revolving doors of the homelessness system.

DHS anticipates that there will be some participants who may need transitional assistance to ensure their success on their trajectory towards self-sufficiency subsequent to completing these programs. The Committee agrees that with the importance of DHS having this referral authority, which will allow the agency to right-size the intervention programs for the families and individuals based on their needs and open up slots for the programs for those who need the full spectrum of services. The passage of the subtitle will further maximize the flexibility of DHS to match residents with the assistance they require, and better prevent residents from falling into the cycle of homelessness.

c. Section-by-Section Analysis

Sec. 2071. Short title.

Sec. 2072. Amends Section 26c of the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999 to grant referral authority to the Department of Human Services or any other District agency as designated by the Mayor.

d. Legislative Recommendations for Committee of the Whole

Sec. 2071. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Local Rent Supplement Amendment Act of 2015".

Sec. 2072. Section 26c of the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999, effective March 2, 2007 (D.C. Law 16-192; D.C. Official Code § 6-228), is amended as follows:

(a) Subsection (b) is amended by inserting the phrase "the households referred to the Authority pursuant to subsection (c) of this section or" after the phrase "selected from".

(b) New subsections (c) through (e) are added to read as follows:

"(c) Eligible families may be referred to the Authority by the Department of Human Services or by another District agency designated by the Mayor.

"(d) Families and individuals housed in the Rapid Rehousing Program administered by the Department of Human Services or by another District agency designated by the Mayor may be referred to the Authority for the Local Rent Supplement Program for eligibility determination.

"(e) Households that no longer require supportive services under the Permanent Supportive Housing Program but still require long term housing assistance may be referred by Department of Human Services, or another District agency designated by the Mayor, to the Authority for the Local Rent Supplement Program for eligibility determination.".

B. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR NEW BUDGET SUPPORT ACT SUBTITLES

The Committee on Economic Development recommends the following new subtitles to be added to the "Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Support Act of 2015":

XX. Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse
XX. Affordable Homeownership Preservation and Equity Accumulation
XX. Office of Aging Reporting Requirements

XX. RENT CONTROL HOUSING CLEARINGHOUSE

b. Purpose, Effect, and Impact on Existing Law

This new subtitle mandates the establishment of a searchable, real-time, online database of all rental housing accommodations subject to Title II of the Rental Housing Act of 1985. The database will become the portal for the filing of the many forms required of housing providers, and will also serve as a user-friendly interface that provides information relevant to tenants seeking and living in rent control accommodations.

b. Committee Reasoning

The District's Rent control program is one of the city's most significant policy tools for maintaining affordable housing. Most rental units occupied before January 1, 1976 are subject to rent control, which generally allows an annual rent increase limit of CPI-W[1] plus 2 %, but not more than 10 %. For elderly or disabled tenants, the maximum annual increase is CPI-W only, but not more than 5 %. Larger rent increases are permitted when a rental unit becomes vacant. Additionally, a housing provider may request larger increases for hardship, capital improvements, services and facilities, substantial rehabilitation, and voluntary agreements.

However, despite the existence of rent control since 1985, it is still not known how many units are actually subject to rent control. The best information comes from "A Rent Control Report for the District of Columbia", Prepared by NeighborhoodInfo DC, in June 2011. This research's "best estimate" is that there are approximately 4,818 properties with 79,145 housing units *potentially* subject to rent control. However, the Committee concludes that in order to properly review how well rent control is working to preserve affordable housing, it is vital that better and more complete data become available. Much work needs to be done to improve the District's rent control regime, and to help policymakers going forward, it is critical to establish a database of rent control-related information upon which decision making can be based. Better data, including

[1] Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for all items, in the Washington, D.C. Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area

better data accessibility and management, is the critical ingredient for improving rent control compliance and enforcement. The database may also serve as the vehicle to create better policy-making.

Furthermore, housing providers are required to submit as many as 20 different forms for the nearly 80,000 rental units to the Rental Accommodations Division of the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development. This process is time consuming and costly, and the paper-based aspect of the process is prone to human error.

The existing rent control law requires the Mayor to "establish an electronic database for the filing, storage, and retrieval of rent stabilization program documents." (D.C. Code§ 42-3502.05(g)(2)) The current system known as FileNet has been in place for time immemorial, and is decades behind current data technology. FileNet is only available to licensees, thus requiring users to travel to DHCD to access the most basic of information. To say that modernization is overdue and is acutely needed would be a vast understatement.

FileNet consists of forms scanned into a database in unsearchable PDF-format, with the forms themselves being searchable only by property address. DCRA licenses FileNet to DHCD and is responsible for populating and maintaining the database. This requires DHCD's Rental Accommodations Division to send boxes of accumulated filings to DCRA and wait for periodic scanning. The scanning and updating of FileNet is backlogged three years. Despite the existence of FileNet, anyone conducting rent control research typically must search the paper as well as the electronic filings, and even with this apparently redundant search, the record is likely to be incomplete. The Committee is concerned that this state of affairs compromises rent control compliance and enforcement, and it discourages tenants from using the tenant petition process to challenge unlawful rent increases and other related actions.

Finally, without a user-friendly, online, searchable database easily available to the general public, tenants seeking and living in rent control accommodations are at a serious disadvantage when they attempt to find out important information about rent control accommodations.

The Committee believes that the establishment of a searchable, real-time, online database of all rental housing accommodations subject to Title II of the Rental Housing Act of 1985 will significantly help in the enforcement of the Rental Housing Act. Additionally, the information input by housing providers concerning the near 80,000 rent control units will provide an up-to-date and rich source of data for policy making regarding improvements to the District's rent control regime.

The building of the database will take place in three phases. The first phase is the design, issuance, and awarding of the Request for Proposals for the building of the database. This phase is required to be completed within six months of the effective date of the act. The second phase will be the drafting of the code of the database, testing of the software, and launching the database portals for data entry by the providers of housing accommodation, and for searching by tenants and others. This phase is required to be

completed within six months of the effective date of the act. The third and final phase will be the incorporation of the existing "look-back" data, based upon documents existing in FileNet.

Phase 3 is likely to be the most expensive of the phases. This phase is required to be completed within two years of the effective date of the act, and is subject to future appropriations. Cost-benefit analyses will need to be conducted to decide whether this phase should include manual entry of data contained within the PDF-documents, or whether just the "as-is" documents alone should be incorporated into the database. Regardless, the value of prior data should not be minimized or rejected solely because that data is incomplete. However incomplete and problematic FileNet might be, the data contained within it still has significant value to tenants and the public today.

c. Section-by-Section Analysis

Sec. XX01. Short title.

Sec. XX01. Amends the Rental Housing Act of 1985 by adding a new subsection (m), which mandates the establishment of a searchable, real-time, online database of all rental housing accommodations in the District of Columbia.

d. Legislative Recommendations for Committee of the Whole

Sec. XX01. Short Title.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse Amendment Act of 2015".

Sec. XX02. The Rental Housing Act of 1985, effective July 17, 1985 (D.C. Law 6-10; D.C. Official Code § 42-3501.01 *et seq.*), is amended as follows:

(a) A new section 203a is added to read as follows:

"Sec. 203a. Public Accessible Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse.

"(a) The Rental Accommodations Division ("RAD") of the Department of Housing and Community Development ("DHCD"), in close consultation with the Office of the Tenant Advocate and the Office of the Chief Technology Officer, shall establish a user-friendly, internet-accessible, searchable database for the submission, management, and review of all documents and relevant data that title II of this act requires housing providers to submit to the RAD.

"(b) The database shall:

"(1) Include an online portal, not accessible to the general public, for the filing of all documents and data by housing providers as required by title II of this act, and all regulations promulgated pursuant to title II of this act; and

"(2) Include an online portal accessible to the general public that provides information drawn from the documents submitted by housing providers pursuant to paragraph (1) of this subsection, relevant to tenants seeking and living in rent control accommodations.

"(c) The portal accessible to the general public shall include at a minimum, the following real-time, searchable parameters:

"(i) The building address and ward number;

"(ii) The base rent for each rental unit in the accommodation;

"(iii) Any services or facilities provided as part of the base rent;

"(iv) The amount and date of each annual rent increase or decrease;

"(v) The number of bedrooms in each unit;

"(vi) The vacancy status of each unit;

"(vii)The accessibility information of the building, as it relates to District of Columbia and federal law;

"(viii) The name, telephone number, and email address of the housing provider and property manager;

"(ix) Dates and numbers of the Basic Business License of the housing provider;

"(x) Dates and numbers of the Certificate of Occupancy of the building;

"(xi) The name, contact information, and place of business of the registered agent of the building, if applicable;

"(xii)The licensing and registration of the property manager of the accommodation, when other than the housing provider;

"(xiii) The RAD registration exemption number and date of the housing accommodation;

"(xiv) Any pro-active inspection dates;

"(xv) Any outstanding violations of the housing regulations applicable to the accommodation;

"(xvi) The notice date of any housing code violations;

"(xvii) The rate of return for the housing accommodation and computation required by section 205(f)(6);

"(xviii)Any petitions filed by the housing provider including, related services and facilities petition, capital improvement petition, substantial rehabilitation petition, voluntary agreement petition, hardship petition, other valid tenant petitions;

"(xix) Any court or administrative actions; and

"(xx) Other information the RAD determines is relevant to tenants seeking and living in rent control accommodations.

"(d) The portal accessible to the general public shall exclude any documentation submitted in support of a tenant's application for elderly or disability status pursuant to section 208(h)(2), and any other information the Rent Administrator may deem necessary to exclude to protect the privacy and personal information of a tenant.

"(e) The database shall be completed in phases according to the following timeline:

"(1) Phase 1 - Within 6 months of the effective date of the Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse Amendment Act of 2015, DHCD shall award a contract to build the database.

"(2) Phase 2 - Within one year of the effective date of the Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse Amendment Act of 2015, DHCD shall ensure that the database portals are operational for the entry of data by housing providers, and for the general public to conduct searches of the information in the database.

"(3)(i) Phase 3 - Within 2 years of the effective date of the Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse Amendment Act of 2015, DHCD shall ensure the integration of existing data contained in documents previously submitted to the RAD, pursuant to title II of this act, into the database.

"(ii) This paragraph shall apply upon the inclusion of its fiscal effect in an approved budget and financial plan, as certified by the Chief Financial Officer to the Budget Director of the Council in a certification published by the Council in the District of Columbia Register.

"(f) Beginning with the completion of Phase 2, all documents required to be filed by title II of act, shall be submitted to the RAD through the online database.

"(g) Beginning 6 months after the effective date of the Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse Amendment Act of 2015, and continuing every 6 months thereafter until

phase 3 of database is completed, the RAD shall report to the Council on the progress of the establishment of the database.".

(b) Section 205(g)(2) (D.C. Official Code§ 42-3502.05(g)(2)) is repealed.

XX. AFFORDABLE HOMEOWNERSHIP

c. Purpose, Effect, and Impact on Existing Law

This new subtitle allows Department on Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to return to its prior practice of exercising discretion and thereby avoiding putting buyers of affordable for-sale units in a negative equity position at the moment of purchase of affordable homes in distressed parts of the District. This is accomplished by permitting DHCD the discretion to record a lower amount of housing purchase subsidy that is required to be repaid to the District, and effectively forgiving a portion of the Housing Production Trust Fund subsidy. At the same time, this amendment will allow lower-income buyers to purchase homes throughout the District, and thereby supporting the District's policy of promoting diversity throughout the District of Columbia.

Additionally, this amendment resolves a problem of a change to District tax law that inadvertently placed the price of homes in non-distressed wards throughout the District above the maximum allowed, to the participants in the District's lower-income homeownership 5-year low income tax abatement and a 1.1% transfer tax exemption program. Effectively, the current situation restricts lower-income home buyers to the poorest wards of the District, which directly contradicts District policies to make homes affordable in all eight wards of the city.

b. Committee Reasoning

1. Housing Production Trust Fund Amendment

Recently, DHCD had the ability to exercise discretion by forgiving portions of housing purchase subsidies, and thereby avoid placing low-to-moderate income buyers of subsidized homes in a position of negative equity immediately upon the purchase of their homes. This situation can occur when, if at the time of purchase, the sum of the price paid by the low-to-moderate income purchaser plus any government subsidy, is greater than the fair market value of the home. This negative equity situation often occurs in distressed parts of the District where the actual cost of building the home can be greater than the home's fair market value. The Committee is concerned that without this exercise of discretion by DHCD, out of a very reasonable fear of getting themselves into a situation of buying a home that is worth less than their obligations on the home, low-to-moderate income homebuyers are dis-incentivized from buying homes in distressed parts of the District.

For example, this will occur when a low-to-moderate income homebuyer pays $100,000 for an affordable unit with a fair market value of $150,000, but in reality, the unit needed $165,000 to be built. The difference between the price paid by the buyer and

the construction cost is made up by a $65,000 Housing Production Trust Fund subsidy. However, despite the infusion of $65,000 of subsidy, the home's pre-existing equity is only $50,000 (the difference between the homebuyer's price and the fair market value of the home).

However, L20-0190, the Affordable Homeownership Preservation and Equity Accumulation Amendment Act of 2013, effective March 10, 2015 (*D.C. Official Code § 47-3501 et seq.*), recently amended the Housing Production Trust Fund Act and removed DHCD's discretion to forgive portion of subsidies. This resulted from L20-0190's effectively defining the "pre-existing equity" that must be repaid to the District after the affordability period of the unit expires, as "the greater" of the initial fair market appraised value minus the price paid by homebuyer, and the amount of public subsidy provided. In the above example, the math is as follows:

Current law:

Initial fair market appraised value ($150,000) minus the homebuyer's price ($100,000) = $50,000

The amount of public subsidy provided = $65,000. As $65,000 > $50,000, from the moment of the purchase of a home, the homebuyer has a negative equity (or is "underwater") by $15,000.

Law after proposed BSA amendment:

The amount of public subsidy provided = $65,000. Although $65,000 > $50,000, DHCD has the discretion to record the lower amount of $50,000 for future repayment to the District, thereby effectively forgiving a portion of the Housing Production Trust Fund subsidy ($15,000). This appropriately leaves the homebuyer with $0.00 equity at the moment of purchase, and not a negative equity of $15,000.

The Committee concludes that by removing the "greater of" language, this amendment would allow DHCD to return to its prior practice of exercising discretion and thereby avoiding putting buyers of affordable for-sale units in a negative equity position at the moment of purchase. This would be accomplished through DHCD recording the lower amount ($50,000 in the above example) for future repayment to the District, and effectively forgiving a portion of the Housing Production Trust Fund subsidy ($15,000 in the above example). At the same time, the Committee believes that this amendment will allow lower-income buyers to purchase homes throughout the District, thereby supporting the District's policy of promoting diversity throughout the District of Columbia.

2. Amendment to the Tax Code

District tax code grants qualifying lower-income homeownership households a 5-year low income tax abatement and a 1.1% transfer tax exemption. This exemption only applies when homes they have purchased are valued less than 80% of the District's

median sales price, or currently homes valued at less than $356,000. Prior to the passage of L20-0190, the Affordable Homeownership Preservation and Equity Accumulation Amendment Act of 2013, effective March 10, 2015 (*D.C. Official Code § 47-3501 et seq.*), if a homeowner sold their home after the expiration of the 15-year affordability period, the homeowner was not required to return subsidies or any pre-existing equity of their home (the difference between the amount they paid for their home and the homes actual market value) to the District. Without the obligation to pay back subsidies or pre-existing home equity, most often their homes were recorded at the price actually paid by the lower-income homeowner, an amount much lower than the market value of the home in non-distressed parts of the District. The fact that actual prices paid rather than true market values were recorded, allowed many more homes throughout the District to be eligible for a 5-year low income tax abatement and a 1.1% transfer tax exemption.

With the passage of L20-0190, subsidies and pre-existing home equity became an obligation of the lower-income homeowner to pay back to the District. Thus, because of this obligation, instead of the much lower actual price paid being recorded on sale documents, the amount recorded became the sum of the actual price paid by the lower-income homeowner, plus subsidies, plus any pre-existing home equity. This change quickly placed homes in most wards throughout the city above the current $356,000 maximum to allow potential lower-income buyers the affordability benefits of the 5-year low income tax abatement and a 1.1% transfer tax exemption. The Committee is concerned that effectively, this change has restricted lower-income home buyers to the poorest wards of the District, in direct contradiction of the District's policies to make homes affordable in all eight wards of the city.

This amendment resolves this problem by allowing lower-income buyers of affordable for-sale units with resale restrictions as defined in section 2 of the Housing Production Trust fund Act of 1998, to buy their homes despite the very high market value of most homes in non-distressed wards of the District. As the actual amounts paid by the lower-income buyers will be significantly less than 80% of the District's median sales price, this amendment is consistent with the intent of the 80% restriction. At the same time, the Committee believes that this amendment will allow lower-income buyers to purchase homes throughout the District, thereby supporting the District's policy of promoting diversity throughout the District of Columbia.

c. **Section-by-Section Analysis**

Sec. XX01. Short title.

Sec. XX02. Amends the Housing Production Trust Fund Act of 1988 to allow DHCD to return to its prior practice of exercising discretion and thereby avoiding putting lower-income buyers of affordable for-sale units in a negative equity position at the moment of purchase. This will permit these lower-income buyers to purchase homes throughout the District, thereby supporting the District's policy of promoting diversity throughout the District of Columbia.

Sec. XX03. Amends Section 47- 3502 of the District of Columbia Official Code to allow lower-income buyers of affordable for-sale units with resale restrictions to buy their homes despite the very high market value of most homes in non-distressed wards of the District. This will permit allow lower-income buyers to purchase homes throughout the District, thereby supporting the District's policy of promoting diversity throughout the District of Columbia.

d. Legislative Recommendations for Committee of the Whole

Sec. XX01. Short Title.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Affordable Homeownership Preservation and Equity Accumulation Amendment Act of 2015".

Sec. XX02. Section 2(8A) of the Housing Production Trust Fund Act of 1988, effective March 16, 1989 (D.C. Law 7-202; D.C. Official Code § 42-2801(8A)), is amended by striking the phrase "the greater of".

Sec. XX03. Section 47-3502(c) of the District of Columbia Official Code is amended by striking the phrase "is filed" and inserting the phrase "is filed, unless the unit or residential property also qualifies as a continuing affordable unit as provided in section 2(1C)(B) of the Housing Production Trust Fund Act of 1988, effective March 16, 1989 (D.C. Law 7-202; D.C. Official Code § 42-2801(1C)(B)), then this chapter shall apply" in its place.

XX. OFFICE OF AGING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

a. Purpose, Effect, and Impact on Existing Law

This new subtitle mandates the establishment of quarterly reporting requirements by the District of Columbia's Office on Aging (DCOA). These reports will focus on tracking DCOA's growth and performance, as well as promoting transparency of an agency with independent grant-making authority.

b. Committee Reasoning

DCOA is one of the twenty-nine D.C. government agencies that possess independent grant-making authority. As such, DCOA maintains control over the recipients of the grant money and the amount of the grants. The Committee acknowledges the importance of DCOA's independent grant- making authority, however the Committee believes it of paramount importance for there to be stronger accountability and transparency from DCOA. This priority of the Committee is in consonance with the legislative intent of B21-0024, the Government Grant Administration Amendment Act of 2015, introduced by Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers Nadeau, Bonds, and Grosso on January 6, 2015. Through this legislation, the Chairman seeks to ensure a transparent process city-wide, by establishing uniform guidelines on grant applications and grant reporting.

The need for greater transparency is compounded upon review of DCOA's process for allocating continuation grants. During the past year, DCOA offered non-competitive annual continuation grants to sub-grantees. In FY15, the agency awarded funds to 33 sub-grantees, 24 of which were eligible for grant continuations of at least 5 years. This is of significant concern to the Committee, as only 22 percent of DCOA's $26 million dollars allocated to sub-grantees is awarded through competitive-bidding. Furthermore, as it presently stands, DCOA vendors may be eligible for both contracts and grants, even within the same transaction. In one example, DCOA spoke to how one sub-grantee receives grant funding to transport meals delivered to seniors, and additionally, the sub-grantee receives contract money for the actual meals being provided.

It is clear to the Committee that without strong grant monitoring, any oversight attempts will be ineffective. With respect to DCOA, this issue was specifically raised by the D.C. Auditor's Office in a report that was conducted on the Hayes Senior Wellness Center (operated by a DCOA sub-grantee). In this report, the auditor expressed concern that a lack of grant monitoring has led to the agency receiving far less than the expected benefit of services. As DCOA's current service model so closely intertwines those community benefits provided by the agency with those provided by their sub-grantees, it is clear to the Committee that there must be consistent monitoring of all aspects of the agency, and not just a cursory monitoring of agency sub-grantees.

In light of these concerns, the Committee strongly urges that DCOA adopt a system of quarterly reports on the requested measures.

c. Section-by-Section Analysis

Sec. XX01. Short title.

Sec. XX02. Requires the Director of the Office on Aging to submit a plan for the submission of quarterly reports to the Council on how to best track the performance and growth of the Agency.

d. Legislative Recommendations for Committee of the Whole

Sec. XX01. Short title.

This subtitle may be cited as the "Office on Aging Reporting Requirements Act of 2015".

Sec. XX02. (a) Within 60 days of the effective date of the Office on Aging Reporting Requirements Act of 2015, the Executive Director of the Office on Aging shall submit a plan for the submission of quarterly reports to the Council's Committee on Housing and Community Development on how to best track the performance and growth of the Agency that includes descriptions of the specific areas to be reported and provides an outline of the format of the quarterly reports.

(b) The plan shall be created with the intent of promoting agency transparency, enhancing data tracking, and furthering the efficiency of the agency in the following areas:

(1) The Aging and Disability Resource Center;

(2) New applications for sub-grants;

(3) Current contracts and sub-grants;

(4) Senior wellness centers (by center);

(5) Transportation services; and

(6) Home meal delivery services.

V. COMMITTEE ACTION AND VOTE

On Wednesday, May 13, 2014, in Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building, the Committee met to consider and vote on the Mayor's FY 2016 Budget Report for the agencies under its jurisdiction. Chairperson Anita Bonds determined the presence of a quorum consisting of herself and Councilmembers Vincent Orange, Elissa Silverman, and Brianne Nadeau.

Chairperson Bonds provided a brief overview of the report and a summary of the changes to the Mayor's proposed budget as recommended by the Committee before opening the floor for discussion. After a brief discussion, Chairperson Bowser then moved the Committee's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget recommendations for approval, with leave for staff to make technical and conforming changes to reflect the Committee's actions. The Members voted 4-0 in support of the proposed recommendations, with the members voting as follows:

Members in favor:	- Bonds, Orange, Silverman, Nadeau
Members opposed:	- None
Members voting present:	- None
Members absent:	- None

Chairperson Bonds adjourned the meeting.

VI. ATTACHMENTS

A. Tuesday, April 15, 2014 Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Oversight Hearing Witness List and Testimony.

B. Sunday, April 20, 2014 Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Oversight Hearing Witness List and Testimony.

C. Wednesday, April 23, 2014 Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Oversight Hearing Witness List and Testimony.

D. Tuesday, May 06, 2014 Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Oversight Hearing Witness List and Testimony.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCES A BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

on

Housing Finance Agency
District of Columbia Housing Authority

on

Wednesday, April 15, 2015
10:00 a.m., Room 123, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OPENING REMARKS

III. WITNESS TESTIMONY

Housing Finance Agency

1. (No witnesses)

Executive Witness

Maria K. Day-Marshall	Interim Executive Director, Housing Finance Agency

RECESS UNTIL 1 P.M.

District of Columbia Housing Authority ***(Begins at 1 p.m)***

1. Kenneth Ellison	Senior Housing Advisor SOME, Inc.(So Others Might Eat)
2. Adrienne Lyon Buenavista	Staff Attorney, AARP/Legal Counsel for the Elderly
3. Lara Pukatch	Advocacy Specialist, Miriam's Kitchen
4. LaJuan Brooks	Public Witness
5. Cynthia Green	Public Witness

6. William Porter	Public Witness
7. Heidi Case	Public Witness
8. Monica Kamen	Fair Budget Coalition
9. Nassim Moshiree	Staff Attorney, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
10. Cherrell Williams	Public Witness
11. Jesse Lovell	Public Witness
12. Robert Warren	People for Fairness Coalition
13. Sam Jewler	DC Community Organizer, Jews United for Justice
14. Michael Sindram	Public Witness

Executive Witness

Adrianne Todman	Executive Director, DC Housing Authority

IV. ADJOURNMENT

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCES A BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

on

Housing Finance Agency
District of Columbia Housing Authority

on

Wednesday, April 15, 2015
10:00 a.m., Room 123, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **OPENING REMARKS**

III. **WITNESS TESTIMONY**

Housing Finance Agency

1. (No witnesses)

Executive Witness

Maria K. Day-Marshall	Interim Executive Director, Housing Finance Agency

RECESS UNTIL 1 P.M.

District of Columbia Housing Authority ***(Begins at 1 p.m)***

1. Kenneth Ellison	Senior Housing Advisor SOME, Inc.(So Others Might Eat)
2. Adrienne Lyon Buenavista	Staff Attorney, AARP/Legal Counsel for the Elderly
3. Lara Pukatch	Advocacy Specialist, Miriam's Kitchen
4. LaJuan Brooks	Public Witness
5. Cynthia Green	Public Witness

TESTIMONY OF

ADRIANNE TODMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

Before

THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS

April 15, 2015

Good afternoon, Chairperson Bonds and the members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Adrianne Todman and I am the Executive Director of the District of Colombia Housing Authority (DCHA). Today I am pleased to testify before you in support of the Mayor's proposed FY 16 Housing Authority Subsidy. I will provide an update on the programs supported by this subsidy, and respond to questions the Committee may have on the use of the funding.

First, I would like to thank the Mayor, the City Administrator and the Budget Office for proposing a subsidy that not only supports the mission of the housing authority by sustaining current funding levels to provide housing assistance to over 3,000 extremely low-income District of Columbia families, but also supports the creation of an additional 200 housing units affordable to families and individuals who have incomes at or below 30% of AMI as well as supports rental assistance for 250 extremely low-income District households. Additionally, this subsidy request will also help the housing authority maintain its public safety program that is designed to support our public housing management operations and complement the efforts of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

The proposed FY 2016 DCHA subsidy totals $52.1 million. Four million ($ 4 million) of these funds will support public safety efforts in and around our public housing communities. This public safety initiative began in the late 1990's with the goal of improving DCHA's ability to be an effective landlord and to assist in

the prevention and reduction of crime. Our public safety force works closely with the Metropolitan Police Department, and serves as a key part of our management operations. The $4 million allocation provides half of the operating costs for this department, and is the same amount DCHA received last year. On behalf of the entire DCHA team, and the almost 20,000 housing residents we serve, we respectfully request that the Committee and Council support and approve these funds.

The remaining $42 million included in the funding request supports the Local Rent Supplement Program and a smaller rental assistance initiative, DC Local. Together these programs will provide ongoing rental assistance for over 3,000 extremely low-income families and individuals living in the District of Columbia. The Mayor's proposed budget includes $6.1 million in new funding for the Local Rent Supplement Program: $2.4 million in the project/sponsor category and $3.7 million in tenant-based vouchers. Together these funds will create approximately 450 new units affordable to low income families.

This concludes my testimony. I would like to thank you, Chairperson Bonds, for your stated commitment to the preservation and creation of affordable housing. DCHA is dedicated to being a responsible partner, and we look forward to working with the Council during this budget season.

Testimony before Councilmember Anita Bonds, Chair
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Budget Oversight Hearing
Wednesday, April 15, 2015
LaJuan Brooks

Good Morning Councilmember Bonds and other Councilmembers and Staff. My name is LaJuan Brooks and I am a Local Rent Supplement Program Voucher holder. I am a formerly homeless, disabled vet who spent four years in the United States Army proudly serving my country. I am a mother of three and a very proud grandmother as well. I have been a participant in this voucher program since it began. It was because of the voucher program that I was able to move out of the District family shelter system and into a place of my own more than nine years ago. My family and I endured homelessness for a period of 4 years. For me it seemed as if the cycle of homelessness would be never ending. During my time in the shelter I was gainfully employed through a series of temporary jobs. Unfortunately, I was unable to afford any suitable housing for myself and my family. I searched high and low for something, anything that would meet my family's need. What I found was that I could not afford to live in the very city I called home. Fortunately, with the help of the Local Rent Supplement Voucher Program, I was able to move out of the family shelter and into a stable, safe and affordable home. I no longer worried about my rent being more than my income. I no longer worried about the possibility of my children and I facing homelessness again. I was one of the fortunate ones. This was an opportunity for me to move forward in a positive and productive way in spite of all the setbacks I had experienced.

The reason I am here testifying today is to hopefully dispel any myths that having a voucher makes one dependent or lazy. That mindset is simply not warranted. The idea that once a voucher is in hand, that there is no desire to work or to improve oneself, is a falsehood from the core. What is true, is that there is a major lack of affordable housing in the District area. There are many families whose dynamics are similar to what mine were. For those people, as it was true for me, this voucher could be a segue out of poverty and homelessness. It could and would provide for that single mother, father or household the opportunity to seek employment, to return to school and to simply improve their overall chances of survival. Because of the Local Rent Supplement Voucher Program I was able to identify a safe and stable home for my family. This allowed me to diligently pursue and find a full time permanent job in my career field. A job, I might add, that I am still working eight years later. It allowed me an opportunity to focus on my family and their wellbeing. It allowed me to be a mother who can provide the basic necessity of a secure home to my children.

The reality is that despite being gainfully employed, without the assistance of this subsidy I would not survive the high cost of living here in the District. Washington, DC is my home. I am not a visitor. I did not come here from another city or town. I was born and raised right here in this wonderful city. A city that is, in my opinion, failing its most vulnerable citizens in unimaginable ways. The shelter system has become even more difficult to access, the number of affordable housing units has significantly decreased and the Local Rent Supplement voucher program is a much needed safety net that has been underfunded and under used for far too long.

Despite what some may think, my plan is not to be a recipient for life. However, it is a much needed support for me and my family right now. Yes, I'd like to own my own home, build my wealth and ultimately exit the program. But even that goal would not have been a thought much less a reality had I not been able to first exit the shelter system and enter into stable housing. From my point of view, there is no separation of the homeless crisis and the housing crisis. People are homeless because they cannot afford a place to live. And they cannot afford a place to live because there is very little affordable housing in the District of Columbia. And the housing that we do have is being threatened. We all know minimum wage, TANF, and SSI is not enough to live on. We have to stop looking at affordable housing as a handout for people to be lazy and dependent and realize that it can be a means to an end. Affordable housing is a foundation for people to move into careers and goals. If you want people to be self-sufficient, more affordable housing is needed. The Local Rent Supplement Voucher program can be a foundation to assist with that need. Thank you so very much for your time and please feel free to ask me any follow up questions.

My name is Carlton Ward,
I was living at 1349 1st S.W
which I was ask to move on 3/20/13,
I was ask to move into a smaller
house which is 5 doors down from 1349,
I hired 3 men to help me move
when ask the 3 men signed ce
ssary Papers stating they help
me move and had to pay them.
I got a lawyer from AARP, Mr Stevens
Clerk on the 1st of April 2013 - he
has sent made any progress,
also my rent went up 400$
for no reason and I am being charged
extra for a refigerator I dont have
and also charging me for 3 A/C
which is 21 I dont have. March 2013 A/C was
sent $ 594.00 and April $594.00
on my Rent. The lawyer has copies
and never done nothing.
I went to the manger to ask
him what was going on with raising
my rent he said it was OK
yet they still charged me the 594 again

I was born 1926 in aug, I am [redacted] now 88 years old in a motorised chear, I only get SSEC once a mounth and I cant afford this kind of rent this place has been checked 5 times that I ~~[redacted]~~ dondt have these things in my house.

The lawyer mr Steven Clark
(202) 434-2056

mr Carlton wood

(H) 202-483-6644

(Cell) 202-421-4151

Transaction Receipt

All deposits and payments are subject to bank verification.
Deposits may not be available for immediate withdrawal.

Thank you for banking with us.

WELLS FARGO

Date: 2/13/15

Account Number:

Amount: 297.00

Check one: Deposit ☐ Payment ☑

AU #: 66616

Cash Box #: 05

FEB 0 2 2015

BRH9579 (Rev 09-10/12) Wells Fargo Internal Use when blank; Wells Fargo Confidential when completed.

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			es/ ts	Payments Received	Outstanding Balance
01/01/2015	Balance Forward	$ 297.00			$ 297.00
01/06/2015	Air Conditioner Payment			$ -5.00	$ 271.00
01/06/2015	Freezer Payment			$ -14.00	$ 257.00
01/06/2015	Washer Payment			$ -16.00	$ 241.00
01/06/2015	Dryer Payment			$ -4.00	$ 237.00
01/06/2015	Extra Refrigerator Payment			$ -237.00	$ 0.00
01/06/2015	Rent Payment		$ 4.00		$ 4.00
02/01/2015	Extra Refrigerator		$ 21.00		$ -272.00
02/01/2015	Air Conditioner				$ 25.00
		$ 297.00	$ 25.00	$ -297.00	

FEB 0 2 2015

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Previous Balance	$ 297.00
...harges/Adjustments	$ 297.00

Transaction Receipt

All deposits and payments are subject to bank verification.
Deposits may not be available for immediate withdrawal.

Thank you for banking with us.

Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
Navy Yard
AU 66016

MAR 03 2015

Teller #05

WELLS FARGO

Date: 03/03/2015
Account Number: 003-00163-2
Amount: 297.00
Check one: Deposit ○ Payment X
AU #: 066016
Cash Box #: 05

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Date	Description	Forward	Charges/ Adjustments	Payments Received	Outstanding Balance
03/01/2015	Balance Forward	$ 297.00			$ 297.0
03/01/2015	Monthly Rent Charge		$ 237.00		$ 534.0
03/01/2015	Air Conditioner		$ 21.00		$ 555.0
03/01/2015	Freezer		$ 5.00		$ 560.0
03/01/2015	Washer		$ 14.00		$ 574.0
03/01/2015	Dryer		$ 16.00		$ 590.0
03/01/2015	Extra Refrigerator		$ 4.00		$ 594.0
		$ 297.00	$ 297.00	$	$ 594.0

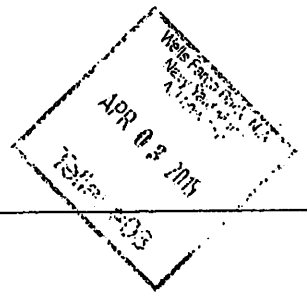
ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Previous Balance	$ 297.0
New Charges/Adjustments	$ 297.0

Transaction Receipt

All deposits and payments are subject to bank verification.
Deposits may not be available for immediate withdrawal.

Thank you for banking with us.



WELLS FARGO

Date: 04/03/15
Account Number: 003-0063-2
Amount: $297.00
AU #: 006604
Cash Box #: 03

Check one: Deposit ○ Payment ●

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2015
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BRH9579 (Rev 09-10/12) Wells Fargo Internal Use when blank; Wells Fargo Confidential when completed.

		Forward	Adjustments	Payments Received	Outstanding Balance
03/01/2015	Balance Forward	$ 594.00			$ 594.00
03/05/2015	Rent Payment			$ -237.00	$ 357.00
03/05/2015	Rent Payment			$ -60.00	$ 297.00
04/01/2015	Monthly Rent Charge		$ 237.00		$ 534.00
04/01/2015	Air Conditioner		$ 21.00		$ 555.00
04/01/2015	Freezer		$ 5.00		$ 560.00
04/01/2015	Washer		$ 14.00		$ 574.00
04/01/2015	Dryer		$ 16.00		$ 590.00
04/01/2015	Extra Refrigerator		$ 4.00		$ 0.00
		$ 594.00	$ 297.00	$ -297.00	$ 594.00

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Previous Balance	$ 594.00
New Charges/Adjustments	$ 297.00
Payment Received-Thank you	$ -297.00
Current Balance Due	$ 594.00

Balance	1-30 days	31-60 days	61-90 days	Over 90 days
$ 594.00	$ 297.00	$ 297.00	$ 0.00	$ 0.00

PAYMENTS RECEIVED AFTER THE 25TH OF THE MONTH WILL BE POSTED THE FOLLOWING MONTH

Please refer to the back for important information related to this rent bill and the administrative grievance rights.

Keep this portion for your record

Committee on Housing and Community Development
Budget Oversight Hearing
April 15, 2015
Testimony of Monica Kamen, Advocacy Coordinator of the DC Fair Budget Coalition

Good afternoon, committee members. My name is Monica Kamen, and I'm the advocacy coordinator of the DC Fair Budget Coalition. Since October, the 70 service providers, faith organizations, and community members that comprise our coalition have been advocating for funding in the city budget for vital human service programs that fight poverty and help create pathways to economic stability. Our priorities this year have focused on housing, solutions to our homelessness crisis, the creation of good paying jobs, and protecting the public benefits that are helping keep families afloat.

We know that building new units of affordable housing is essential to solving our city's housing and homelessness crisis, and we applaud the mayor and the city council for their commitment to putting $100 million in the Housing Production Trust Fund. However, we also know that in a city with almost no affordable housing options for people making less than 30% AMI, and where you have to work 120 hours a week on the current minimum wage to afford an average 2 bedroom apartment, it is critical that the city look beyond just the creation of new units and explore all available tools to help families who are struggling to meet their most basic needs in an increasingly unaffordable city.

Rental assistance and public housing are the two tools that create truly affordable housing. They both ensure that families and individuals are only paying 30% of their income in rent.

The Fair Budget Coalition strongly supports the mayor's new investments in rental assistance, particularly for homeless families and individuals who have entered our shelter system or other city housing programs. The Local Rent Supplement Program provides tenants with vouchers that enable them to quickly access housing. Tenant vouchers are critical, as they are the fastest way to leverage available, private market housing. Vouchers can also help some families move out of shelters and prevent others who are precariously housed from becoming homeless—and later having to access much more costly emergency services such as shelter. We also support the mayor's investments in the project-sponsor based vouchers to support the building of new, affordable units, particularly for those who make 0-30% of AMI and whose units are more costly to build.

FBC urged the mayor to invest $5 million in new tenant-based vouchers for those on the DCHA waitlist, and we strongly urge the council to commit more resources to vouchers to connect those who are homeless or precariously housed to stable, longer term housing. DCHA is currently pulling names from the waitlist of people who applied over 10 years ago. No one should have to wait over a decade to find a secure place to live.

Though money has been allocated for the New Communities program, we are deeply concerned that we are spending $40 million in public money to demolish some of last units of affordable housing left in the city. There are hundreds of vacant units of public housing that need repair and refurbishment, and our city's resources would be far better spent making public housing livable for residents, rather than razing them to the ground. We urge the committee and the council to reallocate this money to the preservation and refurbishment of our public housing units.

Finally, as an advocate representing a large coalition, I see every day how tirelessly organizers and community members around the city work to engage city residents in the political process. People with very little free time and even less disposable income spend hours preparing for hearings, traveling downtown, rearranging work and childcare schedules so that they can participate in a process that can frankly feel intimidating, unwelcoming, and inaccessible. Many people who already feel disenfranchised, who feel like they don't have a voice, who feel like the legislative process doesn't work for them continue to come down to this building on their own dime and wait for hours to testify at hearings like this, all to make their voices heard and in hopes to improve their lives and the lives of their neighbors.

We absolutely recognize that sometimes hearing times and dates must be changed. However, we respectfully ask that when you do change hearing times, keep in mind that this has a tremendous impact on our residents ability to participate in their democracy. Every time a hearing gets postponed, or worse--moved up, someone has to contact their boss and risk a day's wages in order to change their schedule and come down here. Someone has to call a baby sitter again. Someone has to call their neighbors and friends and alert them to the change. We ask you to respect the time that the folks in this room have taken to be a part of this process and to work together to make sure that it is as accessible, welcoming, and meaningful as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today on these issues. We look forward to working with this committee to make the investments that will help improve this city and make it livable for all of its residents. I'm happy to answer any further questions.

Testimony on Oversight of the DC Housing Authority
Before the Committee on Housing and Community Development
Council of the District of Columbia
April 15, 2015
By Sam Jewler
Jews United for Justice

Thank you Chairwoman Bonds and the Housing Committee, for the opportunity to testify today on the need for greater affordable housing funding to end the displacement of low-income families and seniors. My name is Sam Jewler, and I'm a community organizer with Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), a DC-based volunteer-driven organization that represents thousands of people in the local Jewish community who are working to improve life for all area residents.

We applaud the mayor and the Council's commitment to $100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund. Today, I'm testifying in support of maintaining the mayor's allocations to the project sponsor-based Local Rent Supplement Program, and expanding the tenant-based LRSP allocation to the $5 million originally requested by the Fair Budget Coalition and JUFJ. Our members also consider public housing the safety net of affordable housing, and would like to see the city make an investment in the people who rely on it for their livelihoods. DC is growing increasingly unequal, and we know we have the resources available to house the tens of thousands of people on DCHA's waiting list. No one should have to wait years or decades for housing in the place they call home.

DC has lost over 50% of its affordable rental units in the past decade. In that time, some 40,000 people of color have left the city. One out of every four people left in DC pays more than half of their income on rent and utilities.

There is no one-size fits all solution to the housing crisis, but the city needs to invest in multiple housing programs that each meet the unique needs of DC residents and that are proven to be effective.

The Local Rent Supplement Program both builds new affordable housing units for low-income families in the District and provides tenants with vouchers that enable them to pay only 30 percent of whatever their income is on housing. Both models are important. The construction of new units is necessary, given the dwindling supply of the affordable housing stock. Tenant vouchers are critical, as they are the fastest way to leverage available, private market housing, and keep it affordable even if the tenant goes through a crisis. Vouchers can also help some families move out of shelters and prevent others who are precariously housed from becoming homeless—and later having to access much more costly emergency services such as shelter

JUFJ strongly supports the mayor's new investments in rental assistance, particularly for homeless families and individuals in the DHS system.

JUFJ, Fair Budget Coalition and other housing advocates urged the mayor to invest $5 million in new tenant based vouchers, and we strongly urge the council to commit more resources to vouchers to connect those who are homeless or precariously housed to stable, longer term housing.

Our community has also heard from our neighbors in public housing that the redevelopment of public housing has caused mass displacement. Public housing is the safety net of affordable housing, and it should not be replaced by misguided mixed developments that displace people for years during construction and often don't build enough affordable units to allow them to come back. Public housing serves some of our most vulnerable populations, including seniors – more than half of public housing residents are over the age of 50.

We have also heard about several hundred vacant public housing units that could house people relatively quickly if they were given some basic repairs – we support the city making that allocation. There is no reason why thousands of people should be experiencing homelessness while there are nearly usable units of housing that could become available at little cost to the city. We have also heard from partners that there is no comprehensive study of how public housing redevelopment is causing displacement – this should be done by the city immediately.

As Jews we do this work because we have known the pain and struggle of displacement. All Washingtonians deserve the dignity of being able to come home from work and raise a family in a livable space that doesn't eat up all of their income.

JUFJ supports and stands in solidarity with the testimony of the Fair Budget Coalition, Coalition for Non-profit Housing and Economic Development, Empower DC and the rest of the affordable housing and homelessness advocates. We want our city to remain diverse and affordable for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE DC COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING ON DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

APRIL 15, 2015

BY ANGIE RODGERS, POLICY CONSULTANT
ENTERPRISE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Good morning and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Angie Rodgers and I am a consultant for Enterprise Community Partners. Enterprise creates opportunities for low- and moderate-income households by providing equity, grants and loans to help build or preserve affordable housing. We have a goal of ending generational housing insecurity, and areas like the District of Columbia, where the supply gap is growing, are a particular focus. Enterprise has invested more than $16 billion nationally to support the preservation or production of over 320,000 homes. Some $465 million of those investments have been in the District, where we have produced or preserved more than 11,000 affordable homes.

I want to focus my comments today on the Local Rent Supplement Program, administered by the DC Housing Authority. We join our partners from the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development and the Fair Budget Coalition in supporting the new investments in LRSP in the mayor's proposed budget, and urging the council to commit more resources – at least $10 million – to this program this year. We support both tenant-based LRSP vouchers that go directly to residents to help them rent units on the market. These permanent rent subsidies can create a relatively fast track out of homelessness for families and individuals who are in shelter and/or otherwise housing insecure.

We also support the project-based vouchers, and particularly think that more LRSP funds are needed to pair with the Housing Production Trust Fund dollars in the proposed budget. The budget includes $100 million in funding for the HPTF, of which at least $40 million needs to be spent producing and preserving housing for households with income under 30 percent of AMI. There are too few tools that create housing at this income level, and we believe that we must maximize the ones we have. Using rough estimates, we anticipate that $40 million could create 400 affordable units for extremely low-income households, yet the proposed budget only allocates enough project-based LRSP to support approximately half that number. We think project-based LRSP is a necessary companion to the HPTF for housing at that income level, and developers need to be able to pair them in order to do most of that housing successfully. Allocating the dollars to do the development of those units but not the companion rent subsidy creates the likelihood that we will not meet our targets for spending and creating units at that income level.

As a nonprofit financier of affordable housing, Enterprise's investments for this type of housing only work when the appropriate public investments are made as well. Specifically, when we are lending on projects we need to see that there is enough operating support through tools like rent

subsidies to operate the project long term. We appreciate the support at both the executive and legislative levels for adding $100 million to the trust fund. We urge the council to consider increasing funding for LRSP in this budget cycle to allow us to fully leverage the trust fund dollars that are intended to support extremely low-income households.

Thank you and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.

Testimony of Mr. Jesse Lovell re: DC HA (April 15, 2015)

My name is Jesse Lovell. I am a concerned citizen who has followed the DC government's response to the affordable housing crisis fairly closely during the last 5 years or so. It's hard to dispute the criticism that the response has been inadequate, particularly as we've witnessed an explosion in homeless families during the last 3 years. We need significantly greater investment, both to house homeless families and to free up more space in the system (the housing waiting list, which may or may not have any validity at this point) to address the needs of homeless singles.

Given the scope of the problem today, after so many years of watching the stock of affordable housing decline, it is important that we invest our money in programs with a track record of success. Stated another way, it is important that we not shift more resources to programs with a more questionable track record.

Specifically, I am talking about the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP), which both provides funding for the building of new affordable housing and provides vouchers to tenants directly, allowing them to find affordable housing on their own, often much more quickly than an agency could.

I generally support the Mayor's proposed investments in rental assistance, particularly for homeless families who are already long-term clients of the DHS system. I also strongly agree with advocates in the DC Fair Budget Coalition (FBC) who are calling for an investment of $5 million specifically for LRSP tenant-based vouchers.

On the other hand, I have concerns about some other affordable housing programs, in particular, Rapid Rehousing, which I believe has been badly mishandled for some years now. An insightful article in the Washington Citypaper recently noted that Rapid Rehousing "is the city's main way of moving families from shelter to housing" and "one [program] the government is trying to beef up" with additional administrative staff and resources. Yet because of Rapid Rehousing's temporary nature, 4-month rental subsidies can be extended (at present) up to a year only. The article cites Taylor Healy, an attorney with Bread for the City, who says that "the 'vast majority' of Rapid Rehousing clients she sees are at the end of their subsidy and facing eviction," and that "most of the others are nearing the end and trying to stave off evictions."

I recall testimony before the Council last year from Rapid Rehousing clients who told stories of being placed in market-rate apartments ($1,200-$1,500/month) and finding themselves having to give the apartments up less than a year later. One of the most famous cases of this came from a young woman who was heralded by DC Government as a Rapid Rehousing success story in 2013 but then found herself couch surfing by 2014. The Washington Post's Petula Dvorak profiled this woman last year in her column. The Citypaper notes that many of the city's homeless are wary of Rapid Rehousing at this point. "It's common knowledge at the shelters that you're coming back if you do it," said one former Rapid Rehousing client who returned to homelessness. Rapid Rehousing must not be Temporary Housing.

I do believe that Rapid Rehousing, which is a fairly new program, can be reworked into a successful one. But until the District makes those changes, I think we should be careful not to shift even more of the burden of housing placements to Rapid Rehousing. I

therefore believe LRSP must be supported robustly in order to ensure that more truly affordable housing is built and that clients (particularly low-income families relying on TANF and other assistance) can make choices that will provide them with long-term housing and allow them to exit the shelter system.

Thank you.

Mr. Jesse Lovell
Forest Hills (Ward 3)

Council of the District of Columbia
DCHA Budget Hearing
Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
April 15, 2015

Thank you Councilmembers for this opportunity to share my experiences of services I have received from DCHA Staff. My daughter and I moved into a new renovated one bedroom unit many years ago, little did I know as a young single mother, that our unit received no type of real inspection from Consumer and Regulatory Affairs or DCHA Housing Inspectors. There was a big hole in the wall behind the stove; no corking was done around the frames of the doors or the baseboards. Squirrels and birds lived in our walls scratching on the inner wall every night has we slept this was uncommon but little did I know, until I realize this should not be happening. I called DCHA for a control number the hole was patched, but that didn't stop the mice's from continuing to enter our unit. There were other holes I did not know of, and the scratching of the squirrels and birds continued, by the time my second child was born. I found baby birds on my back steps dead, there were more and more every day. My son and I had to use the back door to enter and exit due to DCHA entering our unit with no documents to support their entries on any given day. So I protected the inside of my front door with metal poles so DCHA could not enter my unit unlawfully anymore, my son and I live like this for a long time.

I kept after DCHA to do something about the holes; squirrels; and birds. Finally DCHA Emergency Team was sent to my unit to fix the problem concerning the squirrels and birds. The lady in charge of the DCHA Emergency Department was a joy to work with, she died of cancer some years later.

Has time past by calling for a control number was a waste of time because maintenance staff on the property made excuses for not showing up to provide the services needed this was common practice for DCHA maintenance. My yearly inspections consist of just DCHA staff recording the serial numbers off the stove and refrigerator, DCHA Staff should have been writing in their yearly report maintenance services needed has I informed them of the maintenance problems

during the yearly inspections. February 13, 2015; was my first complete DCHA inspection according to DCHA policies. HUD yearly random inspections, my unit has never been chosen.

Even through there still is a number residents can call to report maintenance services needed the maintenance services are not adequate nor effective. So I learned how to do some of the work needed in my unit myself and I had male family members who worked in construction patch the holes in my unit to stop the mice's from entering.

Then I experienced being over charged for my monthly rent for many years and being overlooked for a two bedroom by now my first child is 13yrs old. So I sent her to live with her father at the age of 15. In 1995 I had a son and filed once again for a two bedroom, still being over charge on my monthly rent and my unit still is not up to housing code standards according to DCHA policies. Filing grievances and meeting with the Manager of the property to resolve my housing issues went nowhere. But I kept a copy of every document I provided to DCHA and the documents they provided me. It wasn't until I received what would be my last notice to vacant the unit and a Landlord and Tenant Court document to appear in Landlord and Tenant Court. That's when I contacted an Attorney to represent me, a court order was issued for me to pay my rent to the court register every month until this case was settled.

The amount DCHA stated I owed seem to be the same amount every time I attend Landlord and Tenant Court. I had been in court at least twice since my first child. I obtained an Attorney to address outstanding housing code violations and me being under housed for many years. I went over all my DCHA documents like a fine tooth comb finding so many code violations.

With me having an on-going Civil Case in Landlord and Tenant Court, this didn't stop the manager from posting and handing my 8yr old son vacate notices, it didn't stop there I was violated in my home by the Property Manager; the Manager came within inches of hitting me and my son with her vehicle, has we were crossing the street on our way to work and school one morning; the Manager had DCHA Maintenance Staff cut down a Cherry Blossom Brush in my front yard for no reason taking away the beautification on the front of my unit;

and she had a DCHA maintenance employee enter my home with no document to support his entry.

The end result my Attorney drop my case, but it did not stop me. I represented myself receiving a restraining order against DCHA Staff on the unlawful entries and the Intent to enter illegal documents used. The Intent to Enter language is still being used on many properties today just for routine inspections. In addition to me obtaining the restraining order, I had to post it on my front door. Because the rental office removed it from my file in there office.

Also I requested for the two bedroom and relocation to a New Property in the settlement agreement, since this was a Civil Action Landlord and Tenant Case that needed closure in my best interest. The settlement was not honored by DCHA in a timely fashion, the same Manager who violated my housing rights showed me a two bedroom four doors from the rental office that had not received any type of maintenance services since the pervious tenant moved out. Of course I refused the unit. I spoke to a Councilmember; other law firms; and filed another grievance with DCHA. I received written support to my settlement from DCHA grievasnce process.

It wasn't until five years after the settlement and all my networking the New Director of DCHA came aboard permanently, I requested a meeting with the Director Adrianna Todman. By now my son is 15yrs old.

The neglectful manager was transferred to another DCHA Property before I was assigned a two bedroom on the same property my nightmares begin. That two bedroom had pretty much the same problems has my one bedroom. I knew I had to find some home improvement guys who could help me turn my unit into a home, and that's just what I did. My determination; motivation; and knowledge helped me. I have flash backs and nightmares from this ordeal, I am very protective of my unit. DCHA has caused me so much mental anguish it is not in my best interest to attend this hearing, to see some of the same DCHA faces that caused me and my children turmoil.

Sincerely,
DCHA Resident

LEGAL COUNSEL for the ELDERLY

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FY 2016 DCHA Budget Hearings
April 15, 2015
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Councilmember Anita Bonds, Chairperson

Written Testimony of Adrienne Lyon Buenavista, Esq.,
AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly

Chairperson Bonds and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Adrienne Lyon Buenavista and I am a staff attorney at AARP Legal Counsel for the Elderly. Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) defends, protects, and empowers District residents age 60 and over in the areas of housing, public benefits, and consumer protection. I work in LCE's Alternatives to Landlord/Tenant Court for the Elderly Project (Alternatives Project). The Alternatives Project combines social work, legal, and volunteer services to help prevent eviction of District elders.

I am writing to testify on the proposed 2016 local budget for the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA). DCHA plays a critical and positive role in LCE's work by providing affordable housing to many of Washington's low income seniors. Additionally, we receive numerous case referrals each year from DCHA's Housing Choice Voucher Program (HCVP). DCHA often asks us to intervene in cases where seniors face voucher terminations for violations of tenant obligations. These early referrals enable LCE to help the client address the issue prior to losing his or her voucher which could ultimately lead to an eviction action for nonpayment of rent. DCHA's voucher program's willingness to refer to and work with LCE has enabled countless seniors age-in-place. Likewise, DCHA's ADA/504 Program strives to accommodate the special needs of our clients so they can continue to receive DCHA subsidies.

LCE makes the following FY 2016 budget recommendations regarding DCHA:

Prioritize Funding for the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP).

First, the DC City Council should prioritize funding the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP). Specifically, we ask that the Council expand, or at least approve, the proposed $6.1 million increase in LRSP funds. Of the proposed new LRSP funds, $3.7 million will go toward tenant-based subsidies and $2.4 million will go toward project- and sponsor-based subsidies. LCE supports both tenant-based and project- or sponsor-based subsidies, and we believe the proposed division of LRSP between these two

types of subsidies is appropriate. The tenant-based LRSP subsidizes can provide quick rental assistance to very low income DC residents, and the project- or sponsor-based LRSP subsidies, because they are tied to physical units, can create long-term affordability of buildings.

We ask the City Council to devote the LRSP subsidies to the most vulnerable communities in DC, which include seniors and individuals with disabilities who are either homeless or who are essentially homeless because they are returning to independent living after living in a Community Residence Facility (CRF) or nursing home. Setting aside some LRSP subsidies specifically for unstably-housed seniors is important because many seniors are ill-equipped physically and mentally to deal with the harsh realities of being homeless. Research has shown that homeless seniors are significantly more likely to utilize expensive Emergency Rooms, hospitals, and nursing homes than their securely-housed counterparts.[1] Many seniors live in long-term care facilities, even if no longer medically necessary, simply because few affordable housing options exist, precluding a safe discharge from the facility.

LCE has seen first-hand how LRSP subsidies have enabled our clients to age-in-place in the least restrictive environment. For example, prior to becoming my client, one of my clients had been evicted from her rent-controlled apartment for non-payment of rent during an extended hospital stay. After a few weeks, the hospital told the client that she was fit for discharge, but she had nowhere to go. The client tried to find affordable housing, but she was simply unable to find any apartment within her low income budget. Luckily, the client had a case worker through the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), who was able to help the client receive a sponsor-based LRSP subsidy. If the client had not been able to receive the LRSP subsidy, it is very possible that she would have ended up either homeless or inappropriately placed in a long-term care facility. In another case, a LCE client was living in a Community Residential Facility (CRF, through DBH), and the client had been deemed capable of independent living. The client was eager to move back into the community, but the client's income was too low to pay for any rent at market rate. Through LCE's and DBH's advocacy, the client was able to receive a tenant-based LRSP subsidy.

These client stories provide just a couple of examples of how LRSP provides permanent supportive housing to individuals, enabling DC to save money that would be otherwise used in shelters, hospitals, or nursing homes. Affordable housing is critical for LCE's client base as well as all vulnerable groups in DC, so please make funding LRSP a priority.

Add Funding for DCHA's ADA/504 Program.

Second, DC City Council should add funding for DHCA's ADA/504 Program. LCE's Alternatives Project often relies on reasonable accommodations to policies or rules to prevent evictions (in either private or public housing) and to prevent voucher terminations for individuals with disabilities. DCHA's ADA/504 Program Coordinator is an excellent advocate for individuals with disabilities, and she has been a wonderful community partner for LCE. She does everything in her power to grant and approve even the most unusual accommodations. However, LCE has found that two types of accommodation requests prove problematic, and we believe they represent a funding issue.

First, accommodation requests are denied sometimes when they involve a request for DCHA to absorb costs. For instance, one of LCE's clients, prior to my representation of her on another matter, requested that, as a reasonable accommodation, a bathroom be installed on the ground level of her public housing town house because she has trouble ascending and descending stairs. According to the client, the specific request was denied. The client was offered a transfer to a single-level unit instead. The client has lived in her home for decades, and she cannot contemplate leaving her home to transfer to another unit, so she has decided to remain in her unaltered unit and "make do."

Second, accommodation requests for additional services, such as housing search assistance, are often limited. One of my clients is a voucher participant facing an incredibly sad situation. My client and both of her adult sons suffer from disabling conditions, and my client has recently been admitted to in-home hospice care for congestive heart failure. Last year, DCHA failed the family's apartment during inspections because the housing provider allegedly failed to make timely repairs. Because the landlord paid $75 for a second re-inspection two weeks late, DCHA terminated the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) contract. This meant that DCHA stopped paying the subsidy to the client's housing provider, so the housing provider sued to evict the client for nonpayment of rent. My client has a transfer voucher, and she needs to move into an accessible, three- or four-bedroom unit as soon as possible.

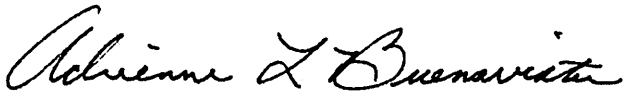
My client has been working with multiple social workers to try to find appropriate housing, but she has not been able to locate an appropriate unit yet. DCHA's ADA/504 Program has been very accommodating in extending the expiration date of my client's transfer voucher, even going so far as to do a home visit to give my client her extended transfer voucher. But, when it comes to housing search assistance, DCHA lacks resources to fully help individuals like my client. Through the ADA/504 Program, my client was approved to receive assistance locating housing with the help of

DCHA's voucher program staff, but when she requested help she only received a list of available properties, most of which were not accessible units. Finding accessible housing, especially accessible housing with more than one-bedroom, is undoubtedly difficult. DCHA is in the unique position to identify good housing providers who have participated in the voucher program and perhaps have tenants who are moving from their units. This is precisely why my client and other individuals with disabilities in her similar position need more assistance in locating accessible housing.

LCE believes that if the ADA/504 Program at DCHA had additional funding aimed specifically at providing reasonable accommodations, these cases might have turned out differently. Thus, we would like to advocate for additional DCHA funding to be specifically set aside for making reasonable accommodations.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer written testimony on behalf of Legal Counsel for the Elderly. Please contact me at (202) 434-2204 or abuenavista@aarp.org if you have questions about this testimony.

Sincerely,



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[1] National HCH Council, *Aging and Housing Instability: Homelessness among Older and Elderly Adults*, In Focus (Sept. 2013), http://www.nhchc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/infocus_september2013.pdf.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCES A BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

on

Department of Housing and Community Development
Housing Production Trust Fund
Rental Housing Commission

on

Monday, April 20, 2015
10:00 a.m., Room 500, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

I. **CALL TO ORDER**

II. **OPENING REMARKS**

III. **WITNESS TESTIMONY**

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Housing Production Trust Fund
Rental Housing Commission

Panel 1

1. Richard Gerlach	Senior Housing Advisor SOME (So Others Might Eat)
2. Philip Kennedy	Bilingual Tenant Organizer, Latino Economic Development Center
3. Alayna Waldrum	Housing Legislative Representative, Leading Age
4. Monica Warren Jones	Director of Relationship Management, Enterprise Community Partners

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

Panel 2

5. Melinda Wilson	Public Witness
6. Louis Sawyer Jr.	DC Commissioner on Re-Entry and Returning Citizen Affairs
7. Sarah Scruggs	Director of Advocacy and Outreach, Manna Inc.
8. Todd Stark	Public Witness

Panel 3

9. Anthony Holland	Public Witness
10. Melvin Jackson	Public Witness
11. Loretta Jones	Public Witness
12. Sandra Robinson	Public Witness

Panel 4

13. Roland Wood	Public Witness
14. Steve Glaude	Executive Director, CNHED
15. Scott Bruton	Director of Housing Policy, CNHED
16. Venus Little	CNHED

Panel 5

17. Joseph Coates	Public Witness
18. Charlene Marshall	Public Witness
19. Brian Adams	Public Witness
20. Marilyn Kresky-Wolff	Executive Director, Open Arms Housing

Panel 6

21. Janet Starke	Public Witness
22. Vanessa Wellberry	Government Relations and Advocacy Manager, Hyacinth's Place
23. Dana Taylor	Resident, Hyacinth's Place
24. Tessa Edison	Vice President of Operations and Business Development, Answer Title and Escrow

Panel 7

25. Cheryl Cort	Policy Director, Coalition for Smarter Growth
26. Abel Nunez	Executive Director, Central American Resource Center
27. Tori Goldhammer	SAC Coordinator
28. Katy Argueta	Program Associate, Mi Casa Inc.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

Panel 8

29. Bill Jackson	Director of Sales and Marketing, Matthew Spicer Real Estate LLC
30. Kay Pierson	Division Director, United Planning Organization (UPO)
31. Ayana Smith	Public Witness
32. John Hisle	Executive Director, Good Faith Communities Coalition

Panel 9

33. Latanya Boyd	Public Witness
34. Franklin Taylor	Public Witness
35. Gilma Martinez	Public Witness
36. Clara Valasquez	Public Witness

Panel 10

37. Rev. John Graham	President, Good Faith Communities Coalition
38. Walda Yon	Housing Counseling Manager, Latino Economic Development Center
39. Rev. Jim Dickerson	Founder and Board Chair, Manna Inc.
40. Dawn Mosby	Branch Manager, Annie Mac Home Loans

Panel 11

41. Nancy Libermann	President, Cornerstone, Inc.
42. Abbey Vineyard	Public Witness
43. Kevin Smith	Public Witness
44. Michael Clark	Public Witness

Panel 12

45. Sacsheen Scott	Public Witness
46. Darrin Davis	Anacostia River Realty
47. Niccola Reed	Public Witness
48. Candace Daniels	Public Witness

Panel 13

49. Robert Cooke	Board of Directors, Manna, Inc./CNHED
50. Thomas Wilson	President, Calvert Street Tenants Association
51. LaToya Thomas	Dantes Partners
52. Ed Lazere	Executive Director, DC Fiscal Policy Institute

Panel 14

53. Orlando Velez	Director of Housing & Community Advocacy, Habitat for Humanity
54. Evette Banfield	Coalition for Nonprofit Housing & Economic Development
55. Marla Bilonick	Latino Economic Development Center
56. Tim Hampton	Washington Area Community Investment Fund

Panel 15

57. Joei Jennings	We Clean Inc.
58. Gabriela Mossi	GWHCC Foundation
59. Tom Dawes	Development Corporation of Columbia Heights
60. Sarah Steel	DC Facades

Panel 16

61. David Tisel	Cooperative Program Associate, City First Homes
62. Brian P. Watson	Acting Executive Director, Propel Foundation Services, Inc.
63. Sam Jewler	DC Community Organizer, Jews United for Justice
64. Obadiah Black	Organization of United People

Panel 17

65. Juanita McKenzie	Public Witness

Executive Witness

Polly Donaldson	Director, Department of Housing and Community Development

IV. ADJOURNMENT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
The Department of Housing and Community Development

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
POLLY DONALDSON
Director

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

Monday, April 20, 2015
Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning Madam Chair Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am Polly Donaldson, the Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents that described how they would allocate an imaginary $100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year.

FY 2016 Budget Request

The Administration is working to proactively develop solutions to address the affordable housing and community development needs of the residents in the District. The Mayor has

advanced a focused housing and community development agenda which includes the rebuilding of quality neighborhoods and commercial corridors. DHCD has been tasked by the Mayor to "do more with more," while maintaining effectiveness, efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

The FY 2016 Budget, as presented by the Mayor, compliments her vision to help grow and preserve the middle class. DHCD joins the Mayor in requesting approval of its proposed operating budget for FY 2016. The proposed FY 2016 budget is $285.4 million, which represents a 45% increase over FY 2015 approved budget of $196.9 million. The budget is comprised of $12.7 million in local funds, $47 million in federal grant funds, $2 million in special purpose revenue funds, and $223.6 million in intra-district funds or Housing Production Trust Funds (HPTF).

Agency's Vision and Priorities

As we continue to strategize and shape the future of affordable housing, we have one clear vision in mind. **The District must remain affordable and we must continue to build and rebuild our neighborhoods.** In order to maintain affordability, we will produce more affordable housing, preserve and sustain the affordable housing stock, and prepare to house a larger future population. We plan to achieve this goal with a few objectives:

1) Increase funding for affordable housing.

The Mayor's budget request will position the city to develop clear pathways to the middle class. In order to accomplish this objective, the Mayor's Fiscal Year 2016 budget funds the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) at $100 million. As you know, the Housing Production

Trust Fund is the District's primary tool for protecting, producing and preserving affordable housing at a variety of income levels.

The Mayor's budget funds other critical affordable housing initiatives, including the city's comprehensive plan to end homelessness in the District. DHCD will work with our sister agencies to implement a multi-faceted approach to improving our neighborhoods, addressing housing needs for some of our most vulnerable residents, and ensuring affordable housing for everyone. This strategy will require a significant investment of local funds, including:

- $100 million to help protect, produce and preserve affordable housing in all eight wards;
- $40 million to develop new family shelters to replace the DC General facility, which will ensure anyone facing a housing crisis has a safe place to sleep; and
- $18.7 million to begin funding an end to chronic homelessness and develop permanent supportive housing for families in need.

2) Develop a coordinated housing strategy plan among D.C. housing agencies.

DHCD will work with the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the Housing Finance Agency, the Housing Authority, the Department of Human Services and the Department of Behavioral Health to review development pipelines and establish targets and framework/protocol for tracking progress.

3) Engage in strategic planning around homelessness.

DHCD is an active participant in the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH). I am fortunate to have been a member of ICH in my previous role as a homeless services provider and am delighted that I am able to continue to serve on that important body. On March 31, 2015, ICH approved its next five year strategic plan to end homelessness, "Homeward DC." DHCD

will use our various funding opportunities to achieve outcomes associated with the strategic plan, such as production of Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, and Targeted Affordable Housing units. I am pleased to continue in my role as co-chair of the ICH Housing Solutions Committee and to ensure active involvement and monitoring by DHCD in an effort to end homelessness in the District.

4) Create a DC Housing Preservation Strike Force

The Mayor will create a DC Preservation Strike Force (Strike Force) in FY15 and the Strike Force's work will continue into FY16. The Strike Force, comprised of District Housing Agency leaders and selected stakeholders from the public, will develop an Action Plan to preserve the existing affordable housing in DC. Included in the Action Plan would be a proactive strategy to plan the future use of affordable housing developments that have expiring subsidies and/or affordability covenants. The Strike Force's Action Plan will incorporate financial resources including local and federal affordable housing dollars, to implement the recommendations. The Director of DHCD will serve as the Chairperson of the Strike Force.

Significant Issues Raised at the Performance Oversight Hearing

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing.

DHCD will continue to invest in homeownership and the preservation of homes across the city. As you may know, DHCD recently increased the down payment assistance under the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) to $54,000 from $44,000. DHCD plans to increase the down payment assistance amount to $80,000, in the near future.

In addition, DHCD continues to improve the internal processes of the Single Family Rehabilitation Program. The average processing time from application to construction has been

reduced from over a year to 7 to 8 months, with an eventual goal of under 5 months. DHCD has also been working to streamline a senior and handicapped friendly application and process on a pilot basis. DHCD is pleased to share that during the first half of FY15, the Single Family Rehabilitation Program's production has equaled the production of the previous fiscal year, FY14. DHCD is on target to double its production in the Single Family Rehabilitation Program this fiscal year.

Finally, DHCD will release a funding announcement, in the early summer, to award the FY 16 Housing Production Trust Fund dollars along with other federal and local resources. The awardees of the FY16 $100 million must meet the following affordability requirements for HPTF:

- 40% for units at 30% of Area Median Income (AMI) and below;
- 40% for units at 31%-50% of AMI; and
- 20% for units at 51%-80% of AMI.

As previously mentioned, the upcoming funding announcement will support the recently approved Interagency Council on Homelessness Plan, "Homeward DC."

Conclusion

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you, Madam Chair Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions that the Committee may have.

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Testimony of Richard Gerlach, Executive Director
SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat)
To the Committee on Economic Development
Department of Housing and Community Development
Budget Oversight Hearing
April 20, 2015

Good morning, Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee. My name is Richard Gerlach, my title is Executive Director, and I am testifying on behalf of Fr. John Adams, our President, and all the residents and staff of SOME (So Others Might Eat). SOME is an interfaith and nonprofit organization. For 44 years, we have been providing comprehensive services to District residents who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. These services include permanent housing with individualized services for approximately 900 adults and 375 children. We have in the pipeline housing for another 311 adults and 160 children.

As you know, for the past 10 years we have been implementing our Housing Development Initiative to address and avert homelessness. We have been partnering successfully with the Department of Housing and Community Development to help meet SOME's goal of 1,000 net new affordable units with supportive services for 2,000 low-income District residents.

We are grateful that the Mayor has included $100M in the Proposed Baseline Budget for FY16 to give a reliable and useful "floor" for **the Housing Production Trust Fund and we believe it is crucial that the council fully funds HPTF.** The HPTF has been an important tool for DHCD, SOME and other organizations to address the District's affordable-housing crisis.

To continue to progress toward our Housing Development goal for these vulnerable populations, sufficient funding for HPTF and the Low Income Rental Supplement program (LRSP) must be available to both the Housing First model and other affordable housing production models like SOME's model to meet the District's statutory requirement that 40% of all HPTF funds go to those at 30% or below the area median income (AMI)

SOME supports the creative vision and energy of Kristi Greenwalt, Director of the DC Interagency Council on the Homeless, Laura Zeilinger, DHS director and Polly

Donaldson, DHCD director, in developing a comprehensive ICH plan that emphasizes the "Housing First" model to get folks out of shelters. SOME has another model that works and we hope that funding for this will not be restricted. SOME houses people first with rebuilding services and then transitions them to service-enriched long-term housing. SOME has produced a high volume of empowering housing over the last 10 years and we have leveraged donor money that helps make the HPTF funds stretch further. Without SOME's model, the family and adult shelter population would be substantially higher. Our 527 single adults, 192 families and 375 children, all were homeless and many chronically homeless. They are now *testaments* to breaking the cycle of poverty, addiction and dependence. ***95% of our residents remain stable in our housing or have positive move-outs***—even to market rate housing and ownership of homes.

Our residents value ***"Housing Choice"*** to live in a community setting that is alcohol and drug free. In fact in our survey the two top reasons that homeless applicants call our housing intake line are: 1. Our housing is affordable. 2. Our housing is alcohol and drug-free. Our residents Joann B. and Larry W. are among many who have written about how essential it is for them to live in clean, sober and safe housing.

Our residents have achieved long-term recovery from severe substance abuse and have significantly improved long-term mental health and health stability, housing stability, financial stability, jobs retention, child and adult educational improvement, financial literacy and significant reductions in *domestic violence* for heads of households and children.

Fr. John and I want to be clear. We need a "Big Tent' approach toward sustainable solutions not only to end homelessness but also to ***prevent future homelessness*** and recidivism by striking at the root causes of poverty with empowering services that engage and motivate residents to actualize their potential, break the bonds of poverty and attain full independence. Let us unite and row together. We can do this---all of us, the City Council, the Mayor, DHCD and partner city agencies and the non-profit housing developers and managers. If and only if we row together will we reach the distant shore of opportunity for all.

We thank DHCD, the Mayor's office and the DC city council for their partnership with us over many years in addressing community needs, and we hope that will continue.

Philip Kennedy
Latino Economic Development Center

Testimony before DHCD Budget Hearing
4/20/2015

Good morning chairperson Bonds, councilmembers.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify today. I would like to start by recognizing and thanking the Mayor for including $100 million dollars in the Housing Production Trust Fund in the budget. This is a major commitment to the preservation and production of affordable housing. I know many people who testify today will say this, but it is a major accomplishment. I would hope that the Council preserves this full funding of the Trust Fund in any edits to the budget.

Mostly, I would like to respond to some concerns we have heard about the ability to spend this money productively. In the past, the Trust Fund has not had this much money, and it does seem reasonable to make sure it can be effectively used. Based on my experience, I do not believe that DHCD will have any issues spending the money on effective projects.

First, just looking at the total number of TOPA sales in 2014, there were sales of 4,057 units for a total of $910,065,272 in FY 2014. That number does include buildings that were not affordable to begin with, but it starts to give an idea of the scope of sales. At least 37 buildings received some form of technical assistance from LEDC or HCS (and often other organizations as well, like Mi Casa).

In our experience, the vast majority of tenants associations that have a realistic option for preserving their affordable housing do so. The stories of tenants accepting buy-outs and converting buildings to luxury condominiums do happen, but it is usually because of some unusual circumstance – like a lack of funding in the trust fund, a very high number of vacant units, or an unusually high sales price.

Another crucial ingredient in supporting tenants to choose a preservation option is organizing. DHCD currently provides grants to LEDC and HCS to organize tenants around TOPA sales. If the Trust Fund aims to fund more buildings, it would be wise to increase the number of organizers supporting tenants.

Some tenants associations and their developers or development consultants also run into timing issues when requesting DHCD funds. There may be ways to streamline the process and get tenants associations quicker commitments of funding, that could help more tenants associations use the funding within the TOPA timeline. I believe you will hear from better experts at that later today.

Tenants associations also need a lot of technical studies and incur costs before they can officially request DHCD funds, often this money is borrowed from a commercial bank or fronted by development consultants. DHCD could consider a funding source for this early "seed" stage of the TOPA development process to increase overall access to funds.

Finally, another development that I'm sure will increase use of the Trust Fund is the forthcoming DOPA regulations. Once DHCD has a formal process in place to target and preserve affordable buildings in

cases where tenants decide not to organize or there isn't sufficient organizing capacity to support them, there will be another way for buildings to be in a place to request Trust Fund money.

I believe that even without significant changes to DHCD's process, tenants associations considering their TOPA options will be very responsive to the greater availability of Trust Fund money to either form limited equity cooperatives, or choose developers who will request the money. However, there are a few simple things that DHCD could do to ensure that the money is requested and used efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to answer questions.

Testimony of Juanita H. Mckenzie
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Budget Oversight Hearing Fiscal Year 2016:
Department of Housing and Community Development
Chair Anita Bonds
Date: April 20, 2015
John A. Wilson Building

Madam Chairman Anita Bonds and the members of the Committee, thank you for convening this hearing. My name is Juanita H. Mckenzie, and I live at 930 Randolph Street NW and have resided here since October 25, 1974. I have been a member of the 930, 940, 960 Randolph Street Tenant Association since it was founded on August 12, 1981 and have served as president, secretary, treasurer, and floor captain. I am a member of the CNHED Housing For All Campaign and have been for five years, and a member of the Resident Leadership Team where I advocate for affordable housing. Today I'm here to testify in support of $100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund.

I am a very active senior, native Washingtonian and registered voter. I attend my ANC meetings, participate in the Office of the Tenant Advocate Stakeholders meetings regularly, and I recently participated in the three-day People and Places conference, held at the Marriot Hotel in Washington, DC and was a panelist in the workshop on "Engaging and Empowering Residents of Affordable Housing in Advocacy Campaigns." I really enjoyed talking about the many ways we advocate here in Washington, DC for affordable housing. The Housing For All Campaign has nearly 4,000 supporters across all eight wards, and this winter our rally brought together over 700 people to stand together for affordable housing. I am here to tell my story but also to speak on behalf of many members of my community including seniors, native Washingtonians, immigrants, low income, disabled residents, families, and single moms with children on fixed incomes concerning the proposed 2016 budget.

My home at 930 Randolph Street NW in the historic neighborhood of Petworth. Petworth has a real sense of community and our neighborhood of Petworth is getting a vibrancy of its own. I cannot tell you have often I look around in amazement to see all the new development. While this is a good thing, I wonder if one day I will have to move. Petworth is one of the largest neighborhoods in DC and is home to about 20,000 District residents. My ward 4 community is a fantastic multicultural diverse group of people, just like the people who live in my complex, Petworth Homes. This neighborhood is home to Wendy's, the Chez Bill French restaurant, Qualia Coffee House, Yes Organic Market, Domku, a Scandinavian Restaurant, Epiphany's Open Pit Restaurant, Sweet Mango Caribbean Restaurant and Fish and the Hood – just to name a few. There are many churches, schools, a newly renovated Petworth Library and 3Tree Flats Apartment Complex, which has 119 affordable apartments subsidized by the Housing Production Trust Fund. It includes stunning views of DC's monuments and Mary's Health Center. Most people know my neighborhood because of the Petworth Metro Station. Park Place, which is directly above the Metro Station, has 161 high rise units and the Petworth Swift (above the newly built 24-hour Safeway) has 218 high rise units. As you can see, I live in a wonderful neighborhood and my neighbors and I want to continue to live here.

I recently found out from the Latino Economic Development Center and the DC Preservation Network that my building will be going up for sale soon. This is the third time since I have lived here at 930 Randolph Street. My building was sold just 5 years ago, and there was no money in the Housing Production Trust Fund, so we were not able to a commitment of long-term affordability. I am here today to testify and ask that $100 million be committed to the Trust Fund each and every year. As my building goes up for sale, and for all the other buildings that will be sold, a strong Housing Production Trust Fund can ensure that residents are not displaced or forced to leave. Right now, DC is in a crisis of affordable housing, we need to work to support tenants and make sure residents have a home they can afford.

We worked hard to make sure that the Housing Production Trust Fund receive $100 million this year, and we appreciate Mayor Muriel Bowser including $100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund in her budget. Now I ask the Council to maintain that commitment and make sure the full $100 million remain in the Housing Production Trust Fund.

The Housing Production Trust Fund is the biggest source of local funds for the production and preservation of affordable housing. Our Housing Production Trust Fund is a model across the country. It finances all types of affordable housing to transitional, permanent supportive housing, rental, limited equity cooperatives and home ownership. This $100 million commitment will help address DC's growing need.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify!

Department of Housing and Community Development
Budget Hearing
Chairman Bonds
April 20, 2015

Dear Councilmember Bonds:

My name is James. I am a current resident of SOME's Anna Cooper program. I think this program is helpful because it helps people go to school and finish what they have started without having to worry about a place to stay. It gives people a peace of mind with God. It helps people stop using drugs and gain structure in their lives after years of living on the streets. Also they have staff here to help you and support you.

The city needs to be funding more programs like this because there are so many people who need help. Programs like this will help people with their situation and help them get out of homelessness. These programs are designed not only to house you but to help you even if you are scared and need additional support. There needs to be more funding to build housing programs like this because some people do not feel that the help is fast enough. If you have to wait over a year to get housing and support you may give up and get back into trouble.

While I think SOME is an awesome program and beautiful, it is only a stepping stone. I think there needs to be affordable housing available for people to move on and become more independent once they have structure in their lives. Some people stay in this program for a long time and no longer need the rules or services. There are no options for us. Some end up moving out into situation that is not the best for them. The rent may be too much but you do not realize it until they move out. It becomes impossible for people to move on from this program and continue to grow when there are no other affordable housing programs for single adults.

One way to help is by funding vouchers for single adults. When a person has a voucher they will be able to find a place that they want to be in and find a place they feel safe and stable. A person is able to be independent and use the skills they learned through SOME's programs. There needs to be affordable housing for everyone. Funding more vouchers would open up SRO's and other supportive housing programs for people who are homeless or in need of them.

We all need the opportunity to learn and grow and be independent. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Testimony of Willie Harrison
Department of Housing and Community Development
Chairman Bonds
April 20, 2015

My name is Willie Harrison. I am living in SOME's Anna Cooper program. I am grateful for this program and place to stay. Before moving here I was living on the streets and in shelters. I still see many people who are on the streets. There needs to be more housing for people who are homeless. Having more housing means there will be less homeless people on the streets. If we can get them off the streets we can get them the help they need. We can get some people the medical attention they are not getting right now. This will help make people's lives better. Thank you very much for reading my testimony.

Testimony of Sandra Robinson
Department of Housing and Community Development
Chairman Bonds
April 20, 2015

My name is Sandra Robinson. I have been a DC resident all my life, now 52 years old, clean and sober. I come from a family of 8 siblings. My mother, father, three sisters, and one brother are no longer here. I am currently living in SOME's Bedford Falls program, after 27 years of struggling with drug addiction. Before coming to SOME I was living on the streets. I struggled through not being able to read, drug abuse, and being raped before I moved into this program. On September 2, 2010 I decided to leave my boyfriend, Johnny. I was so tired of smoking crocoite that powerless and unmanageable; I gotten to the point I didn't want to wash my body, I didn't want to eat, all wanted was to get the next fix. If I had to sell my body, if I had to steal, lie, or cheat just to get the next hit, I did it. I asked God on September 7, 2010 to help and never looked back. I walked over an hour to the APRA drug program. I sat there from 7am until they opened; I did not leave there until they put me in detox I stayed in detox for 7 days at Seton House. With God's help I got better; I went into a program called Fulton House for women. I signed up for 30 days but stayed for 60 more days because I was getting in touch with who I was. This was the first step, the next was N Street Village.

While in recovery I began to see case managers, I got a therapist, Psychiatrist, a tutor, and I found a sponsor who helped me by listening, guiding me through steps, and providing me with strength when I had difficulty finding strength in myself. I also began to work hard to reach my goals of first learning to love myself and believing that I am a human being who is worthy.

Today I know how to read and write. It took a lot of work to get where I am today. I stayed at N Street Village for 1 year and 2 months until it was time for me to move on. I go a

SRO at SOME. I came to this program in 2012. I started in an SRO but was transferred to an efficiency

This program (Bedford Falls) has changed me tremendously, and with the help of SOMES's therapy and my service coordinator, I found out who I really am. I was a lost child who had been through a great deal of trauma and did not know how to deal with it. SOME provided the type of housing and services I needed to believe in myself again. Safe affordable housing is needed here in DC. People need options. For me I wanted affordable housing with a clean and sober environment and support to help me deal with some of my trauma. It may be different for others, but we should all have the opportunity to choose. I hope you help ensure that there is funding for more affordable housing like SOME and other programs.

Testimony of Paul Boyd
DC Housing and Community Development
Chairman Bonds
April 20, 2015

My name is Paul Boyd and I live in Ward 8. I live at and attend programs at SOME's Chabraja House, and I am a heavy participant of a drug user support program which I help facilitate every week. The support I receive from this program, which is just one hour every week, brings in speakers who share their experience which has been a good example for people like myself to follow. This house and it's programs are a necessary stepping stone to encourage people to get better.

I am in the process of moving forward because I have received a housing voucher, without which I don't know where I would be. Not everybody uses these services, but it's for those who want something different and something better for themselves. SOME is a very good facility that needs continuous support in order to continue to help people like me. This is money not wasted. I have also used their Health services which I really need.

I am now ready to move on from SOME. There are good benefits and services out there, but there is not enough funding and too many barriers. I am currently having trouble using my voucher. With these vouchers though, I can only apply at certain places, and even with the vouchers there are issues with income requirements and other stumbling blocks. This is particularly happening with newer buildings, where I have a better chance at enhancing my life. I, and other people like me, need an opportunity to move forward and advance in a nice place, safe place but there stumbling blocks in the way. Please help address these barriers and fund more affordable housing for all types of people, so they don't get stuck.

Testimony of Roland Woody

My name is Roland Woody. I live in Anna Cooper House in Ward 2. I've lived there since December 2, 2014. I want to share my experience with how SOME helped me.

When I first became homeless, I was sleeping on the streets and back and forth between the shelters, like CCNV. When I was in the shelters, they told us about places we could eat, breakfast, lunch and dinner, seven days a week. That's how I found out about the dining hall at SOME. I came to eat and to take showers, because the showers were very clean, much cleaner than the showers in the shelter. While I was going to the main dining hall, another homeless person started talking to me about my situation, because I had lost my daughter when she became sick as a result of dangerous living conditions, and shortly after I became homeless. The same man told me about Isaiah House, SOME's therapeutic day program. So, I went to Isaiah House, and they started helping me. I had a caseworker at the McClenda Center, and she encouraged me to keep coming back there.

I came to Isaiah house because the other programs I was in didn't serve me well. I was welcome at SOME and they made me feel comfortable. They sat down and talked to me one on one, and I really liked the groups that they had here, for exam the anger management, the yoga, mental health, music empowerment and health wellness.

Isaiah house introduced me to the Jordan Crisis House. I wasn't on medication at the time, and they helped advise me on medication to take. Before, I was always in denial that medication couldn't be helpful, but I took a chance at Jordan Crisis House and was taking medication morning and evening. I got a bed at Jordan Crisis House. I stayed there

for 2 months, and then they transferred me to Mary Claire House, which is a transitional programing, and they put me on an independent medication program. During that entire time I kept coming to the day program at Isaiah house. After about three months, I got into Anna Cooper House, but I still come to the Isaiah house for the programs there. All of these programs at SOME, Jordan Crisis House, Mary Clare House, Isaiah House, and the dinning hall helped me because the staff and the whole format work perfectly together to help individuals willing to trust the process.

I believe SOME is one of the best programs out there. They helped me and listened to me, the other programs I was in weren't right for me. The city should work to fund more programs like this because the programs are very informative, they aren't lacking in any type of information or aid to help out the clients. Other places lack caseworkers and therapists and just don't have the support that some people want and need. In the shelters they don't have staff like that to accommodate all the issues clients have. At one point, I was running around in circles, not knowing what to do with my situation. SOME has staff and volunteers eager to help you; they made me feel like I had landed in the right place. Sometimes I can't wait until Monday to come to Isaiah house day program, because there are certain people I want to see, just to see their smiles and their faces. These are the people who helped me. With SOME you don't feel like a patient, it's more than a mental health care service. The people at SOME enjoy what they do, they are ready to help. I like being around the atmosphere of love, and that's what SOME offers. At SOME there's a lot of trust, and that enabled me to be transparent, you don't feel like you're going to be beat down by being honest. In conclusion, programs like SOME's really help their clients through staff that really care about their clients.

We need more funding for affordable housing with services like these.

Nathaniel Napper's testimony
Department of Housing and Community Development
Chairman Bonds
April 20, 2015

My name is Nathaniel Napper. I am currently living in SOME's Anna Cooper program. Before coming to SOME I was living on the streets for year. I found about SOME through my brother. He had received a place to stay through them and thought I should try. I got my name on the waitlist and checked in everyday until I got into a program. I have been in this program for 4 years. I think this a great program. While I like this program I do think it is time for me transfer to my own place. I would like to get into senior housing program or my own apartment but need a voucher or housing support.

I have been on the DCHA waitlist since 2003. Every time I call I am told there is no housing and no voucher. The city needs to be putting more money into housing of all types. They need to be moving people out of SROs. People are entitled to a chance to move on and try to improve their housing situation. I have been putting applications and looking for places because I know I am ready to be on my own. I need space and have proved that I am responsible and can care for myself independently.

I would like to hear from you Chairman Bonds about what can be done about this situation. I want to know what solutions you have to help me. I do not want to keep putting my name on waiting list. I want to be able to move forward and want to know what can you do to help me and thousands like me. We need funding for more affordable housing, not just for the currently homeless, but for seniors and the working poor. Having a range of housing will help people like me move on and make room for currently homeless people and others who need SRO's and supportive programs. I would like a written response to my testimony. I live at 1338

R St. NW Apt. 222 Washington, DC 20009. Please let me know what you can do about this situation.

Testimony on Budget Oversight of
DHCD, Housing Production Trust Fund and Rental Housing Commission
Before the Committee on Housing and Community Development
Council of the District of Columbia
April 20, 2015
By Sam Jewler
Jews United for Justice

Good afternoon and thank you Chairwoman Bonds and the Housing Committee for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Sam Jewler, and I'm a community organizer with Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), a DC-based volunteer-driven organization that represents thousands of people in the local Jewish community who are working to improve life for all area residents. There's a great variety of ways the city can address affordable housing, and I'd like to talk about a few that are important to our community.

We applaud the mayor and the Council's commitment to $100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund and hope that this funding will be preserved through the budget process, along with the funding allocated for Permanent Supportive Housing and rental assistance.

We support fellow housing advocates whose stakeholders in the developer and tenant communities are confident that all of the $100 million will be used. In addition, more Trust Fund money will become usable now that regulations are being written for the District Opportunity to Purchase Act (DOPA), after years of this important tool lying dormant. The Trust Fund is one proven tool in our toolbox to address the crisis. Our allies in tenant organizing say that when money is available for tenants to purchase and preserve their buildings, most people choose to use it.

DC has lost more than 50% of its affordable rental units in the past decade. In that time, some 40,000 people of color have left the city. One out of every four people left in DC spends more than half of their total income on rent and utilities. This widespread burden is unsustainable for Washingtonians and undermines the fabric of our city.

There is no one-size-fits-all solution to the housing crisis; the city needs to invest in multiple housing programs that each meet the unique needs of DC residents and that are proven to be effective.

Maintaining affordability in some 90,000 rental units in DC, rent control is an important part of the affordable housing picture. In a time of major budget shortfall and continued displacement, rent control maintains affordability without using taxpayer money. But the law is in need of updating. Without sufficient government oversight, tenants in rent controlled units are living in extremely poor conditions. Because the law only applies to units built before 1976, rent

controlled buildings are only getting older. And even as the affordable housing crisis worsens, rent controlled units are losing their affordability through the growing use of hardship petitions, capital improvement petitions, and voluntary agreements. JUFJ and our allies look forward to working with the members of this committee on strengthening and modernizing rent control this year.

Our community is also concerned about the fate of tenants in buildings with expiring affordability subsidies, like our neighbors in Mount Vernon Plaza. Even though the city renegotiated with the building's owners to extend affordability there, some of the tenants are now being told they don't qualify to continue living in their homes. We call on DHCD to include the residents in the formal negotiations and the conversations that so deeply affect their lives.

As Jews we do this work because we have known the pain and struggle of displacement. All Washingtonians deserve the dignity of being able to come home from work and raise a family in a livable space that doesn't consume the majority of their income.

JUFJ supports and stands in solidarity with the testimony of the Coalition for Non-profit Housing and Economic Development, Latino Economic Development Center, Empower DC, ONE DC, and the rest of the affordable housing and homelessness advocates. We want our city to remain diverse and affordable for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Testimony for 4/20/15 DHCD Budget Hearing

CITYFIRST HOMES

Chairperson Bonds and members of the council:

Good morning. My name is David Tisel, I live in Ward 1, and I am pleased to represent City First Homes, a D.C. nonprofit that creates and preserves quality housing that remains affordable for generations. We are members of CNHED and the DC Affordable Housing Alliance.

The Mayor's proposed budget reflects her focus on providing safe and affordable housing for the neediest citizens of the District. We applaud her demonstrated commitment to expanding the supportive housing infrastructure of the city to meet that need.

We also know from our work with low- to moderate-income homebuyers that purchasing a home is becoming increasingly difficult for potential buyers of modest means. Just last week, Aaron Wiener from the Washington City Paper reported that nearly one in five D.C. houses cost more than a million dollars, and it is increasingly difficult to find a for-sale, move-in ready home in the District for under $250,000.

This is why programs like the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) and Tenant Purchase through TOPA are so vital: *but for* these programs, the majority of our homeowners would not have been able to purchase their homes. And *because of* these city programs--paired with the City First Homes shared equity program--since 2010, ninety nine low to moderate income Washingtonians have been able to purchase their first home and start building equity in safe and stable affordable housing.

Proponents of cutting HPAP have cited the fact that that the allocated funds to the program have not been fully utilized by homebuyers. Based on our experience, we strongly believe that this is for two reasons. First, the HPAP process is difficult to navigate and presents homebuyers with procedural hurdles that prevent some eligible buyers from participating. We are committed to working with DHCD and other stakeholders to streamline the HPAP process.

Secondly, the current maximum loan amount makes it difficult for buyers to find affordable homes in the District, even with the HPAP assistance. With home prices skyrocketing, this program has never been more vital than it is today; rather than disinvesting in a program with fixable problems, we must continue to invest in HPAP in order to make homeownership affordable for Washington's workforce. We request that the council restore the $2M funding cut to HPAP, raise the cap for assistance, and work with us to streamline the process for buyers.

Another vital affordable homeownership program for the District is the tenant purchase program. We are fortunate to live in a community that values tenants' rights, and the TOPA law is a crown jewel in our tenant protections. We applaud the mayor for proposing to set

aside one hundred million dollars for the Housing Production Trust Fund. Among other developments, this investment will provide hundreds of tenants the opportunity to purchase their buildings as affordable cooperatives. In a city with rapidly increasing home values and rents, limited-equity cooperatives are an integral component of the city's affordable housing stock. Cooperatives allow low to moderate income residents to build equity while stabilizing housing costs and providing members with an opportunity to control their building.

In addition to funding tenant purchase through the Trust Fund, we ask the Council to increase funding for tenant organizing, housing counseling, technical assistance, and asset management for affordable cooperatives. These organizations do more than provide necessary services for cooperatives; they empower co-op members to take control of their buildings and maintain them as safe and stable affordable housing.

The Mayor's budget reflects a broad commitment to making Washington, D.C. an inclusive and compassionate city. We look forward to working with DHCD and the Council to make this vision a reality.

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CNHED
Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development

Testimony of Evette Banfield, Director of Economic Development Policy
Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development on the
Proposed FY 2016 Budget for the Department of Housing and Community Development
Before the Committee on Economic Development
Monday, April 20, 2015
John A. Wilson Building, Room 500

Good afternoon Chairwoman Bonds and members of the Committee. The Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development represents nearly 140 member organizations that fund, finance, produce, preserve and provide affordable housing and neighborhood-based economic development in the District of Columbia. As the Director of Economic Development Policy at CNHED it is my distinct pleasure to reaffirm CNHED's support of $100 million in the Housing Production Trust Fund for its broad impact on affordable housing in the District.

In addition to investing in the Housing Production Trust Fund, CNHED also recognizes that it is paramount that the District supports local start-up and existing small businesses. The investment in entrepreneurs and small business owners must be an essential part of the District's strategy to ensure the District has a stable and growing middle class, thriving and vibrant neighborhoods, and the creation of local jobs. The Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA) program administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) contributes the District's ability to tell its story of how the District supports local small businesses. We strongly encourage the Council to support CNHED's budget request by designating $3 million in the FY16 budget line item 3010 for SBTA. Under the leadership of Director Polly Donaldson we also look to DHCD to clearly identify in the budget narrative the budget allocation for SBTA to promote greater transparency and accountability.

Stimulating neighborhood based economic development

CNHED cannot emphasize enough the necessity and value-add of the Small Business Technical Assistance program. The SBTA program ensures that technical assistance, support and training is available and accessible to help the start-up, expansion and improvement of small and micro-businesses in underserved communities in the District. Now more than ever, the SBTA program is well-positioned to deepen its footprint as a conduit for neighborhood economic development with the passage of the Community Development Amendment Act of 2013 (as known as Responsible Banking Ordinance) and Emerging Demonstration BID legislation introduced by Councilmember

Evans. This new legislation has the potential to catalyze the start-up of new and expanding existing small and micro-businesses, which will in turn create jobs, and generate revenues for residents and the city. It is inevitable that the Small Business Technical Assistance program will assume an increasingly vital role as this legislation is enacted, enabling SBTA providers to expand their reach into areas of the city with untapped potential for economic growth and opportunity.

Emphasis on standardized reporting metrics

CNHED and SBTA providers are looking forward in FY 2016 to working with DHCD to share its standardized metrics assessing the effectiveness of the SBTA program. Having more standardized metrics will go a long way in helping to amplify every dollar used to support small business in DC. To highlight the value of the SBTA program, it is essential that DHCD and SBTA providers show not only job creation but also other benefits of the program.

In closing, the Small Business Technical Assistance program remains a vital lifeline for new, fledging and established small and micro-businesses in the District. We call on Council to designate $3 million in the FY 2016 budget for SBTA.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony of Robert Cooke
Budget Hearing for DC Department of Housing and Community Development
April 20, 2015
Committee on Housing and Community Development

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Bonds and Committee members. My name is Robert Cooke. I have been a DC resident for 13 years and an affordable homeowner in Ward 5 for 3 years because of HPAP. I support the full continuum of affordable housing. And as I am still a responsible and happy homeowner, one who has testified numerous times, I would like to speak personally about HPAP.

Owning a home and the road I took through Manna to get there has changed my life for the better. As a result of Manna's Homebuyers Club and HPAP, I was able to become a homeowner; without those two things I don't know where I would be. Owning property in the District, where rent is so high, has made it possible for me to afford to live here and to continue my health care. As someone on disability, DC is one of the best places to be for health services and one of the few places where I can own property and contribute to the community in the ways that I have. It's an issue when you don't have a permanent address; I know for me that having a stable place has made it possible to reliably receive your prescriptions and stay healthy.

I am a Manna board member and am involved in advocating for and spreading the word about affordable homeownership. I still participate in Homebuyer Club meetings to show others they can do it, too, and I am here today to advocate for them. There are 227 people in the Manna Homebuyer Club getting ready for homeownership, just like I did. 14 of them have contracts and more are looking for homes. They need HPAP in order to purchase and they need higher loan amounts to find a place. Please restore the $2 million cut to HPAP, invest an additional $1 million and increase the maximum HPAP loan amount to $80,000.

One thing I couldn't control was going on disability. Fortunately, my disability was based on a good job. However, it wasn't nearly enough for me to be able to afford a decent-sized apartment in DC, let alone a home. I applied for Section 8, but it was a two year waiting. And then, through a friend who purchased a home through Manna, I heard about affordable homeownership. I thought it was too good to be true. Renting a one-bedroom at that time was around $1,800, and I didn't think I could do it. I didn't think I could become a homeowner. But after a year in the Homebuyers Club and HPAP assistance, I was fortunate enough to step into my very own condo. It might be small for some, but it's all mine.

My story is only possible with the HPAP. HPAP is one of the best investments that the City makes. It just doesn't make sense that the Mayor is cutting back on this program, while there is an ongoing housing crisis in this city. I will pay back my HPAP assistance so others can become homeowners, too, and I will contribute to the City through property taxes. Where else would this be possible for a person on disability?

Homeownership was my dream, and it has come true. Let's make others' dreams of homeownership and contribution to the City come true as well.

Again, please restore the $2 million cut to HPAP, invest an additional $1 million and increase the maximum HPAP loan amount to $80,000. We need a City that makes it possible for people such as myself to stay here and to make it a better place. Please don't take HPAP for granted; it's a necessity and a way DC and the actions and policies of its City Council should be a shining example for other cities to follow.

Habitat for Humanity® of Washington DC

Monday, April 20, 2015

Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP)

Budget Ask/Data/Plan

Good morning and thank you Councilmembers for meeting with us.

My name is Orlando Velez; I am the Director of Housing Programs & Community Advocacy at Habitat for Humanity of Washington, D.C. DC Habitat is one of the nonprofit affordable housing developers in the District that works in eliminating poverty through homeownership. Though we are capable of developing affordable homes for purchase in each of the wards, we currently have a construction presence in Wards 5, 7 & 8. We currently have a pipeline of nearly 50 homes, and each buyer will be using HPAP to help finance the purchase.

I am also the co-chair of the Ownership Working Group at CNHED, with my colleague Sarah Scruggs from Manna, who testified earlier this morning.

I want to start off first by saying that without HPAP, not only are families able to afford homes, but nonprofit affordable housing developers like Manna, and Habitat would find it very difficult to generate a robust pipeline to serve DC's low to moderate low income families wanting to stay in the District and buy in the District. HPAP is a wonderful program, which I'm sure most, if not all, the people in this room would agree to.

As part of the Coalition, we stand united with our colleagues in the following ask:

FY 2016 Budget Ask

Increase proposed budget to recapture the $2M cut and adding an additional $1M to the budget, and increasing the maximum HPAP loan amount to $80,000

- Restoring the $2 million cut and adding another $1 million would allow HPAP to serve at least 208 families with needed increased loan amounts, the same amount served in FY14.
- An increased HPAP loan amount would ensure more residents can afford to purchase in DC. Today's market is far above FY08, when median home prices were $440,000 and the HPAP loan maximum was up $70,000.
- The repayment timeline for lower-income buyers would need to be restructured, going back to the historic VPAP structure where repayment is deferred until resale or cash-out refinance. The current yearly repayment/recycling of around $2 million would continue.

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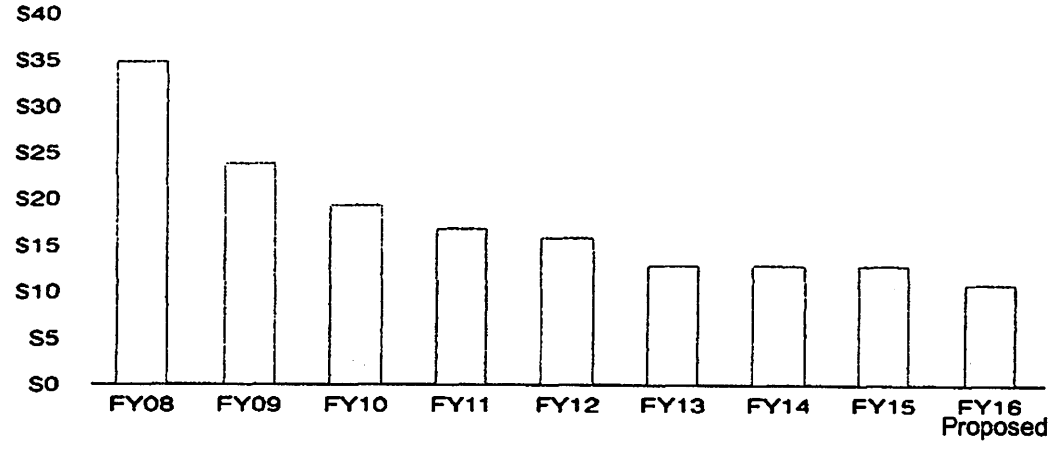
HPAP Budget, Demand, Closings and DC Median Home Prices

The HPAP budget has been decreasing since FY08, when maximum loans were $70,0000; max loan amounts dropped to $40,000 soon after.

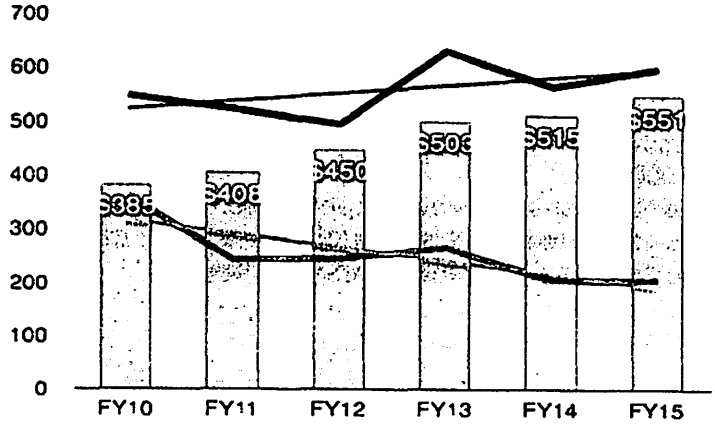
Both mortgage-ready HPAP applicants (demand) and median home prices are increasing, while HPAP closings are decreasing. We are concerned that, with the decreased budget and no increased loan amount, this trend will continue. Also, administrative changes can and need to be made.



DC Home Price Data

As purchase prices have increased, the number of homes at price points affordable to HPAP buyers has dropped.

The proposed increase in loan amount would increase HPAP buyers' purchase power and give them access to more homes on the market. The average sales price where HPAP is a subordinate loan, has risen by 8% since the end of FY12, but the subordinate loan has stayed the same. There should be a symbiotic relationship between the amount of a subordinate and the increase in sales price per FY.



Settlements	2012			2013			2104		
	Houses	Condo	Total	Houses	Condo	Total	Houses	Condo	Total
< $150K	238	180	418	173	197	370	149	155	304
$150-$200K	182	163	345	146	138	284	112	152	264
$200-$300K	493	601	1094	423	661	1084	332	657	989
$300-$400K	385	806	1191	431	870	1301	454	885	1339
Total	913	944	1857	1173	1866	3039	1047	1849	2896

Max Income 2-person house	Increased HPAP	Max Purchase Price	Current HPAP	Max Purchase Price
$42,800	$80,000	$216,847	$50,000	$186,847
$56,000	$65,000	$265,779	$35,000	$235,779
$61,600	$45,000	$272,902	$25,000	$252,902
$68,800	$40,000	$302,774	$20,000	$282,774
$74,400	$40,000	$329,896	$20,000	$309,896
$87,200	$20,000	$371,891	$10,000	$361,891
$94,200	$20,000	$405,795	$10,000	$395,795

Plan to Improve HPAP

Our plan as part of the coalition lays out some of the key solutions to increase the efficiency, timeliness, and success of the HPAP program. These solutions have been devised by a team of HPAP stakeholders, which included key lenders, realtors, CBOs, and affordable homeownership developers.

- Renew the HPAP contract on time by approving it early enough to also secure Council approval before the start of a new fiscal year.
- Advance loan funding to the Program Administrator based on pipeline projections instead of requiring the provider to rely on a line of credit.
- Eliminate the redundancy of having two home inspections. Merging the two inspections to one. Perform the 1st inspection (aka the Homebuyer Inspection where the homeowner pays) and the 2nd inspection (aka the Home Quality Inspection or HQI, where the Program pays) to create one key inspection paid for by the buyer and approved by the Program. By doing this, there will be a cost savings to the program and a time savings to the buyer. If we take the total loan closings in FY14 of 208 and multiply that by the average cost of an inspection ($400), this leads to a MINIMAL savings of $83K to the program. This math is just using recorded closings using HPAP. It is possible that the second inspection (the HQI) would occur and be paid for by the program without a successful loan closing. The time savings would be an estimated two weeks, cutting the typical HPAP closing time frame from 60 days to a more reasonable amount of 46. Just to add some context, we are told by lenders and realtors on our Working Group that the average to close on a conventional loan can range from 20-30 days. By eliminating the second inspection, the time savings would entice more realtors to advocate for the use of the program to their buyers.
- Increase staffing in the Program Administrator's contract by using the savings gained from reducing the number of inspections to fund the new positions.
- Create a HPAP process timeline that is public and understood by all involved parties. Incentivize the Program Administrator to meet this timeline.

- Continue to have regular meetings with stakeholders in order to monitor market and lending dynamics, as well as to troubleshoot potential borrower issues.
- Revisit underwriting and program changes that were made to the program in 2013/2014.
- Work with lenders to restructure underwriting guidelines for 203K loans.
- Allow borrowers to repay HPAP loans using direct deposit.
- Ensure that CBOs get timely information on any delinquent borrowers.

Testimony of Tom Wilson
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Budget Oversight Hearing Fiscal Year 2016:
Department of Housing and Community Development
Chair Anita Bonds
Date: April 20, 2015
John A. Wilson Building

Good morning, Madam Chairwoman Bonds.

My name is Tom Wilson. I am the President of the 1919 Calvert Street Tenants Association which is located in Adams Morgan. This property is one of the few remaining Single Room Occupancy accommodation, or rooming house providing affordable housing in Ward 1. I have lived there, off and on, since 1981.

When a Maryland developer signed a purchase contract in 2012 for the property, the tenants became afraid of being displaced by development.

A neighbor put us in touch with the Latino Economic Development Center. Our case was assigned to Manny Ruiz who organized us as a Tenants Association and obtained a $51,000 grant from First City Enterprise Bank for the pre-development costs of the TOPA process.

In September 2012, we exercised our rights under TOPA. Manny then arranged for John Mangin from the Harrison Institute of Georgetown Law School to manage the DHCD loan process..

In December 2013, DHCD committed to a $135,000 40 year mortgage for the purchase of the property and necessary renovations. At that time, we transferred our TOPA property rights to Mi Casa, Inc.

In January 2014, Mi Casa purchased the property with a $92,000 bridge loan arranged by Andy Slettebak of the Institute for Community Economics.

In September 2014, this bridge loan was retired by the DHCD mortgage from the Housing Production Trust Fund. At that time, we were able to begin renovations and are currently about half-way through the make-over.

In FY 2014, with the Housing Production Trust Fund being fully funded, all the pieces were in place to preserve 1919 Calvert Street as affordable housing for the next 40 years. It is a perfect example of the Housing Production Trust Fund giving city the biggest bang for the buck by preserving affordable housing.

However, if we had come to the market a year earlier, this happy outcome may not have obtained. The lack of funding in FY 2013 could have fatally delayed the project if the

owner had not become an advocate for the project. In addition, the renovations were delayed nearly six months until the DHCD mortgage could retire the expensive bridge loan due to the uncertainty of funding for the Trust.

I have come today to illustrate the enormous power of the Housing Production Trust Fund as an anchor in the Mayor's systemic vision for the District. With the commitment of $100 million in annual funding, all the pieces are truly in place to preserve and create affordable housing as part of the continuum of housing so necessary to the economic vitality of our home, Washington DC.

I have come to ask you to ensure that the Housing Production Trust Fund be fully funded at $100 million in FY 2016.

Thank you for this opportunity testify.

Committee on Housing and Community Development
Budget Oversight Hearing
April 20, 2015
Speaker: LaToya Thomas, Dantes Partners LLC

Good Morning (identify Councilmembers present)

My name is LaToya Thomas, and I am the Director of Business Development of Dantes Partners LLC, a boutique real estate advisory and development firm in the District of Columbia that has worked tirelessly for the past nine years to create and preserve luxury affordable and workforce housing. On behalf of our Managing Principal, Buwa Binitie, and my fellow colleagues, I am here today to express our support for the continued funding of the Housing Production Trust Fund and to reiterate why, from the industry's standpoint, a continued commitment to supporting this fund is so important for the production of affordable and workforce housing in the District.

I cannot go unnoticed or unrecognized that the District is experiencing a very rare transformation in its urban fabric – one that we are all fortunate to bear witness to and one that may never occur again in our lifetimes. But with the physical and economic improvements that are occurring today also come changes in how we operate and provide for the residents of this city. Housing is a critical piece in this equation, and the traditional ways by which the District and the greater development industry at large have produced housing just will not do going forward.

Dantes Partners has a specific focus for creating housing for individuals and families who are typically considered to be your average "working professional" and earn between $45,000 and $65,000 per year. As recently as 5 – 7 years ago, these folks were the "market", and ample supply and numerous options among the existing supply were available. Today, this population can hardly find rental and homeownership options in the District boundaries to meet their monthly budgets – in spite of having a good paying job and good or even excellent credit.

An example that we love to share is from our most recent development, the Justice Park Apartments in Columbia Heights, a luxury affordable housing rental community for residents earning 50% and 60% of AMI. In an unusual approach, this development was marketed through social media and boasted a 1000+ person waiting list BEFORE the building even opened. One of our residents move to Justice Park from an apartment in Upper Marlboro; before her move, she commuted nearly 2 hours each way to work at the Washington Hospital Center in Northeast. When she moved into Justice Park, her commute time was reduced to 15 minutes, and she is now able to spend her free time enjoying all of the restaurants and social activities offered

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along 14th Street and the U Street corridor. Interestingly enough, she is paying the same rent that she was paying in Upper Marlboro.

This opportunity in the District should be available for all who desire it – not just for those making $100k+ a year, and the Trust Fund plays a major role in making this possible by offering an additional funding source for developers like Dantes Partners to utilize. As developers of affordable and workforce housing, our reality is that to make more of these projects possible, we must be creative about how we finance them – be it through tax credits, bonds, conventional financing, or other public subsidy. A $100m commitment to the HPTF will make more of these deals possible, and if we are committed to creating a city that is truly inclusive, then adequately funding the Trust Fund should be a top priority.

Relatedly, it is also imperative that the Council understands that putting such a funding source in place means that road blocks that make the development of affordable and workforce housing prohibitive in the District must be removed. For example, Dantes Partners, a CBE in the District, recently submitted comments to DSLBD regarding changes to the CBE legislation that adversely impact developers' abilities to implement deals because portions of the project budget, such as land acquisition costs, bank fees and interest charges, and permit fees, are now subject to CBE set-aside requirements – even though these items, in practice, cannot be set-aside to CBEs. Developers in this city want to produce more affordable housing, so let's not create blocks in the process to make this happen.

The District is a highly desirable place – not only for new residents and businesses, but also for lenders and equity investors who want to finance deals like Justice Park. For those of us experienced in this space, we know how to and must continue to maximize this opportunity in order to create opportunities for all District residents. A committed stream of funding for affordable housing - like the HPTF – allows the development community to make more of these developments possible and ensures a diverse resident base that will continue to support the city economically as it continues to grow.

In closing, Dantes Partners is excited about the Mayor's commitment of $100m to the Housing Production Trust Fund, and we implore the Council to extend their support for this portion of the budget as well. Thank you or the opportunity to testify today.

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Cornerstone 1400 20th Street, NW Suite G-3 Washington, DC 20036

FY 2016 BUDGET HEARING ON THE DC DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DC CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 20, 2015

TESTIMONY OF CORNERSTONE, INC.

My name is Nancy Liebermann, President, Cornerstone, Inc. I am pleased to provide testimony on the FY 2016 Budget Support Act (Act) as it applies to the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

First, we are so pleased that the Council has confirmed Ms. Donaldson as Director, DHCD. We have already witnessed her consistent and dedicated "eye on the prize" approach toward ending chronic homelessness as a partner in the recently issued Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH) Plan to End Homelessness. She understands that housing and economic development are complicated and is a master at hard decision making and honest conversation.

Cornerstone's lens on the budget is the housing needs of very poor individuals with serious mental health issues. With 20 years' experience as the only nonprofit housing finance intermediary focusing on this population, we support the allocation of $100,000,000 in the Housing Production Trust Fund. We also support the concept of prioritizing the housing needs of people with incomes of 30% or less of Area Medium Income (AMI).

My full written testimony lays out our successful working relationship with DHCD over many years with the Site Acquisition Financing Initiative (SAFI) and Housing Improvement Program Initiative (HIPi) program. With respect to these programs, we urge DHCD to consider extending the SAFI program beyond 2020 when the funds are currently due back to the District. With respect to HIPi, we ask that DHCD rapidly proceed with additional funding of HIPi, following the recent signing of an amended Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH).

Cornerstone supports the budget priorities of the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development.

For my oral testimony today, I would like to make the following five points:

1. The housing and service needs of people with severe mental illness and low incomes continues to grow. Many of these folks are referred to as the "unworthy poor." Cornerstone's Board is committed to the dignity and respect for all individuals and families, regardless of their life circumstances or physical or mental health issues. We urge DHCD to keep the housing needs of this population as a priority and make sure that their housing needs don't "get lost in the shuffle" as we push to end chronic homelessness.

2. Based on our experience and funding, we urge that people with mental health issues be able to obtain and maintain housing that meets standards of habitability—not just at the beginning of their tenancies but so long as they are tenants. This needs to be true, regardless of their point of entry into the system—whether through DBH, the Department of Human Services or through HUD funding at The Community Partnership. For instance, through the HIPi program, Cornerstone has funding available to repair and upgrade housing for DBH tenants. We would urge DHCD to expand eligibility under this or similar programs so that agencies that receive subsidies through other sources can still maintain the highest level of housing for all its very low income tenants.

3. We recommend that a portion of the Trust Fund or other capital be dedicated for the creation of a Permanent Supportive Housing Preservation Fund. Housing preservation has been a Cornerstone priority for 20 years. As a community, we cannot expand the availability of housing if we cannot maintain the current inventory in a habitable condition. Cornerstone, with expertise and success as an intermediary for affordable housing in DC, would be willing to work with DHCD to create such a fund. Cornerstone is an example of a successful public/private partnership that knows the organizations that develop very low income affordable housing and knows how to efficiently disburse funds to vetted organizations. We also provide technical assistance to help landlords and owners repair their properties.

4. Cornerstone is very concerned about the financial and organizational capacity of nonprofit organizations that provide housing and services to very low income individuals and families with mental illness. In our experience, we are witnessing smaller organizations that have gone out of business, organizations that are struggling and Community Residence Facility operators that are retiring and selling their properties. We are worried that there will not be enough providers that are able to develop permanent supportive housing using a model that is financially viable. The numbers simply do not work.

5. Nonprofits in DC that serve people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness are experiencing a dramatic reduction in the amount of philanthropic funding available (caused in part by the elimination of funding by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac). The District, with its affordable housing partners, needs to develop a strategy to invest public, private, and philanthropic resources so that organizations can continue to provide services that meet the diverse housing needs of District residents.

Background on Cornerstone

Cornerstone is the only non-profit housing finance intermediary in the District of Columbia that focuses on people with serious and persistent mental illness. *Our mission is to finance supportive housing for people with mental illness in the District of Columbia.* Since 1995, Cornerstone has participated in the financing of over 2,700 units of affordable housing for mental health consumers. These include single room occupancy units, small apartment buildings (4 to 25 units) and some community residence facilities. Cornerstone also works directly with people with mental illness who own their own homes to make repairs and upgrades.

In addition to the SAFI and HIPi programs highlighted below, Cornerstone's programs include the **Air Conditioning Program,** that provides window air conditioners each summer free of charge to

people with mental illness living in unairconditioned community based housing; and a Common Space Improvement program which provides funding for improvements to common space in buildings in DC that are dedicated to housing for people with mental illness.

In 2013, Cornerstone began an ongoing grant program for members of the **military and Veterans in the Washington Metropolitan Area** to repair and upgrade houses that they own.

Site Acquisition Financing Initiative (SAFI)

Serving as an intermediary for special needs housing development, Cornerstone has a $3 million segregated Revolving Loan Fund through DHCD's Site Acquisition Finance Initiative (SAFI). Funded in 2007, these loan funds can be used for acquisition loans and predevelopment expenses. Under this program, Cornerstone makes short-term loans to allow non-profit developers to meet competitive timeframes imposed by the real estate market for acquiring properties for affordable housing. It allows qualifying nonprofit organization to have quick access to credit.

Cornerstone lends the funds at 1% for 24 to 48 months (with the option of extending for an additional 24 months), during which time borrowers can apply for replacement financing from private financial institutions or government sources (including DHCD's Housing Production Trust Fund). The availability of SAFI funds gives nonprofit borrowers time to negotiate takeout financing and construction loans and access to low interest money for a considerable portion of time when there is no project income. Cornerstone also blends other loan funds with its SAFI allocation to ease the financial burden of higher rates for permanent financing.

As of March 31, 2015, $3 million is currently available for acquisitions. SOME, Community Connections, Building Futures and THC have received loans from Cornerstone for purchases of more than 110 units of special needs housing.

Housing Improvement Program Initiative (HIPi) Fund

We commend DHCD for its collaboration with the DC Department of Behavioral Health in developing the HIPi program. In December 2009, following a competitive bidding process, Cornerstone received an award of $1 million in HIPi funds. In 2012, we were awarded $300,000 in additional program funding, and in 2014, we received a further award of $300,000. DBH has indicated that it intends to award an additional $500,000 for the program following the March 2015 signing of an amended Memorandum of Understanding between DHCD and DBH.

The HIPi initiative furthers a core Cornerstone value in focusing on rehabilitation of units in small multi-family buildings (2 to 25 units) and CRFs currently dedicated to DBH tenants. The typical funding is between $15,000 and $75,000 per project—up to half grant (grant funding is a DHCD requirement for this initiative) and the remaining funds a combination of a 3-year loan at below market rates and borrowers' equity, as available. Under a separate section of the program, Independent Community Residence Facility operators are eligible for grants of up to $15,000 for repairs to their properties.

Since Cornerstone inaugurated the HIPi program in February 2010, we have processed 56 requests for a total of $1,611,176 in funding to improve 403 units of housing dedicated to people with mental illness.

Conclusion

We urge DHCD to recognize that low income individuals and families with mental health issues need to be a District priority. There are many unhoused and improperly housed folks with special needs that desperately need affordable housing.

DHCD has been a creative partner with Cornerstone and we can do more to the benefit of people with mental illness. DHCD recognizes Cornerstone's niche and expertise—both as a source of leverage of government funds and as a funder of small projects for tenants with mental illness. We also support CNHED's priorities. We believe that there are more opportunities to use intermediaries for the public good and to the benefit of very low income residents with special needs, including mental health issues.

Thank you for the opportunity to present and submit this testimony.

4/20/2015

Coalition for Smarter Growth
DC • MD • VA

Testimony before the Hon. Anita Bonds, Chair
DC Council Committee on Housing and Community Development

RE: FY16 Budget Oversight Hearing for the Department of Housing and Community Development

By Cheryl Cort, Policy Director
April 20, 2015

Good morning, my name is Cheryl Cort and I am the policy director of the Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG). The Coalition for Smarter Growth is the leading organization working locally in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan region dedicated to making the case for smart growth. Our mission is to promote walkable, inclusive, and transit-oriented communities, and the land use and transportation policies and investments needed to make those communities flourish.

We want to commend the Mayor and Director Polly Donaldson for bringing a clear, bold and strategic vision to address our city's deepening affordable housing crisis. Consistent with this vision, we commend the Mayor's budget priorities which propose a record investment in affordable housing. We ask the Council to support these budget proposals. Specifically, we ask the council support the Mayor's proposed funding levels for the Housing Production Trust Fund at $100 million, Local Rent Supplement Program, and the Permanent Supportive Housing Program. We also commend the leadership of the Mayor and Director Donaldson for launching a preservation strike force.

Sustain Support for the Inclusionary Zoning Program

We note that the budget includes additional staffing for the Inclusionary Zoning – or IZ -- Program. We support this increased commitment to address the rapidly growing pipeline and to rectify previous understaffing that contributed to many startup problems for the program. Adequate staffing is essential to ensuring that this program works and achieves its goals. The staffing cost is essentially the only government cost associated with producing hundreds, and eventually thousands of affordable housing units throughout the city.

DHCD has made great strides in the last year to administer this program more effectively after experiencing many start-up challenges. IZ administration will be further improved by finalizing the proposed administrative regulations that have been in draft for far too long.

In light of the experience we have gained from the IZ program, and the persistent severity of housing need nearly a decade after the program was first crafted, we also ask this committee to work with the Mayor and DHCD to support strengthening IZ at the Zoning Commission. One way to do this is to pass the Council resolution asking the Mayor and Zoning Commission to revisit IZ policies in order to produce more units at the lower end of the income range. Currently, about 80% of all IZ units are at the 80% AMI level, and less than 20% are at the 50% AMI level. For more than a year, the Zoning Commission has expressed the desire assess the program to examine how income targeting could be

refocused to better serve DC residents. Unfortunately, the previous administration blocked the Office of Planning from supporting the Zoning Commission's efforts. To overcome this stalling, this January we joined with a group of affordable housing supporters to submit recommendations to Zoning Commission to make IZ more affordable.

We ask the Committee to urge Mayor Bowser to use this opportunity to make the most of IZ, and allow the Office of Planning to support the Zoning Commission's efforts to revise IZ to better achieve the affordable housing goals that Mayor Bowser has made a priority.

Establish permanent affordability as the priority for public investments in housing

Last, we ask that the Committee consider ways to create a more comprehensive policy to preserve and leverage public investments in affordable housing by establishing a preference for permanent affordability. Given the limited capacity of the District's budget to address all the housing needs of our residents we need to do more with what we are committing. The city's investment in affordable housing should be a lasting one. In the case of city assistance for creating affordable homeownership units, we recommend using shared equity models of homeownership that enable owners of affordable homes to benefit from building equity, while also maintaining the affordable pricing of the units for subsequent homeowners. This approach allows the city to help many more residents become homeowners over the long term.

Thank you for your consideration.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE DC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
PRESENTED BY AYANNA SMITH
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015

Good morning Chairman Bonds and members of the Committee. My name is Ayanna Smith and I live in the Penn Branch community of Ward 7.

I moved to the District in 1996, at a time when the city was not quite the world class destination it has become. I recall being limited to Georgetown and Adams Morgan for shopping and dining, and even on my little bity teacher's salary I could afford to live in most of the areas I frequented. In fact, at that time HUD had a program where they would give away blighted homes to teachers if you could qualify for a loan to rehab the property. And now whenever I visit the U street corridor, I kick myself for not taking advantage of that once-in-a-lifetime opportunity because the reality is, even with a two-income household, I can no longer afford to live there.

My husband and I purchased our home in Penn Branch in 2006 because we loved the suburban-like feel of our neighborhood and its close proximity to other areas we frequented. We realized the community lacked some of the basic elements of neighborhoods West of the River but we figured things like increased property values, a thriving business district and high-performing schools were right around the corner. After all, the Washingtonian Magazine dubbed neighboring Hillcrest DC's "best kept secret."

Well, 2016 will mark a decade in our home and unfortunately we now understand why our community has remained a "secret" to so many. What good is having a beautiful home in a community with "well-manicured lawns" when its value has drastically decreased and remains so much lower than comparable homes in other communities?

I'm no expert on housing and community development matters but you don't have to be to see the systemic inequalities that plague East of the River communities. Since 1996 I've watched neighborhoods completely transform and home values sky rocket in neighborhoods I would have never considered living in as a young professional--like the H Street corridor, Capitol Hill "extended," Chinatown, Barracks Row, the Navy Yard, Shaw, and even Anacostia is slated for a great deal of transition. In fact, it seems like every other part of the city EXCEPT Ward 7 has experienced tremendous growth in the past decade.

When I look around those neighborhoods that have transitioned over the years, I see a few common denominators that seem to be the formula for progressive home values:

1. Thriving business corridors
2. High-end mixed use properties
3. Well-performing schools
4. A sophisticated Transportation Infrastructure

What I don't see in those communities are:

1. Every social services program known to mankind
2. An excessive number of group homes and section 8 housing
3. An excessive amount of low-income housing
4. A lack of quality school options
5. A complete lack of quality development

Moving into the 10-year anniversary of owning my home in Ward 7, I'd like see dramatic change. More importantly, I'd like to own a home that's not underwater.

I'd like to see funds from the 2016 budget allocated towards developing and implementing an aggressive strategic plan to influence an increase in home values and improve the overall quality of life for Ward 7 residents, specifically. While I realize home values are partially market-driven, I've also seen where our city government has developed attractive incentives to encourage growth in other areas.

We've waited patiently. It's now our turn.

TESTIMONY OF KAY PIERSON
DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT DIVISION
UNITED PLANNING ORGANIZATION
PETEGY GREENE COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTER
2907 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. AVENUE, SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20032
(202) 231-7904

GOOD MORNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS. MY NAME IS KAY PIERSON AND I SERVE AS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT DIVISION OF THE UNITED PLANNING ORGANIZATION (UPO), WHICH HANDLES ISSUE RELATED TO HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR UPO.

AT THE OUTSET, THE PROPOSED BUDGETS FOR THE DEPARTMENTS OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HUMAN SERVICES AND PUBLIC HOUSING ARE GENERALLY SOLID AND VISIONARY. THERE SEEMS TO BE A GENUINE DESIRE TO IMPROVE AFFORDABLE HOUSING, ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES AND REDUCE HOMELESSNESS. HOWEVER, MORE COULD BE DONE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING. I AM HERE TO SPEAK TO THAT TODAY.

WITH RESPECT TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING, THE $100 MILLION DOLLAR ANNUAL COMMITMENT TO THE HOUSING PRODUCTION TRUST FUND (HPTF) IS A GOOD START TOWARDS FUNDING INITIATIVES AIMED AT CREATING AND PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING. HOWEVER, **AS AN ORGANIZATION BASED IN WARD EIGHT, IT IS ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT MORE ATTENTION MUST BE PAID TO THE PRESERVATION OF HOUSING THAT IS AFFORDABLE TO WORKING RESIDENTS** AND PEOPLE AT THE 50% AMI LEVEL AND BELOW.

IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS ALONE, WE HAVE PERSONALLY BECOME AWARE OF FOUR MULTI-FAMILY BUILDINGS WHERE TENANTS WERE PUT AT RISK OF BEING UNLAWFULLY PUT OUT OF THEIR BUILDING BY OWNERS WHO MANIPULATED THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE TENANT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE ACT, OR TOPA. IN ONE CASE, TENANTS UNKNOWINGLY EXECUTED AN ASSIGNMENT OF RIGHTS ITO AN OWNER WHO THEN PROCEEDED TO PUT THEM OUT OF THE BUILDING WITH NO PROCESS. IN ANOTHER

INSTANCE, TENANTS WHO WERE IMPROPERLY NOTICED BY TOPA WERE OFFERED $5,000 TO JUST MOVE OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. TWO OTHER SETS OF TENANTS WITH WHOM WE ARE NOW WORKING WERE NOT EVEN AWARE THAT THEIR BUILDING WAS UP FOR SALE, AND THE OWNERS OF BOTH BUILDINGS WERE TRYING TO SELL WITHOUT PROPER A TOPA PROCESS.

UPO WAS ONE OF FOUR ORGANIZATIONS DESIGNATED TO PERFORM THE MONUMENTAL TASK OF HELPING THESE AND OTHER TENANT GROUPS UNDERSTAND AND EXERCISE THEIR TOPA RIGHTS. THIS FUNDING WAS APPROXIMATELY 1% OF THE DIVISION BUDGET, BUT TOOK 20% OF STAFF TIME TO PERFORM. MOREOVER, THE FUNDING THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ALLOTED THROUGH SAFI (SITE ACQUISTION FUNDING INITIATIVE) AND THE DHCD FINANCE DIVISION WAS NOT AVAILABLE TO TENANTS WHO NEEDED IT TO FUND THEIR ACQUISITION.

IN THE TOPA ARENA, ACTIVISM GOES HAND IN HAND WITH RESOURCES TO ENABLE TENANTS TO PURCHASE. TENANTS WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO BARGAIN WITH A BUYER, OR TO ACTUALLY PURCHASE THEIR BUILDING, IF THERE ARE NO RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THIS ACTIVITY. MOREOVER, THE NUMBER OF LAWYERS, LAW FIRMS AND LEGAL AID ORGANIZATIONS WILLING TO REPRESENT TOPA CLIENTS PRO BONO IS SHRINKING BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF RESOURCES NEEDED TO STAY IN PROTRACTED TOPA CASES.

IF THE ADMINISTRATION IS SERIOUS ABOUT PRESERVING AFFORDABLE HOUSING, THEN RESOURCES MUST BE DEDICATED TO THIS ISSUE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD LIKE TO RECOMMEND THAT WITHIN THE FY2016 ALLOCATION TO THE HPTF THAT $20 MILLION BE SET ASIDE TO DEVELOP A PRESERVATION STRATEGY THAT WOULD SEEK TO ACCOMPLISH THE FOLLOWING:

- IMPROVE COORDINATION OF FUNDING TIMELINE WITH TENANT OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE (TOPA) TIMELINE AND IMPROVE TRACKING OF TOPA DATA

- **WORK WITH COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS (CBOS) TO ESTABLISH MODEL FOR ONGOING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND ASSET MANAGEMENT FOR COOPERATIVES**
- **INCREASE FUNDING FOR POST-PURCHASE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW INCOME COOPERATIVES**
- ENCOURAGE DHCD TO CONTINUE TO KEEP LOAN TERMS FLEXIBLE BASED ON UNIQUE NEEDS OF EACH PROJECT AND LOCATION
- **ESTABLISH A SET-ASIDE FOR ACQUISITION AND AVAILABLE FUNDING FOR PRESERVATION TO HELP REACH A GOAL OF 8,000 UNITS PRESERVED BY 2020**
- **ESTABLISH A SAFI-LIKE FUND FOR PREDEVELOPMENT COSTS.**
- **ENACT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE DC PRESERVATION NETWORK, WHICH ARE ATTACHED TO THIS TESTIMONY.**

I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR MOST CBOs, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONSWORKING IN THE TOPA ARENA, WHEN I SAY THAT WE FEEL WE ARE FIGHTING HARD FOR IN A LOSING BATTLE. WARD 8, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES ARE NOW PRIME TARGETS FOR DEVELOPERS WHO WANT TO TAKE THE REMAINING PART OF PROPERTY THAT REMAINS BARELY AFFORDABLE AND REDEVELOP IT FOR A MIDDLE CLASS THAT IS IMPORTED FROM OUTSIDE, RATHER THAN TO INVEST IN THOSE WHO ARE LIVING HERE AND YEARNING TO DO BETTER.

OUR FIGHT WOULD BE MADE SO MUCH EASIER WITH MORE TARGETED ATTENTION AND FUNDING FROM THE HOUSING AGENCIES CHARGED WITH PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK.

Maintaining Economic Diversity and Affordability

A Strategy for Preserving Affordable Rental Housing in the District of Columbia

DC Preservation Network
Preservation Strategy Working Group

December 2014

Maintaining Economic Diversity and Affordability

A Strategy for Preserving Affordable Rental Housing in the District of Columbia

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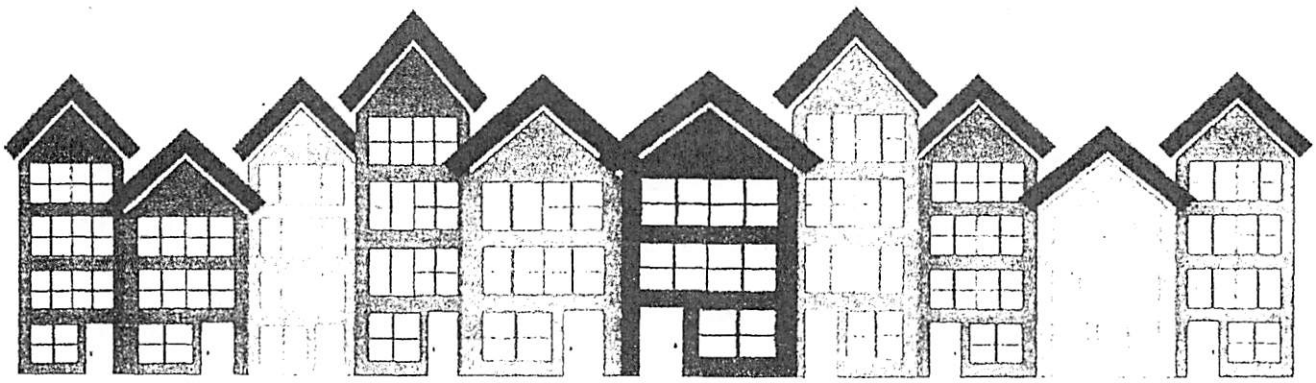
December 2014



WHAT IS DCPN: *The DC Preservation Network (DCPN) is a collaborative effort to preserve existing assisted affordable rental housing in the District of Columbia, co-convened by the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED) and NeighborhoodInfo DC. Participants in the Network include housing counseling organizations, legal services providers, affordable housing developers, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and DC government agencies, including the Department of Housing and Community Development, DC Housing Finance Agency, DC Housing Authority and the Office of Tenant Advocate. The Network maintains a database of approximately 35,000 assisted affordable rental units and meets monthly to review those properties that may be at risk of losing affordability.*

The conclusions reached and recommendations made in this report represent the views of the members of the DCPN Preservation Strategy Working Group listed below, and not necessarily those of the aforementioned government agencies or other Network members who participate in monthly meetings of the DC Preservation Network.

For more information please contact:

Stephen Glaude, CNHED: sglaude@cnhed.org
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Thanks to the following members of the DCPN Preservation Strategy Working Group who contributed to this paper:

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Scott Bruton, Housing Counseling Services, Inc.
Robert Burns, City First Homes
Danielle Burs, Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development
Farah Fosse, Latino Economic Development Center
Stephen Glaude, Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development
Mitchell Greenstein, Communities by Design
Kathryn Howell, Virginia Commonwealth University
Gerry Joseph, Joseph Development
Rebecca Lindhurst, Bread for the City
Will Merrifield, The Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless
Jenny Reed, DC Fiscal Policy Institute
Peter Tatian, The Urban Institute / NeighborhoodInfo DC
Elin Zurbrigg, Mi Casa, Inc.
Joel Cohn
Martha Davis
Leila Finucane
Robert Pohlman

Maintaining Economic Diversity and Affordability
A Strategy for Preserving Affordable Rental Housing in the District of Columbia
Executive Summary

The District of Columbia lacks a formal policy and strategy for preserving existing affordable rental housing. This paper, drafted by members of the DCPN Preservation Strategy Working Group (listed on the inside of the front cover) is intended to address that need.

The conclusions reached and recommendations made represent the views of members of the Working Group and not necessarily those of the aforementioned government agencies or other Network members who participate in monthly meetings of the DC Preservation Network. Our recommendations in brief are as follows:

Preservation Policy: The District of Columbia recognizes that to maintain and increase affordable housing options for residents it must preserve existing affordable housing in addition to creating more affordable units. Thus, it will strive to preserve wherever possible and practicable the affordability and sustainability of its existing affordable housing stock. To do so it should dedicate substantial additional funding to preservation and adopt goals and criteria for allocating resources to achieve this objective.

Preservation Goals:

- Preserve existing District and federal subsidized housing, including public housing
- Prevent displacement of residents with low and moderate incomes
- Preserve housing that serves vulnerable populations such as persons who have disabilities, or are formerly homeless, low income seniors or returning citizens
- Maintain diversity in neighborhoods
- Maintain the stock of market rate affordable rental housing

Preservation Criteria: The District should use the following 1st tier criteria for determining the types of affordable rental housing that should be preserved:

* federally funded with rent or operating subsidy
* meets the needs of vulnerable population
* near DC funded economic development projects
* serves very low-income residents
* needed to maintain economic diversity
* near transit

If projects rank similarly under 1st tier criteria, 2nd tier criteria should be used to prioritize assistance.
*current low rent levels *a high probability of being lost * low cost per unit to preserve

Preservation Methods and Tools: DC's preservation strategy should include a variety of approaches for preserving privately owned and publicly owned subsidized housing and privately owned affordable unsubsidized housing. Methods and tools are spelled out in the following preservation strategy paper.

Preservation Implementation:

- The District should create a Preservation Team made up of top officials from District housing agencies, Office of Planning, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, and a representative from the DC Preservation Network to develop protocols for preserving affordable housing. An Action Team of operating staff from the above agencies and offices should be charged with implementation.
- The Department of Housing and Community Development should designate a senior staff person to support the work of the Preservation Team, coordinate preservation efforts across agency lines, and act as the liaison to the DC Preservation Network.
- The DC Preservation Network should continue to monitor affordable rental properties and alert officials, agencies, and Network participants about at-risk projects.

Maintaining Economic Diversity and Affordability
A Strategy for Preserving Affordable Rental Housing in the District of Columbia

The District of Columbia has experienced significant economic growth over the last decade that has led to a significant jump in population and housing costs. While this growth has led to many positive developments for DC, it has also led to a significant loss of low-cost housing, as it created financial incentives for owners of subsidized- and market-affordable housing to opt-out of keeping their buildings affordable, raise rents, or sell. Without a clear strategy to preserve currently affordable housing, DC will lose cost-effective opportunities to maintain mixed-income, diverse neighborhoods across the city.

The increasing pace of development and the rapid loss of subsidized, rent-stabilized and market-affordable units in all parts of the city suggest a need for a more coordinated and proactive strategy for the preservation of affordable housing. This report lays out a recommended policy for affordable housing preservation, strategies to prioritize preservation, and specific tools and resources needed to address the growing challenges facing households with low and moderate incomes in DC.

DC's Affordable Housing is Disappearing

Over the last decade, DC has lost 50 percent of its low-cost housing units, largely due to rising housing prices.[1] In addition, rising demand for rental housing by new DC residents has outstripped supply at most income levels, which has further contributed to an increase in rents for market rate housing. This continued demand – far above DC's current production – will make it harder for the lowest income households who struggle to find housing in an increasingly tight market.

The number of DC households who are severely rent burdened has risen significantly. One in five DC households now pay more than half of their income towards rent.[2] For families with low and moderate incomes this means that they have little left over each month for other basic necessities like clothing, transportation and food. It also makes them more likely to be one job loss or illness away from homelessness.

New construction of affordable housing has not kept pace with demand. Nationally, about 300,000 units were built annually in the mid-1970's; today, it's just 75,000 units a year.[3] In DC, new residential construction averaged fewer than 400 units per year between 1990 and 2001 but since then has accelerated to almost 3,000 units per year.[4] Nevertheless, new housing units are being snapped up as quickly as they are put on the market because the increased supply has not yet caught up to the elevated demand. As a result, housing costs for most renters and homebuyers continue to rise. To avoid losing further ground, DC must not only increase production of affordable housing but proactively work to preserve the housing that is currently affordable to help meet the demand.

Another factor putting pressure on the rental housing market is the aging housing stock. Almost half of the multifamily rental housing in DC (48 percent) is more than 50 years old.[5] Older housing stock typically does not command top market rents. At the same time they require more maintenance and

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[1] Reed, Jenny. "Disappearing Act: Affordable Housing in DC is Vanishing Amid Sharply Rising Housing Costs," DC Fiscal Policy Institute, May 2012, available at: http://www.dcfpi.org/disappearing-act-affordable-housing-in-dc-is-vanishing-amid-sharply-rising-housing-costs

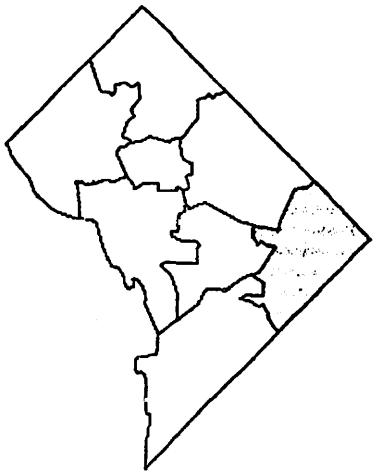
[2] Reed, Jenny (Ibid)

[3] U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, "Preserving Affordable Rental Housing: A Snapshot of Growing Need, Current Threats and Innovative Solutions," Evidence Matters (Summer 2013). Available at: http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/em/summer13/highlight1.html

[4] Analysis of DC real property data by NeighborhoodInfo DC.

[5] U.S. Census Bureau, 2013 American Community Survey.

WARD 7 CITIZEN'S BUDGET SUMMIT BRIEF



Prepared and Presented By:

Ward 7 Residents & the Strategy and Organizing Working Group

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

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Overview

This brief offers a summation of the **Ward 7 Citizen's Budget Summit I** held on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at the Deanwood Recreation Center. This brief also contains evaluations from **Summit I** and "next steps", strategies, and methodologies for **Summit II**, which will be held on Saturday, April 11, 2015, at the Fort Davis Recreation Center.

At **Summit I**, approximately 65 Ward 7 residents participated in Ward 7's first ever non-partisan, **Citizen's Budget Summit**. In essence, this **Summit** was conceived by the people, for the people, and represented a true grassroots effort. The **Summit** engaged a diverse set of residents who discussed:

- **Economic Opportunity,**
- **Housing,**
- **Public Safety,**
- **Transportation,**
- **Arts, Culture, and the Environment,**
- **Infrastructure,**
- **Public Education, and**
- **Organizing Strategies**

Breakout Groups were led by Resident Facilitators and all dialogue was captured by the appointed scribes. Moving forward these "Breakout Groups" have transitioned into "Working Groups" to put into action the will of the people in Ward 7.

Purpose

Our **Ward 7 Summit Working Groups**, will recruit, organize, and mobilize Ward 7 neighbors willing to contribute to and/or serve on "Testimony Teams" that will represent our voices before the appropriate Council Oversight Committees regarding the city budget. Our **Citizen Summits** are created to share information, organize, and mobilize ourselves in order to collectively advocate for budget priorities that are most salient for Ward 7 Neighborhoods and Families. We will actively engage ourselves in the entire FY16 budget process and collectively advocate for that which is in the best interest of Ward 7, overall.

Our Mission

Our Mission is to simply ensure that Ward 7 has a voice in the FY16 Budget discussions and decisions. Between April 15th and May 7th, our City Council will conduct 33 specific budget hearings under the jurisdiction of eight different Council Committees to get OUR input on the budget. Our Mission is to ensure that Ward 7 has "Testimony Teams" prepared and ready to address Council Oversight Committees as appropriate.

The Council Oversight Committees

1. Committee of the Whole **(Chairperson Mendelson)**
2. **Committee on Health and Human Services (Chairperson Alexander)**
3. Committee on Transportation and the Environment **(Chairperson Cheh)**
4. Committee on the Judiciary **(Chairperson McDuffie)**
5. Committee on the Housing and Community Development **(Chairperson Bonds)**
6. Committee on Education **(Chairperson Grosso)**
7. Committee on Finance and Revenue **(Chairperson Evans)**
8. Committee on Business, Consumer and Regulatory Affairs **(Chairperson Orange)**

Economic Opportunity Working Group

Issues Raised

1. Job Creation
2. Business Development & Enhancement
3. Economic Opportunity
4. Lack of High Quality Amenities and Retail Services
5. Market Saturation of 7-11 Franchises and Medicaid-targeting Dental Offices.
6. Negative perceptions that this market will only support unhealthy fast-food carryouts.
7. Lack of any meaningful retail development around any of the four Ward 7 Metro Stations.

Potential Solutions

1. Create an overall economic plan for Ward 7 through a task force – focus on developing "Downtown Ward 7" / major commercial corridors, Minnesota Ave., Benning Rd.
2. "One stop shop" for business support that offers incentives for businesses.
3. Entice businesses to come to the Ward.
4. Offer more job training programs and follow-up.
5. Create partnerships with small businesses to create a hiring pipeline.
6. Invite and entice businesses to come to Ward 7 through incentives and grants that focused just on this ward and filling the identified commercial corridors.

Budget Priorities

1. Funding for job training programs and adequate follow-up.

2. Targeted business development focused solely on Ward 7 and commercial corridors with a focus on basic community needs such as Banks, Medical Professional Services and sit down restaurants.
3. Seek funding for a task force to create a comprehensive economic development plan for Ward 7.

Related Hearings

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Chairman Phil Mendelson

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015: Room 412	
Time	Agency
2:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Office of Contracting and Procurement
	Contract Appeals Board
	Executive Office of the Mayor
	Office of the City Administrator
	Secretary of the District of the Columbia

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Evan Cash, ecash@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8196.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
Chairperson Kenyan McDuffie

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015: Room 120	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys
	Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services
	DC Board of Elections
	Office of Campaign Finance

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Katherine Mitchell, kmitchell@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-8275

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
Chairperson Kenyan McDuffie

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015: Room 120	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Office of the Attorney General
	Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel
	Office of Administrative Hearings
	Judicial Nomination Commission
	Commission on Judicial Disabilities and Tenure
	Access to Justice Initiative

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Katherine Mitchell, kmitchell@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-8275.

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, CONSUMER & REGULATORY AFFAIRS
Chairperson Vincent Orange

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015: Room 412	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking
	Office of Cable Television
	Office of Motion Picture and Television Development
	Office of People's Counsel
	Public Access Corporation
	Public Service Commission

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Peter Johnson, pjohnson@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-6683.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Chairman Phil Mendelson

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015; COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Office of Budget and Planning
	Deputy Mayor for Planning & Economic Development
	Office of Zoning
	Office of Planning

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Cynthia LeFevre, clefevre@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8092

COMMITTEE ON BUSINESS, CONSUMER & REGULATORY AFFAIRS
Chairperson Vincent Orange

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015; COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration
	Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
	Department of Employment Services
	Department of Small and Local Business Development
	Office of Risk Management
	Office of Tenant Advocate
	Workforce Investment Council

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Peter Johnson, pjohnson@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-6683

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Chairperson Anita Bonds

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2015; COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs
	DC Youth Advisory Council
	Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs
	Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
	Office of Latino Affairs
	Office of African Affairs
	Office of African American Affairs

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Joseph Trimboli, jtrimboli@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8198.

Housing Working Group

Issues Raised

1. Lack of an even disbursement of affordable housing stock.
2. Define/re-define "affordable housing".
3. Contradictions between local desires for income mix and federal housing finance standards.
4. What does Area Median Income (AMI) really mean?
5. More Homeowner assistance programs.
6. More Homeowner education.
7. Public housing – perceived lack of regulation and governance.
8. Resources to increase Elderly citizens' ability to age in place, in their homes.
9. Oversaturation and Relocation of low and moderate income or group homes into Ward 7.

Potential Solutions

1. Home buying programs and post-buying support and education at all age-levels.
2. Support for middle class/long term resident incentives.
3. Reform home buying programs.
4. Senior grants for "age in place" support.

Budget Priorities

1. Increase stock of affordable housing units with three and four bedrooms.
2. Request for more homeowner assistance and support programs with continued education.
3. Request more grant funding to aid elderly residents to maintain their home inside and out.
4. Tax incentives to homeowners.
5. Reform home buying programs.

Related Hearings

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Chairperson Anita Bonds

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015: Room 123	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	Housing Finance Agency
	Office of Aging

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Barry Weise, bweise@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8171.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Chairperson Anita Bonds

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015; COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	Department of Housing and Community Development
	Rental Housing Commission
	Housing Production Trust Fund

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Irene Kang, ikang@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8198.

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Chairperson Anita Bonds

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015; Room 120	
Time	Agency
11:00 a.m. – End	Advisory Neighborhood Commission
	Office of Religious Affairs/Interfaith Council
	Office of Veteran Affairs
	Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives
	DC Housing Authority

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Nishant Keerikatte, nkeerikatte@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8025

Public Safety Working Group

Issues Raised

1. Home Break-Ins.
    a. Devaluing low-levels of crime, lackadaisical police response and writing off concerns raised by residents.
    b. Disparate treatment in comparison to other wards in the city.
2. Lack of resources and proper allocation of them.
3. Marvin Gaye Park continues to be an open-air drug market.
4. Very little to no traffic enforcement.
5. Police have a negative attitude and perspective of the community.

Potential Solutions

1. Renew funding for Drug Treatment and Ex-Offender re-entry programs.
2. Hire and retain police officers from within the community, encourage and incentivize their ability to live where they serve (i.e., officer next door).
3. Community policing would help reduce crime.

Budget Priorities

1. Community Policing
2. Training for existing police force serving in 6D
3. Request for more resources (human capital)

Related Hearings

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
Chairperson Kenyan McDuffie

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015: COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Office of Police Complaints
	Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
	Sentencing and Criminal Code Revision Commission

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Katherine Mitchell, kmitchell@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-8275.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
Chairperson Kenyan McDuffie

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015: Room 412	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Fire and Emergency Medical Services
	Office of Unified Communications
	Office of Human Rights
	Department of Corrections
	Office of Returning Citizen Affairs
	Corrections Information Council

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Katherine Mitchell, kmitchell@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-8275.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
Chairperson Kenyan McDuffie

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015: Room 120	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	Board of Ethics and Government Accountability
	Office of Victim Services
	Justice Grants Administration

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Katherine Mitchell, kmitchell@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-8275.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
Chairperson Kenyan McDuffie

MONDAY, MAY 4, 2015: COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
11:00 a.m. - End	Department of Forensic Sciences
	Metropolitan Police Department
	Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
	Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
	District of Columbia National Guard

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Katherine Mitchell, kmitchell@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-727-8275.

Transportation Working Group

Issues Raised

Strengths

1. Four metro stations - Stadium Armory, Benning Road, Minnesota Ave, Deanwood.
2. Unleveraged strength - Ward 7 has second highest bus ridership in WMATA (Ward 1 is #1) - We should always be the last to be cut.
3. Vision Zero - Pedestrian plan that the Mayor is introducing to plan with pedestrian in mind.
4. Black Woman Bike
5. ANC commissioners and Eastland Gardens association are meeting around some transportation issues.

Challenges

1. Pedestrian safety issue
    a. East Cap/Benn (Shrimp Boat) & Minn/Benn pedestrian intersections - top 14 most dangerous intersections in the city.
    b. Eastern Ave. & 295 - people
    c. Service road on Kenilworth is a big pedestrian issue particularly with students having to cross to go to school since Kenilworth elementary is closed and few people have cars.
    d. Crossing guard training.
2. Communication with DDOT/WMATA (re: bridge use; bus route changes/elimination).
3. Traffic management and enforcement issues in Eastland Gardens/Parkside/Kenilworth area.
4. Bus access

a. M-2 was cut
b. 34 is on the chopping block to be completely gone

5. Safe Routes to School Program - no Ward 7 schools involved. Important to have champions: school staff, parents, and community leaders.

Potential Solutions

1. Ward 7 Resident transportation group designed to share common transportation issues and voice them to appropriate transportation/government officials.
2. This group could also serve to prepare residents to be members of different councils that need Ward 7 representation (pedestrian council, WMATA council, bike council, etc.).
3. Communicate with Ward 7 education council to share pedestrian/ transportation concerns and solutions.
4. Build stronger working relationships between Ward 7 transportation planners/ engineers in DC government and WMATA.

Budget Priorities

1. Education around pedestrian safety (Vision Zero).
2. Mitigating traffic back-ups into residential neighborhoods (MPD/DDOT).
3. Assessment and audits of safe access to neighborhoods around major intersections (i.e., East Cap/Benn; Kenilworth/Nannie Helen Burroughs; Minn/Benn).
4. Transparent communication with residents from DDOT, WMATA, MPD, etc.
5. Transportation champions in the schools and communities.

Related Hearings

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND THE ENVIRONMENT
Chairperson Mary Cheh

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015; Room 412	
Time	Agency
1:00 p.m. – End	District Department of Transportation

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Aukima Benjamin, abenjamin@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8062.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
Chairperson Mary Cheh

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2015; Room 412	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	DC Taxicab Commission

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Aukima Benjamin, abenjamin@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8062.

Arts, Culture and the Environment Working Group

Issues Raised

1. Majority of arts funding tended to be awarded to programs and initiatives West of the River.

2. Improve green spaces in the neighborhoods.
3. Fort DuPont only produced two concerts last summer a reduction from previous years.
4. Lack of robust arts programming in schools.
5. Lack of an Arts Center/Hub.

Potential Solutions

1. Fund Art in the community as a driver of economic growth.
2. More Ward 7 Residents needed to review grant funding proposals.
3. Creation of an Arts Hub in Ward 7.
4. Increase artistic productions that uses the existing outdoor environment (i.e., festivals).
5. Increase Arts & Environmental funding to enhance rich cultural heritage and beautify park assets across the Ward.

Budget Priorities

1. Request funding for the study and development of an Arts Hub in Ward 7.
2. Increase funding with respect to needs relating to the arts and the environment.

Related Hearings

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & REVENUE
Chairperson Jack Evans

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015; COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	Washington Convention & Sports Authority (EventsDC)
	Destination DC
	Real Property Tax Appeals Commission
	DC Lottery
	Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Sarina Loy, sloy@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8058.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
Chairperson Mary Cheh

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015; COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. - End	Department of General Services

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Aukima Benjamin, abenjamin@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8062.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE & REVENUE
Chairperson Jack Evans

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2015; Room 412	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	Commission on the Arts and Humanities
	Office of Inspector General
	Office of Partnerships and Grant Services
	Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Sarina Loy, sloy@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8058.

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
Chairperson Mary Cheh

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2015: COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
11:00 a.m. - End	District Department of the Environment
	Department of Parks and Recreation

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Aukima Benjamin, abenjamin@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8062.

Infrastructure Working Group

Issues Raised

1. Limited Connectivity cellular and internet.
2. Pollution affecting solid waste management and storm water drains.
3. Roads/Bridges
4. Lighting

Potential Solutions

1. Google Fiber project
2. Make improvements to corridors in need of slowing traffic and enhancing pedestrian safety.
3. Ensure infrastructure is updated to support increased usage as a result of housing and development projects.
4. Improve access in and out of Ward 7 chokepoints (i.e., 295 @ Penn Ave, 295 @ Nannie Helen Burroughs, 295/New York Ave. Interchange).

Budget Priorities

1. Request funding for the study and implementation of improving infrastructure at major chokepoints
2. Request funding for the study and implementation of corridor enhancements.
3. Request that planning and transportation staff examines how best to make sure the infrastructure can continue to serve the community as it experiences growth.

Related Hearings

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
Chairperson Mary Cheh

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015: Room 123	
Time	Agency
11:00 a.m.	Department of Motor Vehicles
	Department of Public Works

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Aukima Benjamin, abenjamin@dccouncil.us or by calling or by calling 202-724-8062.

Public Education Working Group

Issues Raised

1. Safety – In and out of school (Coordinated Safe Passages Programs).
2. Quality of life issues – effect on pupil's academic performance (Sousa and Miller Middle Schools).
3. Curriculum – implementing a comprehensive STEM curriculum at HD Woodson High.
4. Curriculum – implementing a comprehensive STEM curriculum at HD Woodson Feeder (Middle/Elem).
5. Better Extra-Curricular Activities for Middle and High School students.
6. Sustainability of Enrollment Numbers for HD Woodson High given "Boundary Adjustments" for Miller students.
7. Fund, develop and implement a Comprehensive Public Education Plan for Ward 7 that includes both Traditional and Chartered Public Schools.
8. This community is educationally unstable because on the one hand, officials have closed down Traditional Public Schools in Ward 7....for under-enrollment.....then on the other hand, the PCSB is continually approving and opening new unproven Charter Schools within the same Ward 7 neighborhoods.
9. Lack of clarity on status of new "Males of Color" Programming and Implementation.
10. Lack of clarity on status of the funded Ward 7 Application Middle School.

Potential Solutions

1. Public accountability regarding funding for "at risk" students so that dollars continue to follow students.
2. Better coordination between DPR, DCPS, MPD, and other DC Youth serving entities for implementing early intervention programs.
3. Increase visibility and improved access to the Ombudsman's Office and other funded OSSE/DCPS parental engagement resources.
4. More professional support resources AND accountability for administrators and teachers within Ward 7 schools.
5. Offer incentives for businesses in the community to support partnerships with schools.
6. A Moratorium on Opening Any New Charter Schools within Ward 7 OR Closing any more Traditional Public Schools until such time that a Comprehensive Educational Needs Assessment has been fully funded and accomplished.

Budget Priorities

1. Facility Modernization of Kimball, Aiton, Smothers and Houston.
2. Funding for a Comprehensive Ward 7 Academic/Educational Needs Assessment and Plan.

Related Hearings

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Chairman Phil Mendelson

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015: Room 412	
Time	Agency
2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	University of the District of Columbia

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Chairperson David Grosso

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2015: COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
1:00 p.m. – End	Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education
	District of Columbia Public Library System

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Christina Henderson, chenderson@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8061

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Chairperson David Grosso

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2015: Room 412	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	Public Charter School Board
	Bullying Prevention Taskforce
	Healthy Youth and Schools Commission

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Christina Henderson, chenderson@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8061

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Chairperson David Grosso

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2015: Room 412	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	District of Columbia Public Schools (Public Witnesses Only)

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Christina Henderson, chenderson@dccouncil.us or by calling 724-8061.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Chairperson David Grosso

THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 2015: COUNCIL CHAMBER (Room 500)	
Time	Agency
10:00 a.m. – End	Office of State Superintendent of Education
	State Board of Education

Persons wishing to testify about the performance of any of the foregoing agencies may contact: Christina Henderson, chenderson@dccouncil.us or by calling 202-724-8061.

Strategy and Organizing Working Group

Issues Raised

1. How to efficiently organize and mobilize Ward 7 Residents into functioning "Testimony Teams."
2. These "Testimony Teams" will need to recruit Ward 7 Neighbors who are willing to donate a specific day(s) or a few hours of their time to appear as part of a specific Ward 7 Panel.

3. Each team will need Ward 7 Residents who have Research, Writing, Testimony Experience, and Public Speaking Skill Sets.
4. Ideally, Ward 7 should have a Testimony Panel ready to present at each of the 33 scheduled Public Hearings.
5. Ideally, Working Groups should do their very best to develop a consensus set of "Ward 7 Budget Priorities" then craft Specific Talking Points and Written Testimony for formal submissions.

Potential Solutions

So here's a quick example of how we should break things down:

Step 1: Each Working Group should review the Public Hearings schedules related to their subject area.

i.e., Housing Working Group should look at: Committee on Housing and Community Development which will hold 3 Public Hearings

Step 2: Each Working Group should able to determine when its Team will be called into action; How many people are needed; Who can Research agency info via Council website;
Who can analyze exactly how these agencies plan on spending and where....then determine what should be added for Ward 7, if our needs are not adequately addressed...

Next Steps

The Ward 7 community will convene working groups to take action on the issues and implement solutions identified during Summit I and Summit II.

Testimony of Rose Shaw
DC Housing and Community Development
Chairman Bonds
April 20, 2015

My name is Rose Shaw and I am a recovering addict, with 35 years of addiction. I am 58 years old and I started my recovery at 55. I currently stay at SOME's Anna Cooper program. My road to recovery began at Community Connections where a case manager helped me access programs that would help me. I have been clean for two and half years. Prior to my current housing I lived at N Street Village for two years, which was my salvation. They provided classes for me on relapse prevention and self-esteem which I needed. Upon graduation, SOME got me a SRO.

I am doing great now and I have been here a year or two. I thank God for the room I have over my head and a place to sleep, because I have been on the housing list since 2003. I ask them what is going on and they tell me that I am still active on the list and that's it. So I am just waiting. The programs like the ones I have been involved in need to continue to exist. People like me and younger people need to get access to these services sooner. It was truly the blessing of my life for these programs to help me get clean, especially since I am a mother, a grandmother, and a great-grandmother. Please ensure that there is funding for affordable housing like at N street and SOME. We also need more funding for vouchers so people can get off the waiting list.

Thank you for listening.

Loretta Jones Testimony
Department of Housing and Community Development
Chairman Bonds
April 20, 2015

My name is Loretta Jones and I currently stay at SOME's Griffin House program in ward 8. I first entered into SOME's Thea Bowman in 2012. Affordable housing programs are very important for people who are not able to pay market rent in DC. If this program did not exist I do not know where my family and I would be. I know I cannot afford a market rate apartment at this current moment. There are a lot of people who cannot afford market rent. Some people have jobs but are also single parents and cannot work two to three jobs and also taking care of their children. There also a lot of people who are homeless without children who are struggling in DC.

The fact that homelessness has increased shows there needs to be many different solutions offered to people. First and foremost there needs to be more affordable housing. Their also needs to be more job training and more jobs that are catering to helping people who are homeless to ensure people can increase their income. People also need help navigating the system. There are so many different programs and support for people but there are a lot of people who do not know programs exist. There needs to be support to help people understand how to navigate the system. I have been trying to help my sister navigate the system. Having to go to many different places and try to get on waiting list and in programs is very difficult when you don't know all the program and services offered.

Lastly, I really want to start looking for a house to own. I am not sure of the process or how to get help. I know that programs like HPAP out there but it can't serve everyone it needs to. People also need to understand how to get access to programs like this to help their family move on to the next step. The city should make sure people understand how to begin the process of getting help through HPAP and other programs so people can get the services they need. Councilmember Bonds, I am asking you to ensure there is funding for affordable housing. We need programs like SOME, but we also need funding for HPAP so people can take the next step. Thank You.

Council of the District of Columbia

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)

Oversight Hearing Fiscal Year 2015

Chair of the DHCD Oversight Hearing:

The Honorable Anita Bonds:

Good afternoon Councilmember Bonds, my name is Thomas Dawes and I am the Business Development Director at the Development Corporation of Columbia Heights (DCCH). Thank you for the opportunity to present to the Committee at DHCD, FY2015 Oversight Hearing.

The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA) program is very critical to aspiring and established small businesses throughout the City. The program has provided resources to DCCH to help those who wanted to open a small business, educational opportunities, and technical resources not available free to the public. The research, marketing assistance, loan packaging, business development trainings, business plan assistance, and micro lending etc. have proven invaluable to entrepreneurs here in the District of Columbia.

As a community partner, DCCH has provided assistance to businesses for over twenty years and received several SBTA grant awards. As a result of these funds, DCCH has assisted over 400 small businesses and entrepreneurs in the Columbia Heights community. The support for SBTA is crucial because of job creation and the amount of revenue generated through retail sales tax. DCCH has a long history of success in providing business development and technical assistance to small businesses throughout the City. DCCH continues to provide assistance to small businesses on the 14th Street NW, 11th Street NW and the Lower Georgia Avenue Business Corridor. The small business and technical support have proven effective and are most needed during these economic times. Today's residents are demanding and they not only want established businesses with community services retail but also to live in a safe, clean and desirable neighborhood. Without the proper DHCD support to create economic development opportunities, the City will continue to lose tax revenue to neighboring economies.

In conclusion, the non-profit neighborhood based organizations and small businesses are critical to reviving the local economy. Without the continued support to create economic development opportunities, small businesses will lose out and the City will continue to lose tax revenue.

Thank you.

Testimony from
DC Facades LLC, CBE LSZR42703022015
Tom Litke LLC, CBE LSZR79100012015
to
DC Council Committee on Housing & Community Development
Councilmember Anita Bonds, Chair
Budget Oversight Hearing FY 2016
Monday, April 20, 2015 at 10:00 AM
Wilson Building

Dear Chairwoman Bonds, Councilmembers Nadeau, Orange and Silverman,

My name is Sarah Steel and I have provided Small Business Technical Assistance in the District of Columbia for more than a decade. I work with Tom Litke in two Certified Business Enterprises here in the District, and we've served more than 100 small businesses in Adams Morgan, Barracks Row, Brookland, H Street, Mount Pleasant, Rhode Island Avenue and Shaw neighborhoods. Clients have included dozens of bars and restaurants, half a dozen fitness centers, bakeries, barbershops and salons and retail stores. Tom was unable to join me today, but we wanted to share a few of our observations.

I am testifying today to let you know that while we have been able to touch many small businesses, we find ourselves frustrated in that we are often only scratching the surface of their challenges. Mostly for budgetary reasons, the average SBTA client receives only five hours of assistance—which is totally inadequate to truly help a business. To give you an idea, in five hours a TA Provider is usually able to meet with the client, listen to their needs, develop a preliminary assessment report and provide a few recommendations- nothing more. It is the equivalent of a nurse visiting a patient, finding out what hurts, taking their pulse, marking their chart... that's about it. There is no time for the doctor to visit or provide an analysis of the situation—and there is certainly no time for the doctor to improve the health of the patient. A handful of hours makes it nearly impossible to make an impact, and it just raises the expectations of the business owners. The business owners eagerly await a visit, but the funding is not available to provide assistance that will truly help.

Most of the support provided comes through Main Street programs and CDCs with staff of 2 or 3 persons. They receive grant awards with hopeful outcomes of new businesses, increased sales and newly created jobs. But let's be honest—we're not going to make a large enough impact to create any new jobs in five hours.

The Programs we serve are in high demand, so we are not promoting that we reach out to fewer clients. Rather, we are encouraging SBTA awards to provide for an average of 12 and 15 hours per client. We understand that not every client needs this amount of time, but we can tell you that the larger the client's staff, the more hours client will require. And it's the larger clients that increase sales and create jobs. This is supported through Tom Litke's research where he provided an analysis of hours' demanded in relation to business size. The research demonstrated that larger businesses do not use one-time training sessions–they look for support in removing barriers to growth—these are often regulations that punish smaller businesses and can be cost-prohibitive as no one is fighting for them in their corner. We have often helped them with permitting, licensing and other regulatory issues and I can tell you it takes more than a few hours to make any headway.

The overall Small Business Technical Assistance funding from DHCD has hovered near the same amount for a number of years. However, that number was not based on any research that measured impact. But now we have developed a more accurate representation- it responds to client needs based on a company's size, the in-house capacity of local organizations, regulatory fees and the costs of TA providers. In summary, our research concludes that the average TA client should receive 2 to 3 times the number of hours they're currently allotted to generate impact.

Please increase the SBTA budget proportionately to help these businesses increase sales and hire more employees. At that point will we see a measurable difference in small business sales and job creation and better neighborhoods.

We appreciate this opportunity to share our findings and look forward to an improved working environment that supports small businesses and our communities.

This concludes my testimony.

Signed,

Sarah Steel

Thomas Litke, Principal
DC Facades LLC, CBE LSZR42703022015
Tom Litke LLC, CBE LSZR79100012015

greaterwashington
hispanic chamber of commerce foundation

TESTIMONY BY GREATER WASHINGTON HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FDTN. FOR DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2016
April 20, 2015 10:00 AM, Rm 500

My name is Gabriela Mossi and I am the Director of Program and Resource Development for the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation (GWHCCF). On behalf of our team, I would like to thank the DC Council giving the Chamber Foundation the opportunity to talk about the important programs the Neighborhood-based Grants make possible and the funding needs for fiscal year 2016. .

We are encouraged to see that the FY16 budget includes funding for neighborhood based activities. We would like to be sure that $4.5 million is committed to assisting micro and small businesses. Below are some highlights of what GWHCCF, a recipient of a DHCD grant, can accomplish in a year with a NBA Grant of $140k. However, it is important to note that the assistance which provides the most impact, i.e. making sure a business remains in operation, grows and employs more local residents, is the one-on-one counseling. This assistance is labor-intensive and time consuming, and thus more expensive. All technical assistance providers need these funds to make these investments in committed clients.

The Chamber Foundation has had the opportunity to strengthen its Small Business Technical Assistance Program with a focus on Ward 5 because it has dedicated funding and time to its emerging corridors and minority-owned enterprises. Funds allowed us to do outreach events, provide seminars, offer networking opportunities, capacity-building, client referrals, and, most importantly, dedicate counselors to individualized technical assistance. We urge the Committee to support this budget ask for Small Business Technical Assistance (SBTA) to help our neighborhood entrepreneurs compete and thrive.

The following paragraphs highlight some of GWHCCF's SBTA activities. During the year, the Chamber Foundation engaged approximately 423 businesses and entrepreneurs through its educational activities which included seminars, webinars, workshops and Business Expo. In addition, we conducted capacity-building to a local organization to improve its engagement and provision of neighborhood and commercial revitalization. We provided one educational seminar, workshop, webinar and/or networking event per month, three small business matchmaking events per year, plus the business expo, as well as updated the online directory www.Ward5DCOnline.com which includes over 650 entries, neighborhood information, and special feature options for businesses.

The educational seminars we provide include a variety of essential business topics from marketing through social media and access to capital, CBE and Federal certification to tax preparation. The networking and business matchmaking activities are designed to connect small business owners with the District's largest employers and contractors, as well as residents (potential customers).

Another activity we undertook last fiscal year in partnership with the office of the Deputy Mayor was to conduct outreach and directly assist small business owners eligible for the Great Streets Capital Improvement Grant. This funding opportunity was directed to small businesses that need to make capital improvements to their buildings but required that owners apply directly. GWHCCF assisted four owners with the drafting and final submission of their proposals to DMPED, and four were awarded grants.

DHCD funding allows us to provided individualized technical assistance to a wide range of small enterprises from a specialty retailer in Woodridge, to a salon in Edgewood, to a staffing agency in lower Brookland, and an IT firm on North Capitol. This assistance created 26 reported new jobs and generated approximately $550k in contracts and grants. This type of assistance for Ward 5 businesses has been scarce but sorely needed. Historically it's been underfunded even though large development projects are underway that will affect small business. Many small businesses are not prepared for these changes so we are glad to see city funding and DHCD's commitment to these corridors.

The Chamber would also like to thank the Mayor and DHCD for a budget that reflects a comprehensive view in community development, i.e. neighborhood revitalization that includes housing *and* commercial revitalization components. Now DC Council support make it possible for organizations and service providers to be active participants in the strengthening of DC neighborhood commercial districts.

Gabriela Mossi
Director of Program and Resource Development
Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Foundation

202.728.0352

LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Stable Housing. Thriving Businesses. Strong Communities.

www.ledcmetro.org
@ledcmetro

April 20, 2015

Marla Bilonick, *Executive Director*
Latino Economic Development Center-LEDC
641 S St NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: DHCD Oversight Hearing

Chairperson Anita Bonds

Good day, Chairperson Bonds and members of the Council. My name is Marla Bilonick and I am the Executive Director of the Latino Economic Development Center. At LEDC, we help people buy and stay in their homes, join with neighbors to keep their rental housing affordable, and start or expand small businesses. **I am grateful for this opportunity to testify and urge that the Council to continue providing solid support for the Department for Housing and Community Development (DHCD) in the FY16 budget.**

LEDC believes in the power that knowledge and capital have to transform the lives of DC entrepreneurs, residents, their families, and their communities.

We recognize that the support of small business implies economic empowerment and job creation for DC residents. Entrepreneurship generates self-employment as well as new jobs for unemployed job-seekers. **Given our perspective into the impact that entrepreneurial support can have on this City, we ask for a designation of $3 million for the citywide Small Business Technical Assistance activities under DHCD.**

LEDC is also a committed proponent of Housing initiatives that empower residents to invest in communities in the District through home purchase, leveraging DC's HPAP program. In addition, we are active in tenant organizing activities that unify tenants in DC buildings to advocate for the preservation of their affordable housing as well as their overall rights as tenants. **This aspect of our work drives our request to uphold the $100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund that the Mayor included in her FY16 budget. In addition, we seek that the Council demonstrate their commitment to expanding DC homeownership via an investment of $12.7 million in HPAP as well as an increase of the maximum HPAP loan amount to $80,000---in alignment with rising costs of housing in the city. We are also seeking support of a $4.1 million increase for the Local Rent Supplement (LRSP) which serves extremely low income individuals and families like many of the tenants we work.**

We are so grateful to have the backing of our longstanding partner, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to support DC entrepreneurs and residents with bilingual training, technical assistance, and financing. Your continued support of DHCD's housing and small business activities will empower LEDC to continue to generate meaningful results in the communities we serve. Our funding from DHCD sponsors work with our primarily Latino clients in Wards 1 and 4, but we have leveraged that funding to serve residents Citywide.

LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Stable Housing. Thriving Businesses. Strong Communities.

www.ledcmetro.org
@ledcmetro

As a result of DHCD's support of small business technical assistance and housing initiatives in Fiscal Year 2014, LEDC was able to generate the following results:

- Provided homeownership counseling to 186 potential applicants
- Submitted 76 HPAP applications
- 29 families purchased a homes
- 440 clients received money-credit counseling or training (178 received counseling and 262 participated in a workshop)
- 120 clients received eviction counseling
- Educated tenants in 84 buildings, which are home to more than 2913 units of affordable housing
- Provided TA to 31 buildings for the First Right Purchase Program
- Conducted 29 small business training workshops
- Trained 226 entrepreneurs in said workshops
- Provided 170 entrepreneurs with one-on-one technical assistance
- Provided a total of 634.2 hours of technical assistance to said entrepreneurs
- Served a total of 396 entrepreneurs with small business training and technical assistance services
- Provided 23 DC small business loans for a total of $318,421 and average loan size of $13,844

We value DHCD as a trusted and longstanding partner. With their support, we are exceeding our FY2014 performance in FY2015. It is exciting to see Polly Donaldson leading the agency as she has also been a great partner to LEDC and many other DC nonprofits operating in the housing and small business support fields. We are very confident in her leadership and ability to drive DHCD operations with the budget recommendations enclosed herein.

We want DC small businesses and residents to succeed. With the investments into DHCD's housing and SBTA activities outlined in my testimony; we and our counterpart nonprofit organizations will be able to significantly exceed our 2014 and 2015 results.

DC: 641 S Street NW Washington, DC 20001 | (202) 588-5102
MD: 11002 Viers Mill Road, Suite 503 Wheaton, MD 20902 | 1-866-977-LEDC
3323 Eastern Avenue, Suite 200. Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Housing Committee Oversight Hearing
Councilmember Anita Bonds
John Wilson Building - April 20, 2014
Testimony of Candice Daniel, Ward 2 resident and renter

Good Morning. My name is Candice Daniel, and I live in Ward 2 and I am preparing to become a District homeowner.

I would like to thank Councilmember Bonds for chairing the housing committee and her commitment to more equitable housing across the District. I also want to thank the council for their commitment to homeownership and programs that made it affordable for people like myself to purchase in the District and would like the council to continue prioritizing programs like HPAP that allow renters like myself and my family be able to own, stay and grow in the District.

My family and I have been living in the district for the past **fifteen (15)** years. In the past **five (5) to six (6)** years, we have resided in public housing. The living conditions at the unit are very sub-standard. Attempts to relocate because of the chronic rodent infestation have been met with humiliation and frustration. My mother and sister are asthmatic sufferers, their medical conditions have been exacerbated because of our present dehumanizing living conditions.

In the face of this adversity, we saw a glimmer of hope in such organizations as Manna. I joined the Manna Homebuyers Club in November 2013, and am working to prepare for ownership alongside almost 300 households. The sessions have taught me a lot, especially about my finances and credit. It definitely has made me thriftier. I am actively doing my part by contributing to a savings account and also joined a matched savings program.

Organizations such as Manna and government home ownership loans such as HPAP and the Housing Production Trust Fund, are the lifeline to families like mine. We want better for ourselves and are striving to get there. However, with all our best efforts and education, we cannot realistically get there without help. The rising cost of homes within the District is making the "American Dream " unattainable. Therefore, government loan programs such as HPAP are lifelines to the working class population. It is our way out, from a "system" that seems to be shutting the door on the working class – to get out of the "hard knock life" and establish a future for ourselves and that of our children.

We do our part, saving, managing our credit, paying back our HPAP loans, paying taxes, and supporting the city we love. We ask that not only the administration of the program be addressed so that more families can benefit from the allocated funds effectively, but that the maximum loan amount is increased to $80,000.We also ask that the council not cut funding to the program by 2.5 million, it is already a tremendous struggle for middle to lower income individuals to participate in this market. Every day the District is getting more and more expensive. If we do not raise the individual loan amount lower income qualified borrowers won't stand a chance in the open market, an open market that is increasing in value due to the efforts of all District residents. Please prioritize homeownership in your next budget. Homeowners are the glue that keeps the District together, strengthening the communities and building the neighborhoods. Please help ensure that the District remains a city for all.

Testimony of Dawn Mosby, Branch Manager, Annie MacHome Mortgage
Budget Hearing for DC Department of Housing and Community Development
April 20, 2015
Committee on Housing and Community Development

Good morning, Chairwoman Bonds and Committee members. My name is Dawn Mosby. I grew up in Washington,DC, am a product of the public system, and have been a lender in DC for 27 years.Most of my business is first-time homebuyers and I provide first trust mortgages for many HPAP buyers. I am a huge supporter of this program because of what I know it has done for so many hardworking DC residents. Please do not allow the program to be cut; what HPAP needs is more funding, higher loan amounts, and administrative fixes.

I remember what DC was like when I was growing up. There was a time when H Street was on fire, when there were no supermarkets in Columbia Heights, when Trinidad and Ivy City were open air drug markets, and by the 1980s the city lost a quarter of its population. There are other DC residents like me who remember the hard times, who stayed, took local jobs, paid their taxes and continued to raise their families. Today, most of these residents can't afford the neighborhoods I have mentioned and cash investors are buying and flipping homes for profit.

Just to give you an idea of who the HPAP program and my lending practice serves: I lend to mostly single moms, three of whom came out of the St Elizabeth's shelter with families. I had a buyer who was wrongfully convicted of a crime and spent 25 years in jail that was able to purchase. I put a 70 year woman in a home, and her comment on the experience was "that it was better than giving birth." I am slowly seeing the demographics of the HPAP buyer change to more single-person households with higher education and higher incomes - I believe the program can also continue to serve families and those with less income.

Cuts in the HPAP budget mean that less DC residents and lower paid DC workers are going to be able to stay in DC. I am talking about the city sanitation workers,bus drivers, people who monitor the parking meters, police officers - these people are the pulse of making sure this city functions. They have been loyal and long-time residents and without HPAP they won't have the benefit of owning a home. The number of folks moving into the city and competing for homes has increased drastically. My last 2 contracts started at $230,000 and went up to $245,000 with absolutely no closing cost help from the seller. HPAP needs to meet this challenge and others.

I have 29 clients sitting in limbo trying to find a house they can afford. The home price point of $200,000 is now $240,0000,while the HPAP loan amount has not increased. And then there is the slower HPAP settlement process.HPAP buyers making an offer on a home are already at a disadvantage because the seller has so many inspection hoops to jump through. I keep seeing non-HPAP buyers win over HPAP buyers. And it's difficult to get a seller in NW or NE to accept an HPAP contract. Essentially, if you use HPAP, you are pushed across the Anacostia River.

It does not have to be like this. There are easy fixes to streamline the program, some of which I've attached to this testimony. HPAP loan amounts can be raised to $80,000, increasing the number of homes that DC residents can afford to purchase. The program could also capture more homebuyers by having more realistic housing-to-debt guidelines for the 203K rehab loan product. Let's allow our DC residents to build equity in a home instead of turning the property over to an investor for profit.

As you can tell, I'm passionate about this program and I think the DC government should be as well. Please support this program!

Housing Committee Oversight Hearing

Councilmember Anita Bonds

John Wilson Building - April 20, 2014

Testimony of Darrin Davis, Principal, Owner, and Broker at Anacostia River Realty

Good Morning. My name is Darrin Davis, and I am the principle, broker/ owner, ~~and broker~~ at Anacostia River Realty, a realtor specializing in neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River.

I would like to thank all of the Councilmembers on the housing committee for your strong commitment to equitable housing across the District. I also want to thank the council for their commitment to affordable housing and more specifically homeownership and the programs that support affordable housing across the city.

As a practitioner I work first hand with the programs and the individuals that use them, and from my experience the District is leading the way in supporting its residents, but based on the size of the conundrum the city is in, we need to do more. Restoring the $2.5 million cut alone would allow HPAP to serve at least 190 families with needed increased loan amounts, which would be 18 more loans than with the adjusted funding amount. That's 18 more families finding increased housing

stability. It's also possibly 18 more opportunities for other families, because those families using the HPAP program are moving along the continuum, leaving dependency behind, providing more resources for other at-risk District residents.

Homeownership and the organizations in the District that support empowerment and economic mobility are the glue that holds the District together. These families want better for themselves and are striving to get there, but without the support from District programs it is very difficult for them to succeed. We cannot realistically expect the District to remain an inclusive city for all, if we continue to dismantle the tools used to help keep it that way. The rising cost of homes within the District is making the "American Dream "unobtainable. Therefore, government loan programs such as HPAP are lifelines to the working class population. Scaling back and reducing the funding for supportive programs like HPAP seem to be shutting the door on the working class – reducing opportunities at economic mobility.

As a practitioner we do our part, working with qualified borrowers, connecting them with city programs, and empowering individuals to make their communities better places. We ask that not only the administration of the program be addressed so that more families can benefit from the allocated funds effectively, but that the maximum loan amount

is increased to $80,000. As home prices continue to rise in the district, if the maximum loan amount is not increased, funds will continue to lay idle because possible homeowners won't be able to participate in the market. We also ask that the council not cut funding to the program by 2.5 million, it is already a tremendous struggle for middle to lower income individuals to participate in this market. As a realtor I can tell you that the District is only going more and more expensive. HPAP is one of the primary programs that truly changes District communities for the better. It provides families with wealth building opportunities they otherwise might not have, while providing stability and a sense of community. We ask that you strengthen HPAP and make it more efficient for a better District, not weaken it. Thank you!

April 17, 2015

I am testifying on behalf of MANNA Inc. today to address the need for more affordable housing options to be awarded to low income, DC residents living in the District of Columbia. DC residents really need the opportunity to be able to purchase an affordable house.

Consequently, the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) is in dire need of a 3.5 million dollar increase. HPAP supports the need to have quality and safe housing here in the District of Columbia which may not always occur otherwise. Quality and safe affordable housing should always be considered first which HPAP assures this actually happens.

In addition programs such as E*Trade, Capitol Area Asset Builders (CAAB), the Trust Production Fund programs funding should be increased and/or installed again so future DC resident homeowners may have access to funding available to assist in the purchasing a house process. DC Open Doors programs credit scores may need to be re-evaluated so low-income DC potential homeowners may be able to purchase an affordable house if available in the District of Columbia. Some of these credit scores require a 640 and above making it very restrictive to purchase a home in the District of Columbia. If these scores are not reconsidered then financial institutions should petition to be more supportive with other financial assistance options (e.g. loans, investments, supplemental ventures etc.).

Furthermore, other housing options should be considered such as starting a housing purchase to work program which offers low income, DC residents the opportunity to work on a community service project and/or public service environment gaining credits towards purchasing a house despite the program they may qualify for.

Direct outreach to credit unions and banks should be revisited and re-established possibly to either lower interest rates and/or lower time invested to payoff loan to low-income potential DC resident homeowners and/or find a way to decrease excessive compound interest accrued after purchasing and paying off the loan.

Affordable housing models of agreements should be established to better support communications between the city, low-income DC residents, developers and the housing community to establish better affordable housing options supporting low income residents more and better. Developers should be sensitive, willing and able to support affordable housing options which may include less income restrictions and quality affordable housing built with better grade materials.

Business vs housing zones should be reviewed and examined closer so families have the opportunity to purchase an affordable house in all wards unless that family is living in the home where they work.

Again this is only a small outline of the many affordable housing options and models most needed in order to give DC low-income residents the chance of a life time opportunity to purchase an affordable house here in the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

Niccola Reed, BS, MS

Testimony of Sacsheen Scott
Budget Oversight Hearing on
Department of Housing and Community Development
John A. Wilson Building
April 20, 2015

Good morning/ afternoon Council members,

Thank you for Chairman Bonds and other members of the committee for allowing me to testify today. My name is Sacsheen Scott and I am a part of the Housing for All Campaign as well as an affordable housing resident of the Northwest One New Communities Initiative investment.

Prior to living here, I lived in Southern Maryland where I had an hour-long commute to and from District of Columbia. Most of my income went towards my transportation. On average I spent close to $300 dollars a month on my commute. My family once resided in the District, but due to financial difficulties, they were forced to move to rural southern, MD. Desperate for better housing options I created excel sheets of various affordable apartment options within the District. Many of those options were filled and often had year-long waiting lists. Other rental options without any rental subsidy would require me to pay more than 70% percent of my income. With the funding opportunity under Department of Housing and Community Development as well as others for my the apartment I reside in, I am able live in DC with reasonably priced rent and cut my commute down significantly to only 15 minutes.

I am here to urge you to honor the budget request of preserving $ 100 million dollars into the Housing Production Trust Fund. This fund is very important in providing affordable housing for tenants in the city such as myself. With many DC residents barely able to afford rental prices otherwise[1], the Housing Production Trust fund can build and preserve affordable housing for low-income DC residents such as myself, instead of otherwise forcing them to reside in areas outside of the city.

Affordable and decent housing is a human right and no one should be faced with the dilemma of being one pay check away from being homeless or paying most of their income in transportation because they live considerably farther from where they work. This affordable housing opportunity gave me a chance to enjoy the fruits of my labor, live closer to where I work and to take pride in where I live. I am able to live a little more comfortably now that I have cut my transportation costs in half and no longer have to worry about getting up very early in the morning just to make it to work on time. Cost reduction of transportation is just one of the many advantages of investing in a fund that will support and encourage the development and rehabilitation of affordable housing.

It is important to me that everyone has this opportunity to live closer to where they work and longtime DC residents continue to live and enjoy the new developments of DC, and are not left out of affordable housing considerations. $100 million dollars into the Housing Production Trust Fund will help so many DC residents to avoid displacement and allow them to enjoy their homes without fear of paying more than half of their paycheck towards their housing costs. With the invested money into the Housing Production Trust Fund, it will allow and array of affordable housing opportunities for the city's most vulnerable residence and continuation of affordable housing stock for all who seek it.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify.

[1] Rivers W. Going, (2015). Going Gone: How DC's Vanishing Affordable Housing is Affecting Us All. Retrieved from http://www.dcfpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Going-Going-Gone-Rent-Burden-Final-3-6-15format-v2-3-10-15.pdf

Written Testimony of Kevin Smith
Public Witness, D.C. Resident
Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 20, 2015
10:00am, Room 500

My name is Kevin Smith and I am a concerned resident and supporter of housing and reentry issues. I'm here today to share my concerns and recommendations as it relates to the Mayor's proposed reduction in funds from the Housing Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP), and limited number of units for purchase through the Inclusionary Zone Program (IZ). The HPAP provides down payment and closing assistance to first time home buyers, while the IZ program requires developers to offer a percentage of affordable housing units through inclusionary zoning ordinances are insufficient.

Before I start, I would like to express my appreciation for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today.

Over the last couple years, I've heard a lot of conversation about affordable housing. But up to this point, I've not seen much materialize in the way of available affordable units in all wards of our City. I would like to share with the committee an actual situation that continues to play out in the District for those looking to acquire home ownership. I'll keep this home seeker anonymous for now as I share their story.

Around September of last year, this person was determined eligible for a second trust under the District's HPAP. Based on their income level, it was estimated they could afford a 30-year first mortgage of $216,388.00 at 5.500%, to help finance a purchase price of up to $244,069.73. This person was also determined eligible to receive up to $10,000 in a deferred interest free loan under DHCD's Employer-Assisted Housing Program (EHAP).

This individual has also entered into the IZ program lottery about 10 months ago, about two (2) months after they had been determined eligible for HPAP assistance.

This individual obviously was very excited and proceeded to complete the Homeownership Training requirements to secure assistance from HPAP, and IZ training in order to be entered into their lottery for a chance to buy a home.

But this is where the dream began to seem unreachable. This person searched and searched but couldn't find an affordable home within their requirements or ability to pay determined by HPAP, and waited to hear from the IZ program.

Below are the main issues this perspective homebuyer faced in their search they didn't realize beforehand:

1) This individual's purchase price determined by HPAP, about $244,000, is not enough to find a decent home given the median sale price of a home in the District. The supply of low-value homes affordable to low and moderate-income households have declined sharply over the years. By contrast, the number of high valued homes – commonly defined as homes over $500,000 -- has increased rapidly. Furthermore, in 2008, the median single-family home sales price had a value of $414,000, which was more than double the median sales price of $206,000 from 1998 to 2002;

2) The housing search showed no affordable units in their price range other than a hand full in southeast, and depending on when search a few in northeast. The limitation of housing choices in the District is troubling because as choices have dwindled, prospective home buyers are forced to concentrate in a few neighborhoods; and

3) As it relates to the IZ lottery, there were a minimal number of units.

Due to these unanticipated consequences, this individual was not able to meet the loan processing deadlines set by HPAP which caused the person's eligibility to expire. They had to have purchased their home no later than April 24, 2015. This person also continues on the IZ District list lottery after almost a year without any notification of available units.

Madame Chair, this person whose story I've shared is mine. I'm a resident of the District; I love the city life and would like to purchase a home here.

I present the following recommendations to the Committee as it relates to HPAP and the IZ program.

First, HPAP:

1) According to the Mayor's proposed budget, the Intra-District funds budget includes an increase of $50,179,389 in the Development Finance division to reflect an adjustment to administrative and project delivery costs. These funds support rehabilitation and acquisition of affordable housing for rental or homeownership for non-profit and for-profit developers in the District.

I recommend decreasing the proposed administrative funds portion only for the for profit developers.

2) The Mayor's proposed Local funds budget for DHCD includes a decrease of $1,019,491 in funding from HPAP loans, (Residential Services – HPAP), property acquisition, (Property and Acquisition and Disposition division), and commercial revitalization. I don't see a decrease at all in the commercial revitalization division. Nor that the proposed decrease equals over a million dollars in reductions in those areas combined.

I recommend the Committee explore ways to restore this proposed million dollar decrease in funds back to those divisions since their focus is increasing the supply of affordable housing.

3) I would like the Committee to explore ways to increase HPAP's cap for gap financing assistance in response to, and consistent with, rising home prices. The DHCD currently caps that assistance at $50,000. I ask that the Committee conduct its own review of maximum assistance provided in relation to household incomes to determine whether these guidelines realistically meet current increases in the median sale price in the District.

I recommend increasing gap financing assistance to $100,000 to provide District residents the opportunity to be more competitive in a housing market that's seen the median sale price increase rapidly over the years.

Lastly, I recommend the Committee search for any possible transfers from other Committees, as it so frequently does, during its normal budgetary review process, in an effort to secure additional funds for HPAP.

For IZ:

1) The IZ program has fallen way short in producing Inclusionary Units for sale. According to the Inclusionary Zoning 2013 Annual Report, October, 2014, only six (6) units were produced for sale in 2013 for a program total of nine (9) as of December 31, 2013. Of the 9, two are under lawsuit, 3 were sold in 2013 and remaining 4 were sold or still in selection process. Due to such a small number of IZ for-sale units sold, DCHD hasn't been able to report median income of the buyers.

I recommend the committee charge DCHD with developing new ways to generate IZ units for sale that are affordable.

2) As I mentioned, I've been in the lottery for the IZ program as of this coming June and have yet to be randomly selected for an Inclusionary Unit for a lottery purchase.

I recommend the lottery select only those applicants for home purchase, as long as the number of units remains low, who have received loan preapprovals from a bank or lending institution.

3) Last Tuesday, April 14, Councilmember Silverman put forth a resolution, the Sense of Council in Support of Improving Inclusionary Zoning Resolution of 2015. The resolution mandates an increase in the number of affordable units for lower income households, while permitting developers to obtain any necessary zoning density bonuses, as a matter of right, to increase affordability for units overall.

I recommend immediate action on implementing the resolution's objectives with the support of any resources needed for it to achieve desired results.

In conclusion, there's no way I'd have thought I'd be here testifying for an increase in HPAP assistance based on the Mayor's support for more affordable housing in the city. In the Mayor's State of the District speech, she clearly articulated median home values topping out at "a half a million dollars", "six times the average family income". Today, we're asking the Council on our behalf to hold the Mayor accountable for doing what she said she'd do, that is, increase gap assistance for HPAP. She said that we not only have a seat at the table, it's our table. With that being the case, we insist there be an increase in HPAP comparable to the high home values across the city, and implementation of necessary changes to IZ, so residents have a better chance of realizing homeownership.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts and recommendations before the committee today. I'm open to respond to any questions you may have.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND WORK FORCE DEVELOPMENT
DHCD BUDGET HEARING
4/20/15

Good Morning Chairwoman Bonds and Committee Councilmembers

My name is Rev Jim Dickerson, founder and CEO of Manna. Manna has been producing affordable housing, community/neighborhood development, upward economic mobility opportunities through training, counseling, property management, community organizing and homeownership opportunities for lower and modest income District residents for almost 35 years. During this time we have produced well over 1,200 units of mostly homeownership housing for our own first time lower income buyers and now we are also expanding our ownership mission to include some rental housing primarily through TOPA program. We also contract with other non-profits and groups to help them develop their properties.

Recently in $160K in home equity for lower income Buyers

If I may date myself for a moment, I want you to know I have worked with EVERY Housing Dept Director since before and beginning with home rule under Mayor Washington when Mr Lorenzo Jacobs was the first Director. I have seen and I have worked with them all (my last count was 24 Directors!). I have seen and worked with some good and some not so good Directors, and I want to say I believe the current Director is a good one, perhaps one of the best. Director Donaldson knows what it's like to be in my seat right here before you at this hearing trying to get something done, advocating for resources we need and she has already demonstrated she is trying hard to make changes at DHCD for the better. I have nothing but praise for Director Donaldson this morning. She has inherited a difficult task to make the agency more efficient and effective. While there may be times when we disagree, I/we are supportive of Director Donaldson. I keep her and her staff on my prayer list and the prayer list at the monastery I attend each week for a few hours of prayer.

I also want you to know that in all my years of doing this work, in my opinion, these years are the most difficult times to do this work. And I keep coming back to the question "Why are we making it so hard?" Why, in many instances does the Government make it so hard for the very people and communities it is charged with trying to help?

A few examples:

1) We have been told recently (a week or two ago) that DHCD is going to soon require us (Manna and other NonProfits and small and minority contractors and businesses) to have to come up with a 50% construction bonding guarantee for each of our projects. That is 50% of the total cost of the job. We don't have that kind of money. If we did we would be a larger

well healed for-profit development company who does not do the kind of development we do, work with the incomes and neighborhoods we [redacted]. If this happens DHCD will put us and others out of the affordable housing construction/design business for our own projects and other non-profits like us which we are very good at.and have a 100% proven track record, not one failure. Why are we making it so hard?

2) There is a new "First Source Agreement" that is out and we are not sure what to make of it. It is very confusing. It appears to add unintended costs and complications to the structuring and execution of small and nonprofit developer transactions. Therefore, we ask that the new amendments be tabled until DHCD can sufficiently review and discuss them with smaller community based developers. Why [redacted] we making it so hard?

3) There are there are 5 layers of underwriting for low/modest income purchasers.! THAT'S CORRECT 5 just for them. The first trust lender who verifies and calculates income, assets, debt ratios and cash to close. Then the HPAP underwriter does the same thing, then the Housing Counseling agency is charged with verifying that the is income eligible and this agency also looks at assets, funds to close, ratios and assets then issues a certificate of eligibility. Then DHCD's HRA looks at funds to close, Ratios, and assets and then issues another certificate of eligibility. Next it goes to Asset Mgmt. at DHCD, where again these exact issues are re-examined! The same basic agency repeating itself over and over and making it so very difficult on the lower income buyer. Why is this necessary? Why are we making it so hard?

4) Purchaser inspections. We recently had a 1st time lower income buyer, who is a veteran and disabled purchase a wonderful house in far Northeast Deanwood area neighborhood. He had his own inspector he paid for then he had [redacted] 2 HPAP inspections! Now, since he has moved in, DCRA has cited him for living in a vacant property and is taxing him at the vacant property tax rate which is four times higher [redacted] occupied) He was living there, his car in the drive way, curtains on the windows etc. etc. Evidently DCRA is going around and putting these vacant property citations on properties that are under construction and also occupied. Do you have any idea what it takes to go through the process of getting these wrongful citations off ones property??? WHY ARE WE MAKING SO HARD FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO MOVE UP AND OUT OF LOW INCOME AND LOW WEALTH STATUS AND FOR THE GROUPS WHO ARE HELPING THEM DO IT????

5) And there is more that is making extremely hard and almost impossible to do what we do....and this is just a sample.

Thank You, Rev Jim Dickerson

Housing Committee Oversight Hearing
Councilmember Anita Bonds
John Wilson Building - April 20, 2014
Testimony of Franklin Taylor, Ward 2 resident and renter

Good Morning. My name is Franklin Taylor, and I live in Ward 1 and I am preparing to become a District homeowner.

I would like to thank Councilmember Bonds for chairing the housing committee and her commitment to more equitable housing across the District. I also want to thank the council for their commitment to homeownership and programs that made it affordable for people like myself to purchase in the District of Columbia and would like the council to continue prioritizing programs like HPAP that allow renters like myself and my family be able to own, stay and grow in the District.

I've been living in the District my whole life and for the past 10 years have been renting in Columbia Heights. I'm also very fortunate that my rent is still affordable. I've been renting my whole life, and now I'm ready to be a homeowner. Some of those reasons are the security and stability it brings and well as the wealth building opportunities.

Supportive programs like Manna's Homebuyer Club provided me the care and education to move from renting to potentially homeownership. I joined the Manna Homebuyers Club in 2012, and am on a solid path to homeownership. The financial education classes helped develop an understanding of what it truly means to be a homeowner and manage my finances that way.

Organizations such as Manna and government home ownership loans such as HPAP and the Housing Production Trust Fund, are the lifeline for the working class. With the rising cost of housing in the District the "American Dream "seems unattainable, Therefore, government loan programs such as HPAP are lifelines to the working class population. It is our way out, from a "system" that seems to be shutting the door on the working class – to get out of the "hard knock life" and establish a future for ourselves and that of our children.

I felt confident that if I did my part, saving, managing our credit, paying taxes, and supporting the city I love, I would be able to benefit from its great programs. As a District resident I ask that not only the administration of the program be addressed so that more families can benefit from the allocated funds effectively, but that the maximum loan amount is increased to $80,000. I also ask that the council not cut funding to the program by 2.5 million, it is already a tremendous struggle for middle to lower income individuals to participate in this housing market. In closing, every day the District is getting more and more expensive. If you do not raise the individual loan amount lower income qualified borrowers won't stand a chance in the open market, an open market that is increasing in value due to the efforts of all District residents. Please, prioritize homeownership in your next budget. Homeowners are the glue that keeps the District together, strengthening the communities and building the neighborhoods. Please help ensure that the District remains a city for all.

Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 20, 2015 (**Speaker #2**)

My name is John Graham. I'm an Episcopal priest and the Rector, or Pastor, of Grace Episcopal Church in Georgetown. Grace has actively engaged in ministry with and on behalf of our homeless and marginally-housed neighbors throughout its 150-year history. I am here today to speak on behalf of Good Faith Communities Coalition. As our first speaker indicated, Good Faith is a voice of District faith congregations concerned about our neighbors who are poor and marginalized. Good Faith actively supports public efforts and programs to provide temporary and permanent affordable housing for all in need. We wholeheartedly support the proposed $100 million investment in the Housing Production Trust Fund.

The human cost of homelessness and housing insecurity that the city is now experiencing is evident in low income households throughout the city. These households have felt the greatest impact from the almost 50% loss of rental units over the past 11 years. Among DC's lowest income residents 64% devote half or more of their income to housing. Anything beyond 30% of income for housing is considered a moderate to severe burden. 64% is a very severe burden and virtually not sustainable over time.

Affordable and sustainable housing is a critical foundation that stabilizes families and communities. Low-income households experiencing extreme rent burdens have little money to spend on other necessities such as transportation, food and healthcare. Jobs are more difficult to find and to get to on a regular basis. Overall health issues, both mental and physical, are more frequently left untreated. The effect of housing instability on school performance is well documented.

For individuals who are homeless the narrative might be different, but the outcome of long-term instability is the same. Frequent moves from shelter to the street with unsafe and unhealthy conditions lead to long term disability and isolation.

Housing instability has serious spiritual consequences, for those who experience it and for the city as a whole. A safe place to stay conveys the message that a person has a place in the community, something of value to contribute to our common life. Any

Housing Committee Oversight Hearing
Councilmember Anita Bonds
John Wilson Building - April 20, 2014
Testimony of Latanya Boyd, Ward 7 resident and renter

Good Morning. My name is Latanya Boyd, and I live in Ward 7. I am proud to become a District homeowner.

I would like to thank Councilmember Anita Bonds for chairing the housing committee and for her commitment to more equitable housing across the District. I would also like to thank the council for their commitment to homeownership and programs that make it possible for individuals like me as well as families to realize the "American Dream" of homeownership in the District. And hope the council would continue prioritizing programs like HPAP that allow renters like myself to be able to own, stay and grow as homeowners in the District.

I have been living in the District all my life. In 2014 I became what I categorized myself as a "traveling roommate". I could not afford my apartment and had to leave. Not being able to find an apartment I could afford, that's when I became the traveling roommate. My girlfriend allowed me to stay with her for a few month – 3 months is what it was, in Silver Spring, MD. Afterwards, my cousin let me stay with her...again about 3 months. This roommate time is in Arlington, Va. Still trying to find something in the city I could afford (and feeling a little on the depress side) after about 2 months it was time to move on, my friend in Gaithersburg, MD said I could stay with him for rest of the year (rent free) providing I could find a place by the end of the year (2014). It did not look good the closer I got to year's end.

To find an apartment in Washington, DC became frustrating and hopeless. I felt depressed. I felt defeated. If you look long into the abyss...the abyss will begin to look back at you.

In the face of this depression I did begin to see glimmer of hope in such organizations as Manna, especially when I met Willamena Samuels – director of the Homebuyers Club. I joined Manna in 2009 but I still had that "I can never afford to buy in DC" mentality so I didn't take it seriously. But Ms. Willamena saw something I just did not see...a Home Owner. The sessions have taught me a lot, how to deal with my finances and credit. It absolutely opened my eyes and has made me thriftier. I am doing whatever I can to save for a down payment and I am definitely on a budget.

Organizations like Manna and government home ownership loans such as HPAP and the Housing Production Trust Fund, are the backbone for people like me to actually have that dream of home ownership. We want to better ourselves and it will take hard work to get there. However, with all our best efforts and education, the reality is we need help to make the dream real. The cost of homes within the District makes the "American Dream" feel untouchable...unattainable...out of reach. Therefore, loan programs like HPAP are key to those of us in that moderate to very low income.

We're do our part, saving, cleaning up our credit, paying back our HPAP loans, paying taxes, and supporting the city we love and want to live in. We ask that the administration be recognized so that more families can benefit from the funds effectively, but also ask that the maximum loan amount be increased to $80,000.We also ask that the council not cut funding to the program by 2.5 million, it is a struggle for middle to lower income individuals to participate in this market. Each day the District is getting more expensive to live.

This is a market, an open market that is increasing in value because of the efforts of all District residents.

Please make homeownership a priority in your next budget. Homeowners help keep the District together, communities are strengthen by it and building up neighborhoods. Help ensure the District remains a city for all.

Thank you for allowing me to speak. May God bless you all.

Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 20, 2015

My name is John Hisle. I am here today to speak on behalf of Good Faith Communities Coalition as its Executive Director, to voice our support for the proposed $1 million new investment in the Housing Production Trust Fund.

Good Faith was founded five years ago as a voice of District faith congregations concerned about our neighbors who are poor and marginalized. In 2015 close to 45 congregations of all denominations signed a Covenant committing themselves "to actively support public efforts and programs to provide temporary and permanent affordable housing for all in need." The $1 million new investment in the Trust Fund, which will produce 1100 units of housing for low-income residents, is the kind of program that we and larger community can and must support.

The human cost of homelessness that the city is now experiencing can be clearly seen in statistics and on the street. I will address the statistics; my colleague Rev. Graham will address the human cost.

The bottom 20% of renters have seen their rents rise 14% in the last 11 years while their income has remained unchanged. The next to lowest 20% have experienced a 35% increase in rent, also with virtually no increase in income.

In 2002 there were 58,000 rental units with rent and utilities under $800 per month. In 2012 the rental stock in this category fell to 33,000, for a loss of close to 50%. The DC Fiscal Policy Institute concludes that "all of the low-cost housing [remaining] in DC results from government subsidies and that low-cost private rental housing has virtually disappeared."

These trends will not reverse on their own. The community must invest in new affordable units and preservation and renovation of existing units. 1100 new units from $1M may seem like a small return on investment. However, it is the cost of doing business in an expensive city. The proposed investment needs to be followed by a long-term commitment to replace housing that has disappeared.

And yes, a successful program to build affordable housing and manage homelessness will require more money, a lot more money. We will never reach a point where we as a community can check the box, "finished," mission accomplished. **No more poor!**

As faith communities we honor and embrace all people in our community as children of God. We are hopeful people. We feel that everyone deserves a home. It is a human right. To make this happen, **we can and must invest in affordable housing this year and into the future.**

Thank you for listening; we look forward to your leadership in making affordable housing a PRIORITY.

John Hisle

Note: Statistics from *Going, Going, Gone: DC's Vanishing Affordable Housing. DCFPI, 2015.*

Testimony of Bill Jackson (Director of Sales & Marketing, Matthew Spicer Real Estate)
Budget Hearing for DC Department of Housing and Community Development
April 20, 2015
Committee on Housing and Community Development

Good morning, Chairwoman Bonds and Committee members. My name is Bill Jackson and I have been a real estate agent in the DC & MD area for the past 10 years. I currently close approximately 25 HPAP transactions a year and am extremely passionate about the program. Sometimes I refer to myself as a preacher; a lot of people lack knowledge about HPAP and I inform them about the program and direct them to lenders who work with the program. The result is home ownership as opposed to renting properties. I also occasionally teach some of the HPAP classes at DHCD. Therefore, I am here today to passionately advocate for the program. It shouldn't be cut, but rather increased.

Right now, most HPAP buyers are restricted to Wards 7 and 8, or they are being forced into the new Ward 9 - Prince George's County. We are losing social and economic diversity in the District. In the past, I sold nicely renovated 3-bedroom homes for $200,000; now I sell 2-bedrooms for around $240,000. Many single mothers with children are moving to Ward 9 and though home prices are lower there, the property taxes are much higher. For these reasons, we need to increase the HPAP gap financing; other areas in the city are not affordable with a $50,000 award. A maximum loan amount of $80,000 will open up possibilities for lower income families.

As I'm sure you've heard, HPAP has its issues. For example, some sellers won't entertain an HPAP offer because of the program's reputation and stringent inspection process. I've seen sellers accept a lower, non-HPAP offer over an HPAP offer due to the inconveniences of the program. Sometimes these fears are well founded: last year I was working with a seller who completed all of the repairs required by the first inspection, but when the second HPAP-required inspection occurred, the seller had to come out of pocket for another $1,500 of repairs.

However, the issues with HPAP are not insurmountable. There are very simple solutions for improving the program:

1. We need better communication when funds are exhausted because we have delayed settlements due to lack of financial backing. It's easier to deal with sellers when we know what is happening with the funding.
2. This year, the Urban League hired staff to reach out to buyers and keep them informed about the process, which was a helpful resource for the buyers. This is a huge improvement and we hope it continues and similar programs are created to reach out to realtors and lenders.

3. Combine the two inspections – In the past, the Urban League considered consolidating both inspections and coming up with one report. This makes sellers more likely to accept an HPAP offer because they can make all of the improvements at once, costing them less time and money.
4. Organizations involved with the HPAP program need to do a better job of promoting the program to first-time buyers. I am constantly floored at how many people don't know about this program.

Again, I am passionate about HPAP and I see its positive impact on families and neighborhoods. DC residents need HPAP, and it can be a dynamite program with just a few improvements, an increase in the maximum loan amounts, and increased funding. I am willing to assist in any way to improve this program; I hope you are, too.

Committee on Housing and Community Development: Budget Oversight Hearing
Testimony on the Housing Production Trust Fund
Vanessa Wellbery
Government Relations and Advocacy, Hyacinth's Place
April 20, 2015

Good morning Chairperson Bonds, Members of the Committee, and staff. My name is Vanessa Wellbery and I am here on behalf of Hyacinth's Place and its residents, volunteers, staff, and board members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Hyacinth's Place provides permanent supportive housing to formerly homeless women with a mental-health diagnosis.

Built in 2011, we have 15 efficiency units combined with on-site access to mental-health professionals, social workers, and substance-abuse counselors. We also have personal enrichment resources like vocational training and financial-planning and nutrition classes. This support system empowers our residents to build independent lives and thus prevents them from returning to the cycle of homelessness. Our mission is to give people second chances, fight stigma against mental illness, and advocate for public policies that are proven to end chronic homelessness and poverty. I'm here because Hyacinth's Place would not be and could not continue to be without the Housing Production Trust Fund.

As a member of the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development's Supportive Housing Working Group, we are thrilled that Mayor Bowser's budget proposal included $100 million into the Housing Production Trust Fund, a commitment also unanimously endorsed by the City Council last year. This investment would provide individuals and families with stable, affordable homes, including permanent supportive housing units like those at Hyacinth's' Place.

Permanent supportive housing pays for itself. Study after study has shown this unequivocally. First of all, it costs less. A lot less. People who are homeless, especially if they are facing additional challenges like mental illness, are particularly susceptible to chronic homelessness, and often cycle through the system. But when they have a home, they don't have to rely on more expensive alternatives like shelters and emergency rooms. When they are matched with services, they have better health outcomes and fewer hospital visits. The cycle ends.

But permanent supportive housing—and the other housing that the Housing Production Trust Fund makes possible—also promotes prosperity city-wide. When residents have the stability of a home, their lives also become stable. They can focus on their treatment. They can also focus on finding employment, pursuing an education, and achieving their dreams. They can reach their full potential—and pay it forward in their community.

For our clients, housing is more than a roof over their heads. It is health care, it is education, it is employment, it is recovery, and it is repaired family relationships. So we urge you, again, to follow the Mayor's lead and invest 100 million into the Housing Production Trust Fund.

When we invest in housing, we invest in people, and that's an investment that pays off.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify today.

OPEN ARMS HOUSING, INC.

JS Testimony

Good morning Councilmember Bonds. My name is Janet Starke. I am a resident at Open Arms Housing. I am here today to talk about my experience being homeless and then having a home thanks to the Local Rent Supplement Program.

For a long time I used drugs. In 2006 after my last stint in jail for using and selling drugs I checked myself into Harriet Tubman woman's shelter. I had nowhere else to go. I lived there until September 2013. I did all of my recovery there. Living in the shelter drug-free presented new challenges. I was involved with many disputes with other residents and discovered I have depression and bipolar disorder. It was a relief to know my diagnosis, but I still felt the hopelessness because I was homeless.

One day my case manager told me about a place that offered permanent supportive housing for people like me. Being accepted into Open Arms Housing changed my life. I've been given a second chance. I'm so grateful to finally have a place to call home.
There's nothing like having your own place. I've been drug free since 2006 and I've reconnected with my family. I spend lots of time with my 5 year-old grandson. He loves to visit Grandma. I recently went to my family reunion in North Carolina.

I am very grateful to the Housing Trust Fund. I am here today to ask that that the $100 million set aside for the Housing Trust Fund will be maintained. Homeless families need permanent supportive housing as well as supportive programs.

I also ask that the funds for the Local Rent Supplement Program be maintained. My sisters at Harriet Tubman need a hand. Permanent supportive housing saves lives. Thank you for your time today.

Good Morning, Chairwoman Bonds and CouncilMembers.

I am Tessa Edison and I am the Vice President of Operations and Business Development at Answer Title, a District-based title and escrow firm. Additionally, I am a title insurance producer, often conducting settlements for Answer Title so I bring the perspective of someone who interacts with buyers at different stages of the closing process. Today, I would like to testify in support of the HPAP program, advocating for an increase of the maximum loan amount to $80,000 and increasing the Mayor's proposed budget by $3 million. I have nearly 10 years of experience working in this housing market and with HPAP buyers. I understand what the proposed increases will mean for individuals and families dreaming of buying a home of their own. HPAP is THE VEHICLE that converts all of the visions and planned initiatives to support affordable housing into ACTUAL CLOSINGS. At Answer Title I have seen HPAP help 151 families become homeowners. Some of those closings have been for homes in developments in all of the City's wards including:

In Ward 8
Henson Ridge Townhomes, Hunter Place Condominiums and Alabama Avenue Condominiums
In Ward 7
Woodson Heights Condominiums and MetroTowns at Parkside Townhomes
In Ward 6
CityVista Condominiums
and In Ward 5
Villages at Dakota Crossing townhomes and Metropolitan Overlook Condominiums

At Answer Title we work with developers who specifically set aside units in their properties – including those that I just listed - for affordable housing. Therefore, I know that funding and regulatory changes will create additional home-buying opportunities for families that are ready to be homeowners. The units are there, the program support and technical assistance are there, and most important the demand is there. Comparing the rising home price data with the demand data shows that increasing the loan amount would improve access to homes on the market. This would translate to more HPAP closings not to mention how those sales will support other sectors of the City's economy. As it stands the current maximum loan amount of $50,000 equates to a maximum purchase price of approximately $187,000. An increase to a maximum loan amount of $80,000 will raise that purchase price to nearly $217,000. This would increase HPAP buyers purchasing power and give them access to more homes on the market.

I have the privilege of being the one to hand a new homebuyer his or her keys at the settlement table. Sometimes the settlements turn into a celebration. Entire families come to the table. They take pictures with their keys, they take pictures with me! Its a life changing experience for many. But my position at Answer Title also means that I am familiar with the *mechanics* of the home-buying process – I see the impact of budget changes or procedural changes on the efficiency of the overall process. Over the years I have seen HPAP move in the right direction. When support for the program increases, those of us who work with the program witness the positive, measurable outcomes. For example wired funds instead of paper checks, emailed loan documents instead of couriered. The program can be streamlined (through technology upgrades, an increase in staff and related improvements in procedures) and now is the time to support it...AND EXPAND it. It is an essential component that can support Mayor Bowser's Pathways to the Middle Class Budget and Financial Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please support HPAP. Please support an effective program that helps District residents move into the middle class.

OPEN ARMS HOUSING, INC.

Testimony of Marilyn Kresky-Wolff, Executive Director

Open Arms Housing, 57 O St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

D.C. Council Hearing on DHCD budget April 20, 2015

I am Marilyn Kresky-Wolff, Executive Director of Open Arms Housing, Inc. We are a single site permanent supportive housing, using a Housing First approach, in Ward 5. We provide housing and on site supportive services for unaccompanied women who have lived on the streets and in the emergency shelters of D.C. **Our program over five half years has had a 94% rate of housing stability and preventing return to homelessness, and has saved our residents a collective 75 years of homelessness.** On April 30, we will celebrate the groundbreaking for a second project, also in Ward 5.

I serve as co-chair of the Coalition for Non-Profit Housing and Economic Development Supportive Housing Working Group. Open Arms is also a partner in The Way Home campaign.

DC is in the midst of a very encouraging period for those of us invested in ending homelessness—the Administration has appointed exceptional people to lead the charge. Director Donaldson has been a strong leader in helping us get to this point.

I am appearing today with other member organizations of CNHED and our clients to speak to the importance of the Local Rent Supplement Program to the success of the unified RFP. LRSP has been used very successful during the first two rounds of the RFP, by wedding subsidies with the creation of new units of Permanent Supportive Housing. With us today are individuals whose lives have been turned around by combining these funding sources and we know that other organizations testified at the Housing Authority hearing last week with families and other individuals.

We applaud the administration for proposing adequate funding for the Housing Production Trust Fund. We believe that permanent supportive housing is a proven and cost-effective solution to prolonged homelessness. But it can only work if rental subsidies are tied to production of new units. We ask that you ensure that there are adequate LRSP subsidies to match with housing that will be created in the future using the consolidated funds. The unified process has been responsible for increasing the production of permanent supportive housing. The framework has allowed small non-profits like Open Arms to apply for funds for renovation, operating subsidies, and service funds for new projects, such as we did in the last two rounds, and hope to do in the next round . This has enabled us to purchase, plan to renovate , and begin to house new residents in 2015 and 2016. The unified RFP has been a huge step towards keeping pace with the need to produce more affordable housing for those in need.

PROUD MEMBER OF United Way
United Way of the National Capital Area

CFC

code: 9847 code: 51198

57 O St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001 p: 202-525-3467 f: 202-525-3480 www.openarmshousing.org

So, we support the recommendations of the Coalition for Non-Profit Housing and Economic Development to:

- Maintain $2.4M in proposed funding for the Local Rent Supplement Program to increase the production of housing for residents with extremely low incomes and for permanent supportive housing, and $1.7M for Targeted Affordable Housing.
- Maintain proposed $100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund
- Fund the ICH plan to end chronic homelessness by 2017. This requires an increase of $1.2 million for services and at least $1.8 million for leasing in the Department of Human Services budget.

These funding streams, along with progressive, forward thinking, based on best practices from the field, promise to make a huge change in how we solve homelessness, and we urge the council to continue the forward progress.

Thank you.

PROUD MEMBER OF United Way
United Way of the National Capital Area

CFC

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Testimony of Joseph Coates
Budget Hearing for DC Department of Housing and Community Development
April 20, 2015
Committee on Housing and Community Development

Good morning, Chairwoman Bonds and Committee members. My name is Joseph Coates and I purchased my first home last year in the Brentwood neighborhood. You probably have already guessed that I am hear to advocate for the HPAP program. It was one of the pieces that helped change my life and I hope you will not allow the program to be cut, even add money to it, and increase the maximum loan amount to at least $80,000.

A little background on me: I was born in DC, moved to Prince George's County for a short while, and then moved back to DC 10 years ago. I fell on hard times and luckily was able to secure an affordable unit at Samaritan Inns and get back on my feet. Eventually, I left Samaritan Inns and the rent in my new place was so high...it was a struggle to make it. Well, thanks to the HPAP program and the $20,000 in assistance that I received through the CityLIFT program, I am now paying half of what I was paying for rent! I am so grateful for the affordable payment and for the education I received on credit and finances – I still stick to a budget.

Also, and this is something that is hard to put into words: I am so proud to own a home in my city; it has given me a sense of empowerment and I feel like I have roots again. For me, homeownership has helped me develop a greater sense of community – I am paying more attention to trash in the streets and picking it up, I am keeping up with politics in the area and have started attending local ANC meetings. I am hoping to find positive ways to build up my neighbors and my neighborhood.

I know the budget is about numbers and moving money from one pot to the other. But I also know that a budget is about addressing needs and casting a vision for the city and its residents. I believe that HPAP is an important part of addressing housing needs and creating a pathway to the middle class. If you raise the loan amounts and make simple improvements to the program, I guarantee that HPAP will soar and help so many residents. HPAP should be a part of the affordable housing budget. Please make sure that it is.

Thank you for listening to me today and for the work you do.

TOPA Acquisition Process

Obstacles

$26,000 to $70,000 cost for current application requirements
53 line item application... just to find out if project will even be considered by DHCD
Application requirements extensive... nearing Spring NOFA standards
2 to 3 months to put entire application together... difficult given limited TOPA deadlines
Undetermined timeframe to get DHCD response
Unclear process on decision making
Exceedingly difficult for smaller projects

Suggestions

Critical - seed money source, readily available
Two step process - quick preliminary, more extensive final
Non-essential evaluation items not required until closing
Set standard/minimal market info requirements for appraisal... drop separate market study requirement
Easily accessible DHCD staff guidance

Current Application Requirements

	Notes	low	high
Professional Reports			
1 Appraisal	need seed money source	$3,000	$6,000
2 Phase I Environmental	need seed money source	$2,500	$4,000
3 Capital Needs Assessment	need seed money source	$3,500	$7,000
4 Market Study	info sufficient in appraisal?	$2,000	$3,000
5 Architectural Documents	need seed money source	$5,000	$25,000
6 All information below in binder	select line items wait till closing?	$10,000	$25,000
		$26,000	$70,000

Narrative

7 Background
8 Exposure
9 Tenant Association
10 Tenant Profile
11 Building Profile
12 Site Description
13 Development Team

Form 202

14 Income
15 Expenses
16 Sources
17 Uses
18 Proforma
19 Summary

Site Information

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCES A BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

on

Office of Religious Affairs/ Interfaith Council
Office on Aging/ Commission on Aging
Advisory Neighborhood Commissions
Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives

on

Thursday, April 23, 2015
11:00 a.m., Room 120, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OPENING REMARKS

III. WITNESS TESTIMONY

Office of Religious Affairs/Interfaith Council

(No witnesses)

Executive Witness

Reverend Donald Issac, Sr.	Director, Office of Religious Affairs

Office on Aging/Commission on Aging

Romaine Thomas	Chair of the DC Commission on Aging
1. Regine Clermont	Project Director Home First Residences and Age-In-Place program
2. Sally White	Executive Director, Iona
3. Shannon Cockett	President, East Rock Creek Village
4. Paulett Costley	Project Director for the Ward 7 ADRC Senior Program

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

5. Tori Goldhammer	DC Senior Advisory Coalition
6. Alma L. Harris	Public Witness, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Center of Family Matters of Ward 8
7. Samantha Davis, MPP	Advocacy Specialist, SOME (So Others Might Eat)
8. Alease Smith	Public Witness
9. James Howard	Public Witness
10. Joseph Resch, Jr.	CEO, Seabury Resources for Aging
11. Lester Wynn	Project Director, Seabury Connector
12. Vivian Grayton	Project Director, Seabury Ward 5
13. Preston Williams	Age-In-Place client, Seabury volunteer
14. Carolyn Dia	Public witness, client Seabury Connector
15. Dorothy Carracedo	Public witness, client Seabury Connector Ward 6
16. Glenda Wheeler-Allen	Consumer, Home Care Partners
17. Lauren Badger	Anti-Hunger Program Associate, D.C. Hunger Solutions
18. Paula Reichel	DC Director, Capital Area Food Bank
19. Deborah Nix	The Keys to Canaan
20. Jan Allen May	Executive Director, Legal Counsel for the Elderly
21. Walter R. Williams	HCBS Ombudsman Specialist, DC Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
22. Joyce Pratt	Public Witness, Commodity Supplemental Program
23. Linda Brown	Public Witness, Commodity Supplemental Program
24. Wanda Johnson-Starkee	Public Witness
25. Rosa E. Pizzi	Executive Director, Vida Senior Centers
26. Marian Milhouse	Age-In-Place client
27. Mark Andersen	We Are Family
28. Janis Williams	Public Witness, Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center
29. Patricia Harriston	Public Witness, Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center
30. Ms. Thomye Cave	Public Witness, Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center, Inc.
31. Meg Duffy	Program Director, Jumpstart DC
32. Jamarl Clark	Site Manager, Jumpstart's Community Corps DC
33. Wilma Young-Jones	Member, Jumpstart's Community Corps DC
34. Willetta Christian	Member, Jumpstart's Community Corps DC
35. Annette Leath	Chief Program Officer of Family Matters of Great

36. Carolyn Dungee Nicholas	President, Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc.
37. Ron Grey	Public Witness, Kelsey Apartments
38. Lizzie Windstead	Public Witness, Ward 1, TERRIFIC, Inc.
39. Diana Hudrell	Public Witness, Ward 2, TERRIFIC, Inc.
40. Timothea Howard	Public Witness, Ward 4, TERRIFIC, Inc.
41. Enitan Osunkaya	Public Witness, Ward 4, TERRIFIC, Inc.
42. Joe Henery	Public Witness, Ward 2, TERRIFIC, Inc.
43. Harold Valentine	Public Witness
44. Heidi Case	Public Witness
45. Kelvin Bowe	Public Witness
46. Ralph Dumain	Public Witness
47. Valerie Mobley	Public Witness
48. Marcus Lawrence	Public Witness
49. M. Anderson Holloway	Public Witness
50. Edna Gorham-Bey	Public Witness

Executive Witness

Dr. John Thompson	Director, Office on Aging

Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

1. Dorothy Douglas	Commissioner, ANC 7D03
2. Michael Sindram	Justice for All DC/Disabled Veteran

Executive Witness

Gottlieb Simon	Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives

1. (No witnesses)

Executive Witness

Kim Bassett	Director, Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

IV. ADJOURNMENT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
Rev. Donald L. Isaac
Director

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

Thursday, April 23, 2015

Room 120
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning Chairperson Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am Rev. Donald Isaac Sr., the Director of the Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs in the Executive Office of the Mayor. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in working to make sure our investments in education, economic opportunities, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure help District residents in all eight wards have reach pathways towards the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents who described how they would allocate an imaginary $100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the office in the coming fiscal year. Under the Bowser Administration, the Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs provides constituent services and information to the District's faith community through programmatic activities and outreach.

The Office serves as a liaison between the Mayor, the religious community, and District government agencies.

The Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs is tasked with cultivating policies that engage community and faith-based organizations in the creation of citywide programs and initiatives across multiple disciplines. In addition, we will seek to establish and coordinate effective partnerships between DC government agencies and the faith community in addressing citywide issues such as:

- Preserving and producing more affordable housing units,
- Finding ways to better serve our homeless population,
- Supporting the Mayor Bowser's Boys and Men of Color Initiative, and,
- Building models of cooperation and collaboration around issues of public safety.

The Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs will continue collaborate with the Mayor's Interfaith Council to engage the city's faith-based community in an on-going dialogue around critical issues. Mayor Bowser plans to expand the reach into the faith community by injecting new life into the Mayor's Interfaith Council (MIC) and making sure that the group is diversified and represents all eight wards.

I would now like to discuss some of the efforts related to support of the homelessness population with performance data you requested at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

Currently, the Office's work with families has generated the following outcomes:

- 325 Volunteers have expressed interest in the program from over 100 congregations/organizations,
- 100 Congregations have completed training,
- 8 Congregations have been matched with families,
- 9 New Matches will occur within the upcoming weeks, and
- 2 Congregations are in the process of forming their second Faith Mentor Team.

I will continue to keep you and your staff informed of the progress of this very promising program.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairperson Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

★ ★ ★

Age-Friendly D.C. (AFDC) Strategic Plan (Pages 46 – 59)
Responsible Agencies and Strategies

http://agefriendly.dc.gov/publication/age-friendly-dc-strategic-plan-2014-2017

DC Housing Authority (DCHA)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #
	3.1.9
	3.2.3

DC Housing Finance Agency (DCHFA)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #
	3.1.9
	3.2.1
	3.2.2

Office on Aging (DCOA)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #		
	2.2.4	5.1.3	8.2.2
	3.1.2	5.2.2	8.2.4
	3.1.3	6.1.2	9.1.1
	3.1.6	6.1.3	9.2.3
	3.1.8	7.1.4	10.1.1
	3.2.1	7.2.1	10.1.4
	3.2.3	7.2.2	10.1.6
	4.1.3	8.1.1	10.2.1
	4.1.2	8.1.2	10.2.2
	4.1.4	8.1.5	

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #
	3.1.1
	3.1.2
	3.1.5
	3.1.7
	3.1.9
	3.1.6
	3.2.1
	3.2.2
	3.2.3

Office of LGBTQ Affairs	AFDC Plan – Strategy #
	3.2.2
	4.1.4
	5.2.1

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office on Aging

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
John M. Thompson, Ph.D., CPM, FAAMA
Executive Director

Before the

Committee on Housing & Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 11:00 AM
Room 120
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am Dr. John M. Thompson, the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Office on Aging. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, "Pathways to the Middle Class." As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all eight Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission ensures that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents that described how they would allocate an imaginary $100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end resulted in a budget that reflects the interests and priorities of all stakeholders. We have continued that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability through our Agency Stakeholder Budget Briefings and through these hearings led by the Council to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year.

First, we will improve services and supports for District residents by strategically redefining the mission and purpose of DCOA's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). To meet this objective, we will refine standard operating procedures and trainings; standardize data collection practices and evaluations; and increase community partnerships and targeted outreach. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the ADRC becomes accredited through the Alliance

of Information & Referral Systems, which is the primary quality assurance mechanism for affirming excellence in information and referral services.

Second, due to the low and uneven number of participants attending the agency's six senior wellness centers during the extended evenings and Saturday hours of operation, DCOA will collaborate with its community-based partners and use data to determine which sites will offer the extended hours. This will allow District seniors access to health and wellness programming at a select number of centers that will better match the demand for the services.

Third, as you may be aware, in FY14, DCOA expanded its home delivered meals program to D.C. residents, which included weekend meals for the non-frail meals program. Due to increased demand for these services with limited capacity, DCOA has begun to conduct an extensive review of its policies for prioritizing seniors of the greatest need. The agency will also be convening a new Nutrition Task Force this month, which includes external stakeholders and other D.C. government agencies, to help guide the decision making process around the home delivered meals program.

Fourth, we will partner with organizations, such as Whitman Walker and the D.C. Center for the LGBTQ Community, to increase outreach and access to services for the older LGBTQ community. Actionable items include increasing knowledge of legal and health programs, increasing knowledge of LGBTQ specific health needs and demands, and increasing cultural sensitivity towards LGBTQ customers by training front-line staff and identifying possible system reforms. Additionally, we will improve cultural competency around HIV/AIDS by training service providers within the Senior Service Network and provide service linkages and collaborations for seniors living with HIV through partnerships with the D.C. Department of Health.

Fifth, we will establish a hydration campaign targeted for seniors. Chronic dehydration is a frequent cause of hospitalization of older adults and one of the ten most frequent diagnoses responsible for hospitalization in the United-States. It can cause confusion and other symptoms that may resemble Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). In our efforts to improve nutrition and increase awareness around ADRD, DCOA plans to partner with D.C. Water to promote consumption of tap water. This partnership will not only impact health outcomes, but will improve environmental and economic outcomes as well. Drinking tap water over bottled water decreases waste (only 25% of plastic bottles are recycled) and saves residents money (bottled water costs $1,000 per 1,000 gallons vs. tap water that costs $10 per 1,000 gallons).[1]

Sixth, we will establish new community partnerships to educate seniors, caregivers, and the public on the prevention and identification of financial exploitation of seniors.

Finally, we will work to make DCOA a data-driven agency in an effort to further demonstrate the impact that DCOA services and supports have on older adults, people living with disabilities, and caregivers.

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

This Committee inquired about a payment issue raised by a sub-grantee around a concern regarding the timeliness of payments from the District of Columbia Government. In response to this concern, my agency met with the sub-grantee and Office of Finance and Resource Management (OFRM), and it was determined that there are currently no outstanding payments due to this organization and that payments are in compliance with the Quick Payment Act.

[1] *DC Tap Water vs. Bottled Water.* D.C. Water. Web. 9 Apr. 2015. http://www.dcwater.com/drinking_water/Tap_Bottle_Water.pdf.

However, DCOA will accept OFRM's recommendation to perform an internal review of financial processing procedures in order to identify ways to expedite sub-grantee reimbursement requests.

The Committee also heard concerns from community advocates around the enrollment process and customer service delivery for the District's Elderly Person with Disability Waiver Program (EPD) administered by the Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF). DCOA performs specific functions within the EPD waiver application process through agreements with DHCF. DCOA is working in conjunction with our sister agencies to streamline the EPD Waiver enrollment process in order to reduce confusion and improve customer service. This includes hiring and training DCOA staff who will be specifically devoted to assisting residents with the EPD Waiver application process by performing in-person meetings in the community. These specialists will have a more hands on approach beginning at the point of referral to assist with the collection of necessary medical and financial information for application processing by DHCF and DHS-ESA. They will also carefully explain the entire application and enrollment process to reduce confusion and decrease enrollment wait time in order for residents to have the vital services that they need to age in place.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget are critical to achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you, Chairwoman Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

Comments of Romaine Thomas

Chair, D.C. Commission on Aging

Before the

D.C. Council, Committee on Housing and Community Development

D.C. Office on Aging Budget

April 23, 2015

My name is Romaine Thomas; I am Chair of the D.C. Commission on Aging.

Legislation tasks the D.C. Commission on Aging with advocating to the Mayor, D.C. Council and the public on the needs and concerns of the more than 100,000 individuals aged 60+ residing in the District. Seniors are among the most fragile and vulnerable of our residents. The programs administered by the D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) are vital to these residents, and must be protected.

Last February, the Commission provided a National study indicating that D.C. had the highest percent of older adults living alone with disabilities. Highest in the Nation! Please ensure the final budget does not adversely impact these most-fragile adults.

The Commission recognizes that the Mayor's budget reduces DCOA's budget by 3.5 percent, but it also increases funding for other programs that benefit seniors, although they are not labeled as "senior programs". Examples are the Housing Development Trust Fund and several initiatives to end homelessness. We wholeheartedly support these efforts, but do not wish to simultaneously disadvantage vulnerable seniors.

We also recognize that some DCOA programs, such as extended-hours at Wellness Centers, are under-used. Accordingly, the Commission supports "right-sizing" the DCOA budget; but only for the short term and only if DCOA can maintain current services with less local funding.

The Commission has suggested to Dr. Thompson that a formal needs assessment be completed as soon as possible.

Wellness Centers

The Commission has observed low utilization of Wellness Centers in the evenings and on weekends, and believes scaling-back operating hours during these times may be appropriate at this time. However, it would be a mistake to conclude these services are not needed.

Few older adults are even aware Wellness Centers exist. When the operating hours for Wellness Center were extended, only seniors who were already using the Wellness Center were specifically informed that operating hours were being extended. Why would someone who is not even aware that a facility exists pay attention to its operating hours? It should come as no surprise that attendance during extended hours was poor.

With proper communication and promotion, attendance at Wellness Centers could easily exceed current capacity. That is when extended hours should return. In fact, we note that six Wellness Centers for a city the size of D.C. is unusual. Even if only five percent of our seniors choose to participate, this equates to approximately 830 participants per Wellness Center.

Research has shown that Wellness activities have both individual and public health benefits, making them an excellent investment of a community's funds. Innovative ways of getting older adults involved in Wellness activities are needed.

The Commission is currently studying Wellness Center utilization and demographics, and looks forward to sharing the results with DCOA and this Committee.

Service Priorities

Given "right-sizing" of the budget, DCOA should consider giving priority to lower-income seniors and disabled individuals. It is not clear if and when this method of prioritization is already being applied. Although the Older Americans Act prohibits provision of services based on economic need, there is probably no reason D.C. cannot apply this prioritization methodology to services funded with D.C. funds.

Age-Friendly Initiative

The Commission is actively involved in implementation and refinement of the Age-Friendly DC Strategic Plan. Implementing it could make a significant difference residents of all ages, yet it does not require major new funding. The Commission urges the Committee to fully support the Plan's goals, objectives and strategies.

We urge the Committee to ask the agencies listed in the Plan if and when they plan to accomplish these strategies. To assist with this process, we have attached a table listing each agency within your jurisdiction.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify on these important topics.

Testimony for the District of Columbia Office of Aging

FY2015 Program Oversight Hearing

Before the District of Columbia City Council

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council Member Anita Bonds, Chairperson

April 23, 2015

Good Afternoon Chairperson Bonds, and the members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Regine Clermont, Program Director of the Home First Residences (HFR) and Age-In-Place ® programs, a housing service program of Seabury Resources for Aging. We are also members of the DCOA Senior Service Network, Councilmember Mc Duffie's Ward 5 Senior Steering Committee, the Long Term Care Coalition, and the Senior Advisory Coalition. Thank you again for this opportunity to discuss our distinct and impactful programs and the vital role that the DC Office on Aging plays in them. I wish to personally thank Dr. Thompson, his staff, and Councilmember McDuffie for their continued support of these programs. As a community based provider, our partnership with DCOA is invaluable and our program simply would not exist without its technical and financial support. 65% of our program budget is funded by DCOA.

I am here today in support of my fellow colleagues to ask the District not to cut the DCOA budget by $2.3 million. As the District moves towards implementation of the Age Friendly City Initiative, and the national trend is to keep seniors in their communities, these cuts will adversely affect seniors in the areas of nutrition, socialization, and housing.

Both Age In Place and the Home First Residences are small and impactful programs that provide an alternative approach towards housing options for older DC residents. Home First Residences provides permanent supportive shared housing to 20 formerly homeless low income seniorsin Ward 5. Over the past 33 years, HFR has provided housing to over 135 formerly homeless seniors. The average length of stay is 12 years, and the average age is 75 years old. Two of our residents have resided in the program for over 28 years. Many of our residents only have SSI benefits, thus the average rent is only $350.00 for the two independent living homes, and $1,100 for the 24 hour caregiving supported licensed home.

Age-In-Place, a volunteer based program, provides free home maintenance and yard work throughout the year at no cost to seniors residing in Wards 4, 5, and 6. This year Age-in-Place is celebrating 20 years of service. In that time we have completed over 5,000 service projects with 35,000 volunteers who have served 125,000 volunteer hours. Based on the hourly volunteer rate in the District that is a saving of almost $5,000,000

Home First, like many of the nonprofits who will testify today, faces many challenges in meeting the growing demands for older adults "aging in place." As part of the continuum of care across the city, we help seniors who have difficulty maintaining their homes, and who otherwise would have to move into nursing homes, or face eviction. Over 32% of the District seniors are at or below poverty.

As the senior population continues to grow many older adults in the District of Columbia will are seeing a rise in economic hardship as they age in place. Many are not able to afford to remain in their houses or apartments without community services. Between the rise in health care costs, food deserts which make quality nutrition difficult to access, increase in homelessness

among older adults,and lack of access to affordable quality services - getting older in DC with a moderate income, let alone a low one, has become a difficult, dangerous path. Wellness centers, nutrition sites and day programs address many of these issues; sustaining a senior's well being, socialization, physical exercise, and nutritional needs. I am deeply concerned as over half of my residents attend these programs and also rely on the Connector to transport them.

It is also economically sustainable to keep seniors in their homes. According to Washington Post article (January 2, 2014 by Tamara Bahrampour), the average cost of in home care is between $30,000 to $60,000 as opposed to nursing home placement in DC, which is $110,000. This article further supports the need for the District to invest in preventive programs such as ours and other affordable housing services. (I would delete this paragraph or replace with independent evidence as the article is old)

As stated by my colleagues, the need for additional dollars to serve the City's most vulnerable is vital. DCOA's support is critical in operating all of our programs and are grateful that DCOA has tried to minimize the impact of budget cuts in the community. However, the needs are already not being met with the current level of funding, therefore any cuts to DCOA's budget will greatly impact services and be a disservice to DC seniors. My request to the Council is that DCOA continue to fund the programs *at least* at the current level of support.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of Home First residents and AIP clients and to voice my support for the DC Office on Aging to receive additional dollars to serve the 100,000 seniors across the District.

EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE
Dedicated to helping seniors
in upper Ward 4 to live well and thrive
www.eastrockcreekvillage.org
Post Office Box 60622
Washington, DC 20039
April 23, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BUDGET HEARING, DC OFFICE ON AGING

GOOD DAY, MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. WE THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY FOR THE FY 2016 BUDGET HEARING FOR THE DC OFFICE ON AGING (DCOA). WE ALSO THANK DR. JOHN THOMPSON AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS THAT HELP DC'S SENIORS LIVE BETTER LIVES.

WE ARE HERE TODAY IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE DC OFFICE ON AGING IN THEIR CAPACITY TO FUND AND PROMOTE AGING IN PLACE FOR SENIORS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFORT TO MAKE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AN "AGE-FRIENDLY CITY."

I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE (ERCV), A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) CORPORATION, A SENIOR VILLAGE IN DEVELOPMENT TO SERVE SENIORS IN UPPER WARD 4 OF DC. WE ARE DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION OF HELPING SENIORS TO LIVE WELL AND THRIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF BRIGHTWOOD, COLONIAL VILLAGE, CRESTWOOD, MANOR PARK, NORTH PORTAL ESTATES, SHEPHERD PARK, AND TAKOMA DC. OUR MEMBERS WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE NEARLY 7,200 SENIORS WHO RESIDE THERE AND WHO MAKE UP 28% OF THE NEARLY 25,600 CITIZENS WHO LIVE WITHIN ERCV'S BOUNDARIES.

OUR JOURNEY TO START A SENIOR VILLAGE BEGAN OVER 2 1/2 YEARS AGO BECAUSE THERE IS CURRENTLY NO SENIOR VILLAGE IN WARD 4. THIS SITUATION IS SURPRISING GIVEN THE FACT THAT WARD 4 HAS SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF SENIORS—AN ESTIMATED 21,421 SENIORS OUT OF 75,773 RESIDENTS.

NON-PROFITS ARE BETTER SUITED TO ACCOMPLISH SOME TASKS THAN GOVERNMENT. SENIOR VILLAGES HARNESS THE ENERGY OF NEIGHBORS ACTING AS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THEIR SENIOR NEIGHBORS AGE IN PLACE. PRACTICAL HELP, SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE OR GROCERY

STORE, IS THE MOST FREQUENTLY REQUESTED SERVICE OF DC SENIOR VILLAGES. OTHER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES INCLUDE COMPUTER HELP, CHANGING LIGHT BULBS, DE-CLUTTERING, LIGHT HANDYMAN CHORES, GARDENING ADVICE, PET CARE, CONVENIENCE SERVICES, AND REFERRALS TO VETTED THIRD PARTIES FOR BIGGER HOME REPAIRS. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS KEEP SENIORS CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND HELP PREVENT THE MENTAL DEPRESSION THAT STEMS FROM THE SOCIAL ISOLATION OF SENIORS.

IN THE PAST, THE DC CITY COUNCIL HAS SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR VILLAGES WITH DIRECT FUNDING THAT INCLUDED A $10,000 GRANT TO DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE AND A $25,000 GRANT TO PALISADES VILLAGE IN THE 2007-2008 TIME FRAME.

ACCORDING TO DR. THOMPSON, THE DC OFFICE ON AGING HAD TWO SEPARATE ROUNDS OF FUNDING FOR VILLAGES AND DCOA AWARDED GRANTS TO AT LEAST 4 VILLAGES WE KNOW OF—ABOUT $20,000 TO CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE IN THE 2007-8 TIMEFRAME, $25,000 TO NORTHWEST NEIGHBORS VILLAGE IN 2009, AND $15,000 APIECE TO BENNING HEIGHTS VILAGE AND

DEANWOOD VILLAGE IN 2013. HOWEVER, WHEN WE APPLIED IN 2014 ON BEHALF OF EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE, THE DC OFFICE ON AGING INFORMED US THAT NO GRANT FUNDING WAS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR SENIOR VILLAGES.

START-UP COSTS FOR SENIOR VILLAGES ARE RELATIVELY HIGH—USUALLY $20,000 TO $25,000. THERE ARE INITIAL COSTS OF INCORPORATION AND FILING FOR 501(C)(3) STATUS FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ALL OF WHICH OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS COVERED THROUGH PERSONAL DONATIONS. THEN BEFORE ONE CAN OPEN THE VILLAGE DOORS, MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER MANUALS MUST BE PRINTED, ALL VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO BE TRAINED, CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE TO BE PERFORMED ON ALL VOLUNTEERS BEFORE THEY CAN PROVIDE SERVICES, AND LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AND THE VOLUNTEERS NEEDS TO BE SECURED. HIRING AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LEASING OFFICE SPACE ALL COSTS MONEY AND MUST BE DONE BEFORE A VILLAGE CAN OFFER SERVICES TO ITS MEMBERS.

WHILE THE DC COUNCIL AND DCOA HAVE PROVIDED CRITICAL, PRIOR FUNDING FOR SENIOR VILLAGES, WE URGE THE

DC CITY COUNCIL TO PUT $100,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR SENIOR VILLAGES IN THE FY 2016 BUDGET OF THE DC OFFICE ON AGING SO THAT IT COULD SUPPORT THE LAUNCH OF AT LEAST FOUR MORE VILLAGES TO HELP SENIORS AGE IN PLACE. EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE CANNOT LAUNCH UNTIL IT RAISES $16,000 MORE TO ADD TO THE $9,000 WE RAISED SINCE DECEMBER 2014. WE ARE CONFIDENT WE WILL OPEN OUR DOORS BY THE END OF 2015, BUT WE WOULD HAVE OPENED SOONER IF WE HAD BEEN AWARDED A GRANT FROM DCOA WHEN WE APPLIED LAST FALL.

IN CONCLUSION, THE DC OFFICE ON AGING HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB HELPING SENIOR VILLAGES GET STARTED. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO DCOA FOR THE AWARD OF A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE THAT IS HELPING US MARKET OUR MESSAGE, RECRUIT MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS, AND SHARPEN OUR FUNDRAISING SKILLS.

Testimony on District of Columbia Office on Aging Budget Oversight Hearing
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
The Honorable Anita Bonds, Chairperson
April 23, 2015

Presented By:

Paulett D. Costley, Director of Senior Services,
East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc.

Good Morning Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Paulett Costley. I am the Director of Senior Services at East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc. (ERFSC.

Since 2009 **ERFSC operates three grants funded by the DC Office on Aging. They include the Ward 7 ADRC; the Washington Seniors Wellness Center and the Weekend Nutrition Program** is also a member of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition. The Senior Services Division is tasked with providing services for seniors in Ward 7, by connecting seniors to service providers and assisting them with navigating systems to obtain services, providing a venue to promote health and wellness through a variety of fitness activities and health dialogue and providing a Saturday weekend program extending to six days, the opportunity for seniors to socialize, have a meal and have health dialogue. The overall goal is to put services in place that are needed for seniors too remain in their homes and community.

We appreciate the opportunity to present testimony before you today. We would like to acknowledge the work that is being done by Dr. Thompson and his team at the DC Office on Aging for their efforts to provide needed services for seniors in the District.

Through the Office on Aging and the Senior Advisory Coalition efforts, over the last several years, Aging services have experienced an increase in funding that has resulted in the ability to provide additional staffing for Social Services, increased number of recipients of Home Delivered Meals, improved Transportation and expanded wellness activities. However, with this growth there continue to be an increase, in the needs and services of the senior population that we serve and those residents who have become new seniors during this period.

While the Mayor's budget requires a $2.2 million cut from the DC Office on Aging budget and DCOA has proposed no cuts for the ADRC's, there is still a need for additional funding in FY 2016 to support the expanded services of the ADRCS's, such as:

<u>Case Management</u>
In Ward 7 specifically, there is a need for two additional Social Workers. We currently have a waiting list of over 60 referrals from seniors in need of critical social services, with new referrals coming every day. With the additional social workers we will be able to eliminate this waiting list and provide seniors with services in a timely manner.

Home Delivered Meals

For the home delivered meal clients, there is a need for In-Home Nutrition Counseling and Nutrition Education, with the expansion of the Home Delivered Meals program, we are able to assess and reassess clients as needed, better manage and monitor delivery concerns and assess clients as required. In doing so, we are finding that more participants are in need of Nutrition Counseling and/or Education. Seniors are challenged with concerns of "how to stretch my food dollars, how to prepare meals to meet my nutritional needs, what are my nutritional needs" and a number of other nutrition concerns. From our Nutrition Screening, we have determined that of the 724 recipients of Home Delivered Meals in Ward 7, 387 are at risk nutritionally. This is based on information provided form the Nutrition Screenings.

However, with our current staff we are not able to provide the needed in-home Nutrition Counseling or Nutrition Education to those clients receiving Home Delivered Meals that are at Nutritional Risk. In order to meet this need, we need an additional Nutritionist devoted to doing in-home Nutrition Counseling and Nutrition Education.

The current Nutritionist manages all of the congregate meal sites, conduct Nutrition Education at the sites and does emergency in-home Nutrition Counseling.

Wellness Centers

The Washington Seniors Wellness Center is unique in that it has had extended hours on Mondays and Wednesdays and two Saturday morning fitness sessions for several years. There is also a Weekend Citywide Nutrition Program located at the Wellness Center that is funded through the third grant. It provide services for over 100 seniors, averaging 75 to 85 participants each Saturday. This program provides a variety of activities and is very similar to a congregate meal site.

The WSWC received $100,000 in additional funding in FY 2015. These funds were used to expand new classes, core programming and improve staffing as we already had extended hours and a weekend program. If these funds are cut it will impact core programming, cancelling classes and possibly decreased hours or salary reduction for staff. We would like to retain this funding.

Finally, last year the DCOA commissioned an Actuarial study, to study reimbursement rates and make recommendations for adjusting them. As a result of the study, the recommendation was to increase the reimbursement rates by 8.9%. We recognize that implementing this recommendation would prove to be challenging without additional funding. In conclusion, we have made considerable progress in increasing and providing services for seniors in the District of Columbia and there is still much more to be done. We would like your support in increasing rather than decreasing the DCOA Budget so that we may be able to continue the ability to provide needed services for our senior population.

Testimony on District of Columbia Office on Aging Oversight
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015

Presented by
Tori Goldhammer, DC Falls Free Coalition
Coordinator DC Senior Advisory Coalition

Good morning Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Tori Goldhammer. I am an occupational therapist, founder of the DC Falls Free Coalition and the Coordinator of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition.

Over the past four years I have worked closely with Dr. Thompson and his staff at the Office on Aging. I appreciate their support on programming and their willingness to consider new ideas. The increased budget over the past few years has contributed to an increase in vital services for community dwelling older adults. These services help those that are able remain in their homes and communities while also saving the District money for nursing home care.

However, the demands for these services continue to increase as the percentage of seniors in the District increases. The DC Senior Advisory Coalition surveyed our members to determine needs that are not being met within the current budget. The information was compiled and we created a document requesting an additional $2.8 million over the FY 15 budget amount. We have provided the full document for details but to highlight some of the needs:

Transportation. As you know, the Seabury Connector provides vital transportation to and from medical appointments, adult day health care programs and more at no cost to the consumer. It should be noted that the use of the Connector actually saves the District $14 per ride vs. use of Metro Access. The Connector has been so well received in the District that it is now unable to meet demand. At this time the Connector can only service one shift, in the earlier part of the day. This creates difficulty for seniors who have medical appointments later in the day. Additionally, this single shift is not enough to meet demand and Seabury regularly is unable to fill all ride requests. By adding an additional 10 drivers, they can meet up to 2000 more service requests per month, doubling their current capacity. The cost for one driver is ~$46,000 therefore an additional **$460,000** will help meet current demand and allow for flexible scheduling for improved overall service.

Nutrition. According to the most recent information provided to us by the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, the percentage of seniors who face the threat of hunger in DC has climbed from 15.2% in 2012 to 20.3% in 2013 (the most recent year for data) representing a 33% increase in senior hunger concerns. Combatting senior hunger requires coordination among many agencies, however there are services provided by DCOA that can help. The Home Delivered Meals program has seen an increase in supply and demand over the past few years. While we understand the budget cannot be increased for this program, we would like to see the

lead agencies that deliver the meals have autonomy over managing their slots so that they can prioritize the neediest seniors and fill slots as they become available. Additionally, the lead agencies require more nutritionists to provide essential nutrition counseling, especially in the home. Across the network, 3 additional nutritionists would be able to provide services to 300 high risk seniors for a cost of **$150,000**.

Wellness Centers. The proposed FY 16 budget cuts funding to the Wellness Centers by $1 million. While we understand the need to find savings and utilize resources wisely, we are concerned that core programming will also be affected. Many of the centers we surveyed reported using some of the funds allotted for the extended hours to also increase core program services and staff. Therefore we request that this cut be examined closely to ensure it will not affect weekday/daytime services that the community based seniors count on for socialization and exercise.

These highlight just a few of the needs our coalition identified. We understand the agencies were required to look at all programs in order to manage a predicted deficit. However since the Office on Aging budget represents less than one half of one percent of the overall District budget we are concerned that any decrease will affect vital services that older adults need and deserve.

In closing I would like to quote from two District seniors who prepared testimony for today's hearing but are unable to present orally:

Ms. K states "I've gotten more information and help from going to senior centers than government agencies. They are also good social living for us. Plus they have meals, use of computers, exercise and yoga classes. Help those who love to get out and vote for you."

Ms. D states: "Many of the elderly folk here in the city have lived here a lifetime, paid their taxes, maintained their homes and served their communities in many positive ways. These people deserve to have food delivered to them or made available through subsidized food services. Don't take away this one very essential need by cutting back the current services but rather increase the budget to meet the increasing need. **Let's avoid considering the elderly as a "problem". We are people who deserve respect and have given and continue to contribute to our society. We are important. Please don't sell us short."**

I have attached their testimonies as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

So Others Might Eat

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Testimony of Samantha Davis, Advocacy Specialist
So Others Might Eat (SOME, Inc.)
Chairperson Anita Bonds, Committee on Housing and Community Development
DC Office on Aging Budget Oversight Hearing
April 23, 2015

Good afternoon, Chairperson Bonds and Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am Samantha Davis, the Advocacy Specialist at SOME (So Other's Might Eat). SOME is an interfaith nonprofit that has served homeless and low-income individuals of all ages in the District of Columbia for 43 years. We provide a comprehensive range of services, including services to more than 290 low income elderly District residents through a grant funded by DCOA. Our programs include:

- SOME's Homebound Senior Program (HSP) works in partnership with the DC Office on Aging to provide a variety of direct services and case management to homebound older adults (60+) in Wards 6, 7, and 8. Sixty-two seniors were served by the Homebound Senior Program this year.
- Kuehner Place- the nation's first and District's only, shelter for abused and neglected elderly providing a warm, caring, stabilizing environment and counseling services for older adults facing difficult challenges in finding and retaining housing. Twenty-one unduplicated seniors were served totaling 2,057 bed nights.
- Kuehner House is a 48 unit permanent supportive housing complex for low-income District seniors.
- SOME's Senior Center, a day program for DC residents 60+ years, provides a place where senior citizens come together for activities, a hot meal to enhance their nutrition, and support to reduce their isolation and loneliness. 126 unduplicated seniors were served in 2014.

Today I am urging you and your colleagues to restore the Mayor's proposed cut to DCOA. With your support and the Councils, DCOA has made many great improvements in the past several years. Yet, still we know, that the growing demand of senior services is not being met. Now is not the time to turn our backs on the over 100,000 seniors in DC.

While I want to stress the need to at least maintain the current funding level for DCOA, I'd like to argue the dire need for increased funds, particularly in the area of transportation and nutrition.

The Seabury Connector is providing vital transportation to and from medical appointments; adult day health care programs and more. While this service is critical, its inability to meet the current demand is negatively impacting our Senior Day Program. We depend on Seabury Connector to get seniors to and from our day program. Last year as part of the shift to Seabury Connector, SOME lost our 25 passenger bus. It has been replaced with a 16 passenger bus (I believe, the largest Seabury currently has). We were originally told that we would be able to use an extra bus to pick up any remaining seniors; but have since been informed that there simply are not enough buses in their fleet. As you can imagine with an average of 25 participants served a day, this drastically impacts our ability to serve District seniors. As a result, these same seniors with limited mobility who often suffer from isolation and loneliness are left home. We do our past to serve our seniors, but with limited transportation, we have been forced to develop a waitlist for current participants and we now hesitate to enroll new seniors in our program. We are requesting an $1.2M increase to Seabury Connector for an additional 20 bus drivers, fuel/maintenance of buses and support for the Connector card.

In FY14, great strides were made in increasing the number of individuals getting much needed home delivered meals. By the end of FY14, 553,391 meals had been delivered to 5,245 older adults. While we acknowledge and are grateful for the expansion of the Home-Delivered Meals programs (HDMP), we are worried that some seniors who are in great need of this program are falling through the cracks. SOME currently has nearly a dozen of clients who are in critical need of this program yet are not being served. Many of these homebound seniors have been waiting for more than 5 months. We are able to provide these seniors food through the Community Supplemental Food Program and other services; however these seniors like many in need of the HDMP require meal prep and nutrition counseling. The seniors who we are attempting to enroll in the HDMP are fragile, in poor health and often suffering from depression. We believe that the recent change DCOA has made to allow Lead Agencies to manage their own Home Delivered Meals Slots will help ensure that the seniors in greatest need are being served first. This program is in need of $150,000 to hire a minimum of three additional nutritionists to provide vital nutrition counseling and education services for high risk seniors like the ones I have mentioned.

We commend Dr. Thompson and his staff on the efforts they have made in partnering with service providers to ensure District seniors have access to high quality programs. All stakeholders are trying to minimize the effects potential budget cuts will have on the community. However, the truth is we are not able to effectively service seniors at the current budget level. The Mayor's proposed budget cut will adversely impact services and District seniors. Low-income District seniors are battling with homelessness, poverty, poor health, isolation and many more barriers to a healthy, quality life. Our seniors matter! They have played and continue to play a vital role in this city. I urge you to ensure that the budget reflects that the health and well-being of seniors is indeed a priority in this city.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Samantha Davis, MPP
Advocacy Specialist
ph: 202-797-8806 ext. 2112
e: sdavis@some.org

Testimony of Alease Smith

DC Office of Aging Budget hearing
April 23, 2015

Good morning Chairwoman Bonds, Committee members and staff:

My name is Alease Smith. I am a Ward 7resident and registered voter. I have been living in DC all my life. I am testifying on the need to restore the Mayor's proposed cut to DCOA and also increase funding transportation for more Seabury bus drivers.

I am currently an active participant in the Senior Day Program at SOME's Kuehner House. Our Senior Program use to have a 25 passenger bus before switching to Seabury. We were promised the same size bus but first got a 20 passenger bus. That bus worked for a while but broke down. We now have a 16 passenger bus. The current bus only has room for 14 seniors because of the staff that need a seat who help seniors on and off the bus. Seabury either needs larger buses or more bus drivers. Now many seniors cannot come to the center because there is no space for them on the bus. If you do not get on the bus one day you have to call early in the morning for the following day. For example in order to get on the bus for Thursday you have to call Wednesday morning. Some seniors call as early as 4:00 in the morning trying to ensure they have a seat. I have called at 6:00 in the morning to make sure I can get a seat for the next day. If you don't get

a ride you can try to metro bus to get there but it cost more money and you have to transfer multiple times.

If we cannot have a larger bus, then we need for Seabury to send out an additional bus to pick up the remaining participants. There is a waitlist of five or more people to get transportation to the Senior Program. Most of the time, if you do not get to center on the first day of the month then you will not be able to get a ride to any of the field trips for the entire month because the list fills up quick. It is also stopping our Senior Center from enrolling more people into the program. They cannot recruit more people because they cannot promise them transportation. I think that the cuts to DCOA need to be restored and that Seabury needs the more funding so they can keep up with the demand.

Thank you for listening.

Testimony of James A. Howard
DC Office of Aging Budget hearing
April 23, 2015

Good morning Chairwoman Bonds, Committee members and staff:

My name is James Howard. I am a Ward 7 resident and registered voter. I have been living in DC for over 20 years. I am testifying on the need to restore the Mayor's proposed cut to DCOA and also much needed support for the home delivery meal program.

I am currently an active participant in the Senior Day Program at SOME's Kuehner House. I decided to get involved after passing the "Senior Dwelling Place" sign; I knocked on the door and was warmly welcomed. I have been here ever since. I love this program because it gives me the opportunity to form a fellowship with peers. The diversity of activities makes it an ideal place for me. This program has helped me make new friends, get involved in community activities, and go to places I would not have the opportunity to go to otherwise.

Today I would like to talk about the importance of the home delivery meal program. The home delivery meals is very important because people's health is deteriorating while they wait to be served by this program. People have put in their time working and helping the community and it's sad that they are not able to get basic nourishment. These seniors are homebound and might have little or no support to get basic needs meant. Not being able to eat a prepared nutritious meal

can impact a senior's health in a very negative way. Seniors are beginning to give up. Some seniors may not be able to see an outlet to get the things they need and food they need. As a city is our responsibility to make sure they are able to at least get a nutritional meal.

Thank you so much for listening to my concerns and I hope you support seniors and this program.

DC Office on Aging Budget Hearing before the City Council Committee on Housing and Community Development

Presented by Alma Harris

Family Matters of Greater Washington Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Center

April 23rd, 2015

John Wilson Building

Hello Chairwoman Bonds and Council members. My name is Alma Harris. I attend the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior day program at Fort Dupont Park Apartments in Ward 8 of DC. The Family Matters Deaf and Hard of hearing program is funded by the DC Office on Aging. I have been coming to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program since September 2014, and let me say that it has changed my life. I come to the program to participate in activities such as exercise classes, arts and crafts, and Nutrition Education from Ms. Minor, our Nutritionist from Family Matters. We also go on trips. This month we even had a trip planned to see the cherry blossoms thanks to transportation provided by Seabury.

I have such a good time coming to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program fellowshipping with other seniors.

I am a retired worker from the Washington Nursing Facility in the field of Nursing. Due to illness, I had to stop working when I was 66 years old. I'm a senior who does not like lying around at home all day. I began to feel sad because I had no place to go after retiring. When I found out about the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program for seniors, I was so excited and began coming to the program. Now, sometimes I enjoy coming to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

program more than being at home. I am even trying to get other people to come to the Center to share in the wonderful time I am having.

I am here today in support of the DC Office on Aging which funds the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. Please provide enough funding to DCOA so they can continue to provide services such as these to seniors in Washington. Please do not cut the DC Office on Aging's budget. I know there are many seniors with similar problems of isolation and without the assistance provided by the DC Office on Aging many seniors would be lonely. I would like to stress the importance of increasing funds for the Senior Service Network funded by the DC Office on Aging. I really appreciate the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program and the staff, Margaret, Jerald, and Joel.

Funding for these programs gives us the ability to maintain our independence and to be productive members of our communities.

Without programs such as the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program I do not know where I would be. Since coming to the Center, I can sleep peacefully through the whole night knowing that I have a place to go in the morning that will help me.

Thank you Councilmembers for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Testimony for the District of Columbia Office on Aging
2016 Budget Oversight Hearing
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Council Member Anita Bonds, Chairperson

April 23, 2015

Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, good morning!

Introduction

My name is Joe Resch, I am the Chief Executive Officer of Seabury Resources for Aging. Seabury provides direct services to more than 15,000 older adults and caregivers annually and we are celebrating our 91st year of service. I am grateful for the opportunity to testify today.

Services

Seabury is a member of the Senior Advisory Coalition and partners with the DC Office on Aging in three service categories: transportation, the Aging and Disability Resources Centers/Lead Agencies, and housing and assistance with home and yard maintenance. Specifically, our programs are: Seabury Connector, Seabury Aging Services in Wards 5 and 6, and Home First Residences and Age-In-Place.

Program Directors and customers are here today to testify about what we do and the thousands of DC residents who rely on our services and the DC residents who cannot access our services because the resources aren't there.

Dr. Thompson and his staff have prepared a sound budget, but any budget that is flat or absorbs cuts, is a step backward and means that the older residents of the District of Columbia will be underserved. I am here to advocate that the Council increase the funding for the DC

Office on Aging and its service providers. Otherwise the City is turning its back on long time residents, taxpayers and voters in their most vulnerable years.

What do we say when someone in Ward 6 is put on a wait list to access a social worker, because we don't have enough and the caseloads being carried are too large? What do we say to someone in Ward 5 when they are put on a wait list for a home delivered meal? We have hundreds of people a month that we can't take to the doctor because we don't have enough drivers? There aren't enough resources.

And then there is fair treatment for the service providers, our staff, who often work 50 or 60 hours a week to address the needs of the city's elderly and we can't give them a cost of living increase much less recognize their devotion, excellence and service to their clients and customers.

It is said that a culture is judged by the way it treats its older citizens. If DC truly wants to be an Age-Friendly City, it has to do better than the DC Office on Aging budget presented today.

I want to close with a thank you and kudos to Mohamed Mohamed, the Associate CFO of the Office of Finance Resource Management. I had raised a concern at the Oversight Hearing in February that OFRM was responsible for the delay in payments at the beginning of the fiscal year. I met with Mr. Mohamed and his staff and reviewed the records and the process, and realized that OFRM was not responsible for the delay. As long as there is no interruption in the processing of invoices before they are sent to OFRM, payments should be seamless from one fiscal year to the next. We are looking forward to a seamless transition this coming year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging
Budget Oversight Hearing before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015

Presented by Vivian Grayton, Director
Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5

Written Testimony

Good Morning Chairwoman Bonds and the members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Vivian Grayton and I am the Director of Seabury Resources for Aging / Aging and Disability Resources Center for Ward 5 and I am also representing the Director of Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 6. I am joined by my Seabury colleagues and our mission is to provide personalized, affordable services and housing options to help older adults live with independence and dignity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. Seabury is a member of the DC Office on Aging's Senior Service Network and the DC Senior Advisory Coalition and my colleagues are here today.

Services & Personal Impact

The Aging & Disability Resource Centers are committed to providing valuable and cost-effective services.

We serve moderate to low income seniors who depend on our services as well as dedicated caregivers. We provide essential services including case management, counseling, health promotion, nutrition education and counseling to promote healthy lifestyles of older adults and crisis intervention services. Our ADRC coordinate life-sustaining home delivered meals to homebound seniors, and serve meals and coordinate activities and trips at our 17 nutrition sites. Our activities and annual events help prevent isolation and encourage socialization. And in Ward 5 an emergency food pantry provides a vital service. In FY 2015 Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5 and 6 ADRC's provided services to 4554 customers in Ward 5 and 4,211 customers in Ward 6.

Citywide Senior Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

In addition, Seabury Ward 5 operates the citywide Senior Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired for over 25 older adults that have daily access to Braille and independent living skills training, trips and other recreational and educational activities and we are currently recruiting for a volunteer computer teacher.

As you can see our services have a significant impact on the clients we serve and we need continued and increased funding in order to properly serve our clients.

Funding
We are very thankful for increased funding this year and depend heavily on a DC Office on Aging grant. Although DCOA has said that reimbursement rates would go up on October 1 it is hoped that the promise will be kept. Ward 5 has to fundraise in order to maintain our current programming and Ward 6's entire budget is funded by DCOA.

Success Story – Ward 5
Mr. P is an African-American Muslim with a 12th grade education, a Washingtonian and a Ward 5 resident. He is married to a foreign-born woman with very limited English language fluency and both he and his wife have challenging health issues. Mr. P has prostate cancer, arthritis, cataracts and high blood pressure and he takes five medications daily. He was a self-referral due to this diminished physical health.

Mr. P. and wife had no working furnace for over three (3) years and no energy assistance, he had no home health agency services or personal care aide, and his electric scooter was broken on one side. When Mr. P. referred himself and wife to Seabury – Ward 5 case management services, Mr. P received help with his energy bill and a brand new furnace was installed in his home. His physician has finally sent a prescription for repair of the three year old scooter under Medicare and a repair company has now been acquired to repair this durable medical equipment. Mr. P. is now with a home health agency and is awaiting a slot from the waiting list in order to be assessed to begin receiving Medicaid waiver services as prescribed by his physician and the program.

With the support of the Ward 5 ADRC, Mr. P. has obtained the essential services needed to remain in his home with the necessary supports and heat and the ability to live independently with his wife in dignity. He is extremely appreciative of the work put forth from our Agency.

Success Story – Ward 6
Social Workers responded to a power outage emergency call at 4:30 pm from Kentucky Courts Senior Apartment Complex operated by DCHA which affected eighty seniors. This complex is located at 340 13th Street SE, 20003. Social Workers purchased and distributed cases of water from Harris Teeter to seniors experiencing signs of dehydration. Social Workers assessed seniors sitting outside in the courtyard seeking relief from the heat. Social workers met with the complex and area managers and provided supportive information including case management, help to access PCAs, heavy duty housecleaning, senior wellness center, congregate meal sites, and transportation for group trips.

Workers offered to come back at a later date to present service information at resident meetings. Pepco informed residents and staff that power would be restored around 8:00 pm. Social Workers stayed with Kentucky Courts residents until Red Cross was able to take over and offer support. Social work staff provided residents and the managers with Seabury brochures and contact information and invited them to contact Seabury Ward 6 in the future regarding the needs of individuals or group activities.

FY 2016 DC Office on Aging Budget

We plan to submit our FY 2016 DC Office on Aging Grant Application in order to continue to fulfill our successful mission of providing quality and life-sustaining services and programs to older adults and caregivers. Although Wards 5 and 6 home- delivered meals weekend and weekday are frozen, additional monies to support the frail elderly is needed due to the increase in the aging population in our service areas. Wards 5 and 6 need to not only maintain their current funding, but need additional funding to provide:

Ward 5 additional funding
DC Living Wage will continue to increase at the same rate and so we anticipate needed a 2% salary increase to keep pace $95,394
Data Management Specialist - $44,603
Full Time Receptionist - $37,000
Site Manager – Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired $15,862

Ward 6 additional funding
DC Living Wage will continue to increase at the same rate and so we anticipate needed a 2% salary increase to keep pace $21,396
(2) Social Workers - $128,538
(2) Nutrition Site Manager - $31,724
(7) Nutrition Site Aides - $111,034
Full Time Community Planner/Outreach Coordinator - $56,546
Office Data Manager - $53,000
Facilities Manager - $15,862

Support DC Office on Aging

We continue our support of the DC Office on Aging as they are an important partner in our mission. We look forward to continuing to work with Dr. John Thompson and his staff.
We are depending on continued support from the DC Council and the DC Office on Aging to provide essential services to older adults in the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your support of the District's older adults and for the opportunity to appear before this committee today.

Seabury Connector

TESTIMONY

TO THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING
FY'16 BUDGET HEARING

BEFORE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

LESTER M. WYNN
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

SEABURY CONNECTOR/TRANSPORTATION

SEABURY RESOURCES FOR AGING

additional dispatcher, and the conversion of one (1) Service Center position from part-time to full-time.

The Connector aims to do more than take its customers from point A to point B. Our intent is to provide senior citizens with a similar feeling of control over the timing and the route to their final destination, similar to that felt in their own vehicles. In addition to providing independence, the Connector strives to enable seniors to maintain their sense of security and dignity.

Ridership has increased by 19% as indicated by the following:

During this period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, the Connector provided 61,959 Units. During October 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015, the Connector provided 73,742 Units of service.

Aside from our free transportation services, the Connector manages an Alternative Transportation Program. This program overseas the Connector Card, which is a subsidized Visa Debit Card that can be used for taxis and other types of ground transportation. Additionally, this program is responsible for researching and developing other transportation options to service the needs of seniors within the District of Columbia.

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON MS. ANITA BONDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS. MY NAME IS LESTER M. WYNN – PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF SEABURY RESOURCES FOR AGING CONNECTOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY BEFORE YOU TODAY. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. THOMPSON AND HIS STAFF.

The Seabury Connector, with the support of funding from the DCOA continues to provide vital transportation to seniors 60 years of age or older residing within the District of Columbia. In addition to providing transportation to day care and wellness centers, the Connector also provides transportation to senior citizens requiring transportation to medical appointments and social service programs throughout the District of Columbia. Most importantly, the connector provides these services without any charge to the customers.

As some turns 60 years of age every day, the Connector must be able to adapt to growing demands of its services.

The Connector provides curb-to-curb service to numerous locations within the district. However, the growing demand on our system means that users must exercise patience and flexibility. In order to keep up with the growing demand the Connector requires 10 additional drivers, one (1)

In addition to providing transportation services, the Home Delivered Meals staff delivers nutritious meals to homebound seniors residing in the District of Columbia. From October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 Home Delivered Meals staff delivered 36,697 nutritious meals city wide. In summation the Connector requires an additional $665,000. This funding would be utilized to cover the operating costs (insurance, fuel, and maintenance) of vans and other vehicles used by Connector to meet participants' transportation needs, such as rides to and from senior centers, medical appointments, and grocery shopping.

Additionally, some of the funding would be used to support home delivered meals program and the alternative transportation program.

All of us at Seabury Connector greatly appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony. We recognize that given the financial climate we need to be prudent in our requests, yet at the same time ensure that our services continue to provide seniors with maximum access to medical care and essential services. We are committed to working with the Council in any way possible to advocate for adequate resources for reliable transportation for the seniors of the District of Columbia.

ON BEHALF OF SEABURY CONNECTOR, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK DR. JOHN THOMPSON AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT AND I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO THANK THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.

Seabury Connector

TESTIMONY

TO

The District of Columbia Office on Aging Physical Year 2016 Budget Hearing Before the District of Columbia City Council Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council Member Anita Bonds, Chairperson

Presented by Ms. Carolyn Dia

Advisory Member Seabury Connector Transportation

Good Morning Chairman Anita Bonds and Members of DC City Council of the District of Columbia, my name is Carolyn Dia; a senior citizen a resident of Ward 4 in the District of Columbia. I am happy to testify before you and members of the City Council on behalf of Seabury Connector Transportation.

I am 65 years of age, I began riding with Seabury in 2012. Last year, I had a new knee replacement and steel rods put into my left leg.

Also, a couple of years prior, a steel plate was placed into my right foot. As a result of the surgeries, I became temporary disabled and required special care. This is where Seabury became instrumental in my life and provided me free regular scheduled medical transportation service two to three times a week, to and from my medical appointments. This enabled me to continuously monitor my health needs which helped me to remain independent.

Because Seabury offered me free medical transportation service, I am able to use the savings that I normally would pay for transportation towards prescriptions, food and other necessary items of need.

During my temporary disability, Seabury drivers provided me with personalized transportation service, by assisting me on and off the bus, as I was unable to manage departing the bus alone.

In closing, I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Seabury Connector for continually providing for me scheduled medical transportation services.

April 23rd, 2015

DCOA Budget Hearing: Seabury

Hi, my name is Dorothy Carracedo. I am 77 years old. I am a DC native; born, raised and educated in this city.

I was introduced to Seabury services in 2013. At that time I did not realize I had previously worked for Seabury through the NCBA program several years ago. I am a recipient of Mom's Meals, Seabury Connector transportation, and Seabury Case Management. I first met with my worker, Christine Kenny, after my son called about the meal program. Ms. Kenny interviewed me and I began to talk about other things that were bothering me that I could not get done such as EPD Waiver certification, medical equipment, which Ms. Kenny got herself and brought to me. Throughout our time together we have worked on transportation, handling concerns with aides, she checks on me, and helped me with re-registering for Waiver when the services were cut off, and so many other things.

We are all living longer. Recently I saw a 91 year old woman back in the workforce. Unfortunately, I have many ailments that limit my abilities but with people like Christine Kenny and everyone at Seabury I feel like we will be served very well. I don't know what I would have done without them.

One of my friends recently came home from the hospital and is being interviewed by Seabury. I have another neighbor that is seeking Seabury's assistance after I referred her. But I know Seabury needs more staff to help everyone and they cannot have more staff without more funding. Without funding my neighbor will need to wait on a waiting list. I know that she and many others need Seabury. When people ask me where do I get my help I always say Seabury is my crutch. I'm hoping Seabury will receive more funding to continue helping us.

I am very much pleased and happy with my affiliation with Seabury. Even on holidays I can call Seabury and get the strength and support I need.

I want to thank you for having me today and in the name of Our Savior Jesus Christ I want to thank you all.

Testimony Submitted for the DC Office on Aging Budget Oversight Hearing
Before the DC Council Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015

Paula Reichel, DC Regional Director
preichel@capitalareafoodbank.org, 202-644-9827

Good afternoon Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee. My name is Paula Reichel and I am the DC Regional Director at the Capital Area Food Bank. The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in the DC region, reaching over 540,000 individuals at risk of hunger through direct service and a network of more than 500 non-profit partner agencies. The food bank has administered the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) as a grantee with the DC Office on Aging since 2012 and is a proud member of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition.

Today the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger will release its annual report on the number of seniors facing the threat of hunger across the country. The report brings to light a startling trend of rising senior hunger in Washington, DC. In 2011, 12.3% of DC seniors faced the threat of hunger. That number grew to 15.2% in 2012 and in 2013, the most recent year for which data is available, jumped to 20.27%, a 33% increase over the previous year. This trend has major implications for senior health. Food insecure seniors are more likely to experience a heart attack and more likely to be diagnosed with chronic diseases like asthma, depression, and heart failure than their food secure peers.

An investment in nutritious food access for DC seniors is an investment in prevention, the value of which is compounded through health care cost savings, enhanced economic opportunity, and the preservation of vibrant, multigenerational communities. As such, the Capital Area Food Bank urges the DC Council to maintain current levels of funding for CSFP and SFMNP at $455,000 for FY16. This allocation will support our meeting the needs of the 5,300 DC seniors who currently participate in the program, while allowing us to fully realize our strategies for program expansion and enhancement.

CSFP and SFMNP provide low-income DC seniors across all eight Wards with 30 pounds of healthy groceries per month and vouchers redeemable for fresh produce at farmer's markets during the growing season. CSFP participants appreciate the health value of the foods provided which encourage them to prepare nutritious meals, improve their eating habits, and remain active in their home and in their community. The groceries also offset their food costs, providing participating seniors with over $600 in annual savings. To complement the basic program offerings and, in response to demand for

fresh produce, in FY15 the food bank began offering fresh fruits and vegetables monthly at its two walk-in centers and distributed Produce Plus checks in addition to SFMNP vouchers.

FY15 also brought many challenges. Stricter scrutiny of program regulations led to a drop in program participation. As a result, the food bank made significant changes to the existing organizational structure, integrating outreach into each programmatic position while creating an Outreach Coordinator position which reported directly to the program Director. The program was also rebranded as Grocery Plus, a name which spoke to the program's core function and resonated more strongly with participants.

In mid-February 2015, the food bank was informed by DCOA that the lease at our Congress Heights Walk-in Center was due to expire at the end of that month and that the building was being sold. Congress Heights was one of the program's two remaining walk-in centers. Unlike the food bank's 56 community distributions which operate once monthly, our walk-in centers operate daily throughout the month. Prior to its closure, the Congress Heights Walk-in Center had operated continuously as a CSFP distribution site for nearly eight years and served 650 seniors, most from Ward 8 neighborhoods.

Although DCOA was able to negotiate a lease extension into April, they were unable to identify a replacement site through DGS, which asserted that there were no buildings available in their portfolio. As a result of not identifying a replacement walk-in facility, the food bank had to reassign the majority of seniors from Congress Heights to its one remaining walk-in center in Ward 7, located eight miles away. While the repercussions of this move have yet to be fully realized, we anticipate the change to result in a significant drop in participation. As one participant reported, changing centers means that he will go from walking a short distance in his neighborhood to taking three buses each way to pick up his monthly groceries.

Despite these challenges, the Capital Area Food Bank looks forward to continuing to grow our partnership with DCOA. We are pleased with the agency's efforts thus far under the leadership of Dr. John Thompson to coordinate its senior nutrition programs through universalizing the intake process, creating a shared data system, and forming a Nutrition Task Force which will convene for the first time later this month. We are hopeful that these actions will result in greater overall program reach and a stronger safety net for the District's growing senior population.

Testimony Given by
Deborah D. Nix, Founder and Executive Director, The Keys to Canaan
Before Committee Chairperson Anita Bond
Committee on Housing and Community Development
FY16 Budget Oversight Hearing
Thursday, April 23, 2015

Good afternoon Councilmember Bond. My name is Deborah Nix. I am the founder and executive director of The Keys to Canaan. Thank you for allowing me to testify at the Department on Aging's fiscal year 2016 budget hearing.

The Keys to Canaan provides programs and supportive services to families living primarily in Southeast; Washington. We have worked with families in Barry Farm, Benning Terrace and Potomac Gardens. Our programs include the Ward 7 Benning Senior Village that is derived from an evidence-based model out of Boston, MA.

In 2013, The Keys to Canaan participated in the Department on Aging's pilot program to start a Senior Village in Ward 7, in the Benning community. Due to the economic needs of most of our seniors, East of Anacostia River, the concept behind this Village was to not charge a membership fee, as most villages do. Our Village services, in partnership with First Rock Baptist Church, include a weekly a fellowship program, which provides a hot breakfast and lunch, transportation to and from the program, a monthly exercise program, completion of minor home improvement projects, access to computers, printing, copying and faxing, referrals, and phone calls to check on our seniors.

The goal of our Village is to provide the Seniors in Benning with the support they need to age safely in their homes. With your help and in partnership with the Department on Aging we hope to further develop our Village and support our

Seniors in Ward 7. Therefore, I would like to ask that the Senior Village funding be fully restored in the FY16 budget. This will allow The Keys to Canaan team the opportunity to continue to provide quality programs and services to our seniors.

Thank you very much for leading the fighting for our Seniors. I am available to answer any questions that you may have.

Testimony Submitted to the Commission on Health

for the 2016 Budget Hearing of the D.C. Office on Aging

April 22, 2015

Submitted by:

Jan Allen May
Executive Director
Legal Counsel for the Elderly
601 E Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20049
202-434-2120 Office
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Good day. My name is Jan Allen May and I am the Executive Director of Legal Counsel for the Elderly. LCE delivers client-centered legal services to D.C. seniors, with a special emphasis on those most in need: elders with unsafe living environments due to landlord neglect or malfeasance, seniors facing foreclosure, older victims of predators and scam artists, those threatened with eviction and homelessness, and seniors who need assistance to pay for food, housing and other basic living necessities. We are also a founding member of the Senior Advisory Coalition. LCE is able to carry out much of its work as a result of a grant from the DC Office on Aging. We are testifying today to reaffirm the importance of DCOA funding to the lives of our clients whose demand for these services are ever increasing.

Using a holistic approach to help at-risk seniors, LCE combines both legal and social work services in order to fully respond to the root causes of the problem and create long-term, systemic solutions not only for the seniors we serve, but also for housing providers, the D.C. courts, and concerned friends, neighbors and family members. Our multipronged program consists of legal representation, community education and policy advocacy.

Founded in 1975, Legal Counsel for the Elderly champions the dignity and rights of vulnerable D.C. seniors by providing free legal services. Our clients are D.C. residents age 60+, and in 2014 we helped more than 6,000 older neighbors in need. With thousands of hours of volunteer time contributed by 500+ volunteers each year, LCE is able to provide a wide-range of services—legal, psychosocial, financial, educational—in a cost-effective way. Our primary goals are to serve and empower thousands of low-income seniors each year in those areas of law involving "basic human needs": income, housing, long-term care, personal autonomy, and consumer protection. We garnered over 13 million dollars of benefits for seniors in the District of Columbia in calendar year 2014.

We wish to thank the Council for supporting funding to the DCOA and thus the importance of DCOA's vital services. We appreciate that the Office on Aging has taken steps to ensure that most grantees will not suffer budget cuts in FY 2016. We also applaud the fact that DCOA has committed to raising the reimbursement rates for its grantees, rates that have remained the same for many years. Ultimately of course the overall budget needs to be increased so as not to cause a diminution of services. The budget for our legal services has been essentially flat for years despite significantly rising costs during that same time period. About 73% of the funding we receive from DCOA is for the long-term care ombudsman program and only 27% is for legal advice and representation of community residents. Thus DCOA pays for about 3 FTE attorneys though we have about 9 attorneys working to achieve the objectives of the DCOA grant which we then have to subsidize from other sources. We have to supplement our own resources to deliver our DCOA funded services in part because DCOA funds reimbursement rate is inadequate-a fact that DCOA's independent auditors noted in their report. DCOA and its grantees are long overdue to receive a significant increase in its funding simply to maintain the same level of services. We are aware that this is a tight budget year but the reality is that with flat funding we either have to turn people away or have older people wait way too long for services. The Senior Advisory Coalition has made these points time and again to both the Executive branch and to the Council. In our discussions, all these individuals seemed to be in agreement with the need for significant additional funding for DCOA.

One last point: DCOA's website publishes the grant dollar amounts for each grantee and the "burn-rate" –that is how much of the grant has been spent. This data is out of date and inaccurate and has been for some time. DCOA has been notified numerous times by multiple grantees concerning this issue, but nothing seems to happen. Based on what they have had posted,

a reader would logically but erroneously conclude that DCOA has not been spending its money, that the grantees have not been using the money and that therefore DCOA does not need money. **This is patently false**. Right now the data on DCOA's website for my own organization is off inaccurate by 210% since their data only accounts for one month (October) though it purports to account for the entire first quarter. Other grantees have reported to me and to DCOA a similar situation. We recommend that either this information be removed from the website or be strictly kept up to date and accurate. To publish outdated and/or erroneous budget information is at best misleading and at worst does a real disservice to DC's seniors, DCOA and the Senior Advocacy Network.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ms. Joyce Pratt Hearing Speech

Good Afternoon,

My name is Joyce Pratt and I am a participant in the Grocery Plus Program, which is formerly known as the USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program. I have been receiving my monthly food package for approximately 14 years. Due to my fixed monthly income it makes it very difficult to pay rent, purchase medicine, and then have to purchase nutrition food, it almost impossible.

However, the monthly food I receive from the Grocery Plus Program is a huge help and it allows me to eat healthy, and in the summer months I'm able to purchase fresh produce from local Farmer's Markets with the vouchers I receive from the program.

As a resident of the District of Columbia for 77 years, I would like to see the Grocery Plus Program continue for the senior. Without this program many seniors would face serious health problems and go hungry.

So in closing, I would like to encourage you think about us senior residents and provide the necessary funding to keep this program going....God knows we need it!....Thank You.

District of Columbia Office on Aging FY 16 Budget Hearing

Before the District of Columbia City Council

Committee on Housing and Community Development - Chairperson Anita Bonds

SUBMITTED BY

Glenda M. Wheeler Allen, Family Caregiver

Recipient of D.C. Caregivers' Institute and Homemaker Services from

Home Care Partners

Thursday, April 23, 2015

My name is Glenda M. Wheeler Allen. I am a 3rd generation Washingtonian and Ward 6 resident. I am speaking in support of the D.C. Office on Aging Budget. I have cared for five seniors in my family, including three of whom resided with me. Presently, I am privilege to be the caregiver for my beautiful 95 year old auntie, who is visually impaired and mobility challenged. My aunt requires assistance for everyday tasks from bathing to the daily sustenance of meal preparation. Through the Office on Aging funding, Home Care Partners, Inc. provides a trained health aide, whom I can only describe as one of my "Angels," to care for my aunt several days a week. Although my aunt gave 40+ years of federal government service, she still cannot afford the costs of having a health aide care for her. Without Home Care Partners, the responsibility would fall solely to me.

Thanks to the amazing support from Home Care Partners, I was also referred to the Caregiver's Institute. Ironically, while I have been a caregiver for nearly two decades, I did not associate the title "Caregiver" with myself until I spoke with one of the Home Care Partners/Caregiver's Institute case managers. I simply viewed my actions as doing what was necessary to care for my honored elders who had loved, prayed, and sacrificed for me. However, my case manager has helped me to understand:

I am a caregiver; I require, need, and desire support; I deserve respite time; My dreams, goals, and aspirations are important; My health is important; Yes I am CAREGIVER, and MY LIFE is important.

In addition, the case management, monthly conference calls for members, and resource information are just some of the benefits this program provides. In addition to the emotional support, the monthly financial stipend I receive assists with purchase of incontinence supplies, medicines or contribute to the cost of a few hours of critical respite care. As my own family

members shared with me, they did not understand what I experienced until they stayed with our mother during her battle with Alzheimer's. Thus, unless you walk in the shoes of a caregiver, even for a brief moment, it is difficult to comprehend the emotional, physical, administrative, and financial impact and sacrifice caregiver's experience. Caregiver's often predecease their love ones, or are diagnosed with life altering illnesses, because they are focused on the health and welfare of their senior. And YES, I know this from personal experience, and YES I would make the same choice without hesitation.

The services of Home Care Partners and the Caregiver's Institute provide many of the wrap around services that allow our seniors to choose to continue to age in place at home, safe and with dignity, while supporting the caregiver too. Moreover, it is my understanding that at a potential cost of $100,000 per person, it more financially feasible for the District to subsidize Home Care Partners programs rather than allow our vulnerable seniors to end up in nursing homes.

I challenge the members of the Council, who may not be intimately familiar with the task of caregiving, to try to walk even for a brief moment in the path of a caregiver. I then further challenge you to put yourself in the place of our vulnerable seniors, who but for the critical services funded through the D.C. Office on Aging, would be in a nursing home.

I trust that our D.C. government will show compassion and support for its older citizens, as well as their caregivers providing sufficient funding, and certainly not cutting funding for the DC Office on Aging. Our seniors have built and sustained this wonderful city, and they deserve our best, not our leftovers; keeping in mind that we too may someday walk this way.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

City Council Hearing 4/2/15

Good morning Chairperson Bonds and other committee members on Community and Housing Development 2016 Budget Hearing. My name is Janis Williams and I have been a member of Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center for six years. I am happy to testify today on behalf of the members of Hattie Holmes in summarizing the benefits of programs provided by our professional staff and contractors as they may impacted by the impending cuts to senior centers under the District of Columbia Office on Aging.

We are most privileged to enjoy a very comprehensive "wellness" program under the leadership of our Director, Theresa Moore, who methodically plans our programs most effectively on a monthly calendar and also provides courses in Healthy Living. In addition, Stephanie Peters, Health Promotions Specialist, brings classes to our members on what happens to the body, such as IBS, diabetes screening, arthritis, blood pressure and heart related conditions.

In addition, a very essential component of our program includes an *extensive exercise program*, provided by our Fitness Expert, Arthur Dunbar. This program is most essential in that it provides physical strengthening, flexibility, coordination, balance, aerobic conditioning and mental stimulation through exercise, which is essential to physical and mental well-being.

This coupled with the classes we attend on nutrition and food preparation conducted by Kristina Vera, Nutritionist/Dietitian, we have a well-rounded daily program.

Our Activities Coordinator, Gwen Green is currently coordinating plans to expose our seniors to more arts and crafts, trips, and additional physical activity to include bowling and tennis, to be added to the calendar as well.

In addition, there are other instructional hobbies provided at our center which include quilting, crocheting, and yes, even "Hand Dance" instruction which is the official dance of DC by proclamation from the City Council. Thru the dance instruction we derive additional benefits of exercise, body strengthening, stress reduction, cognitive skills, counting, thinking patterns, improved memory, coordination, balance, and overcoming challenges, improved mental focus.

Our beginners Spanish Language class is instructing seniors to learn a new language enabling us to be equipped to relate to the Latin community. This class challenges memory, pronunciation, verb conjugation, focused study and, of course, lots of patience. Our seniors, however, are very committed to this class.

If at all possible, we would appreciate funding for additional essential exercise equipment might be purchased to accommodate our growing numbers of seniors who are being brought to our center by their caregivers for exercise, lunch, trips and socialization. This would bring us in line with other wellness centers. Also, because of our growing numbers we request 3-4 additional computers so that more seniors can attend the classes for computer instruction.

Many of our seniors depend solely on the Seabury Transportation contractor to pick them up five days per week and as a whole all our members very much appreciate the reliance of this service.

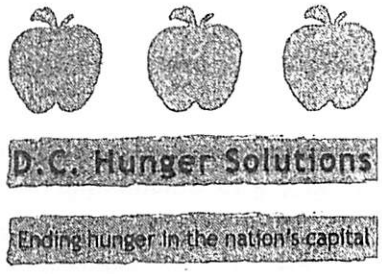
This service also affords the opportunity to participate in various trips to stores, museums, historical sites, and programs monthly. Hattie Holmes members do hope that the funding for these programs and activities will not be diminished and because they are vitally important to our seniors' quality of life.

In closing, I would like to thank you, Ms. Bonds, for the earlier 2014 proposed legislation which attempts to improve the lives of seniors who are homeowners and would give additional tax breaks to our older seniors. We do hope that the legislation will be reconsidered and passed in the future.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak today.

Submitted by Janis Williams

Member, Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center



COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

BUDGET HEARING ON

"DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING"

Thursday, April 23, 2015; 11:00 a.m.

Testimony of Lauren Badger, Program Associate

D.C. Hunger Solutions

My name is Lauren Badger, and I am a program associate at D.C. Hunger Solutions, an initiative of the Food Research and Action Center. D.C. Hunger Solutions works to create a hunger-free community and improve the health, nutrition, well-being, and economic security of low-income residents of the nation's capital.

Although the District faces tough budget decisions, investing in the health and future of our population is a critical need. As an Age-Friendly City, we must ensure that seniors have access to the nutrition programs and services that are essential to age in place. Seniors currently make up about 16% of the D.C. population, and around 23.2% of seniors in D.C. are below 150% of the federal poverty level. [1] In 2013, more than 20% of seniors in the District faced the threat of hunger, a 33% increase from 2012.[2] Nationally, there has been an increasing trend of food insecurity among seniors, with the rate of food insecure seniors more than doubling from 2001 to 2011.[3] Among seniors, food insecurity is associated with nutrition-related chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension and has also been associated with asthma.[3] Furthermore, food insecure seniors are 40% more likely to report having congestive heart failure, 54% more likely to report having a heart attack, twice as likely to develop asthma, 22% more likely to experience limitations in Activities of Daily Living, and 60% more likely to experience depression compared to food secure seniors.[3] Therefore, access to nutritious food is essential to preventing various diseases related to food insecurity.[4]

Seniors who have an income less than 200% of the federal poverty level are most at-risk of food insecurity, highlighting the need to connect low-income seniors to nutrition programs [3]. Seniors are more likely to experience severe health consequences related to food insecurity compared to other adult age groups, and the older adult population is on the rise[3]. The U.S. population aged 65 years and older is projected to double its population by 2050 due to the aging of the Baby Boomers. [5] Therefore, it is in the best interests of the District to protect its senior population and support active, healthy aging.

DCOA has an important role in providing optimal nutrition to its vulnerable older residents, and Dr. Thompson and his nutrition team are committed to supporting the needs of food insecure seniors. There are four main federal programs that address the nutrition needs of low-income seniors, three of which are administered by DCOA (Congregate Meals, Home-Delivered Meals, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program) and one that is administered by the Department of Human Services, DHS (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps).

- Congregate Meals Program – The Congregate Meals Program provides free, well-balanced meals to low-income seniors at 59 sites in the District, with at least three sites in each ward. D.C. Hunger Solutions looks forward to analyzing site locations to ensure that low-income seniors have sufficient access to meal sites and to building on efforts by the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH) and DCOA to continue to ensure that the meals are high-quality and nutritious.

- Home-Delivered Meals Program – Home-Delivered Meals Program delivers prepared meals to frail, homebound, or isolated D.C. seniors each week. D.C. invested $1.9 million in FY 2015 to provide more home-delivered meals to seniors, but the need continues to grow. The city's budget is falling short here, as seniors in need of help are unable to access meal slots. To address the issue, DCOA is hosting a Nutrition Taskforce comprised of leaders from DCOA, the Lead Agencies, and other key stakeholders. However, additional funding needs to be allocated for these particularly vulnerable seniors, especially those without economic resources who meet the eligibility standards of the program in D.C.

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program – CSFP provides low-income District seniors with a bag of healthy groceries each month and fresh produce vouchers that are redeemable at area farmers' markets during the growing season. Participation in the program has dropped from about 6,200 to 5,200 seniors, and one reason the lack of sites accessibility to seniors in low-income areas. There is a concern that participation will drop more with a closing of the main and highly trafficked site in Ward 8. Seniors who used to pick up their monthly food packages at this site will now have to journey X miles to a site in Ward 7 – a journey that some may not have the mobility, the transportation, or

the money to make possible. The city should prioritize finding a location in Ward 8 to connect seniors to this valuable resource.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) – DCOA continues to improve efforts to better connect the seniors it serves to SNAP. The co-location of a staff member who does SNAP and Medicaid eligibility determination in the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) run by DCOA is an example of efforts to connect seniors to SNAP. Additionally, DCOA and D.C. Hunger Solutions continue to improve our partnership efforts to connect seniors served by DCOA to SNAP. Upcoming work will include ensuring that DCOA nutrition resources promote not just Congregate Meals, Home-Delivered Meals, and CSFP, but also SNAP. We will work to ensure that intake forms collect data on what nutrition benefits seniors are using and that this data is being used to refer clients to relevant programs to improve their food access. In addition, the local Supplemental Food Assistance funding that was passed as part of the SNAP Expansion Act of 2014 and continued in the Mayor's proposed FY 2016 budget will help low-income seniors in two ways:
    - A) Increasing the minimum benefit from $16 to $30 a month
        - Many seniors on fixed incomes are likely to receive $16 a month in SNAP benefits.
    - B) Increasing SNAP participation among seniors, who often state that the minimum of $16 is a barrier to applying.

  We look forward to future implementation of the local SNAP supplement by DHS to help ensure that seniors and low-wage earners receive a sufficient benefit level each month to support improved nutrition.

Nutrition efforts of DCOA are important for all seniors, but particularly so for seniors with low resources, who are more likely to experience consequences related to food insecurity. Even in times of tough budget decisions, addressing the nutrition needs of seniors struggling with hunger must be a priority.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Badger, Program Associate – lbadger@dchunger.org; 202-640-1088 x3042

D.C. Hunger Solutions 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20036

[1] U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates. Population 60 years and over in the United States. Available at http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml.

[2] National Foundation to End Senior Hunger. Percent of seniors facing the threat of hunger by state. Available at http://www.nfesh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2012-to-2013-comp-Alpha.pdf.

[3] Feeding America and National Foundation to End Senior Hunger. Adverse health outcomes of food insecure older Americans. Executive summary. March 2013. Available at http://www.nfesh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/SeniorLiteratureReport-Final-Draft.pdf.

[4] National Conference of State Legislatures. Hunger among older Americans. October 2014. Available at http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/hunger-among-older-americans.aspx.

[5] Ortman JM, Velkoff VA, Hogan H. U.S. Census Bureau. An aging nation: the older population in the United States. May 2014. Available at: http://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1140.pdf (accessed 20 April 2015).

Ms. Linda Brown Hearing Speech

To: Councilmember Bonds : Committee on Housing and Community Development : DC Office on Aging

Good morning, DC City Council.

To advocate for 1. Grocery Plus. 2. Capital Area Food Bank. 3. So Others Might Eat. 4. DC Office on Aging. 5. DC Senior Advisory Coalition (Budget Goals).

I reside in a senior community in Ward 8 and a participant in the Commodity Supplemental Food program and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program. My favorites are the dry milk for cooking and love grits.

These Capitol Area Food Bank programs are very important to insure physical and mental health to seniors living in poverty.

On April 17th the Ward 8 site moved to Ward 6. Grocery Plus program, need funding, feeding the poor is a great undertaking .

Remember what Jesus said about the poor!

Advocacy, lets help get a green light to FY16 Budget Goals.

DC City Council can make sure living wages become standard.

Thank you so much for your time and effort .

Sincerely,

Linda Brown

Testimony
Committee on Housing & Community Development
April 23, 2015

Good morning Councilmember Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Rosa E. Pizzi and I am the Executive Director of Vida Senior Centers.

Vida operates three sites in the District, 1842 Calvert Street, 1330 Missouri Avenue and Vida manages the programs Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kenney Street NW for the District.

In total, Vida will assist over 800 seniors per year and the number is growing.

.....

Like my colleagues and peers I am here representing Vida Senior Centers and its participants because we want to be sure that we can meet the needs of the fast growing population of elders/senior in this great city.

Understand that we are in the business of caring for others. We know that there are other needs; we all want to reduce homelessness, especially for seniors, eliminate child abuse, eliminate dropout rates, etc. But there is one thing that we cannot do and that is to stop anyone from turning 60 years of age.

Recent reports tell us how beneficial the services we provide at our senior centers and wellness centers benefit our participants and we all know that helping them age in place is much less costly to a community than long term care.

I ask you to please consider the following:

First Vida Senior Centers still has sixteen seniors that have been waiting for over a year for transportation services to our two locations at 1842 Calvert Street NW and 1330 Missouri Avenue NW. These are low income and very poor elderly Latino/Hispanic residents from all eight wards that remain isolated and in need of nutrition, socialization, health and wellness as well as all of the programs and services available at our senior centers. Please consider providing the $150,000 to the Office on Aging so that Seabury can provide transportation for these

seniors so they can benefit from our services. Others will also benefit with transportation to and from medical appointments in between drop-off and pick-up from the senior centers.

Secondly, Vida manages the program operations at Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center in Ward 4. Currently, Hattie Holmes provides extended hours and includes being open on Saturday mornings. Lack of transportation impacted attendance as the neediest clients, especially in terms of food insecurity, could not take advantage of the services because there was no transportation provided for the extended weekend hours. However, a much needed staff person, an Activities Coordinator, was added to help attend to the extended hours and to help coordinate the numerous daily activities provided at the Center. Hattie Holmes averages over 100 seniors per day Monday thru Friday and the services of this position continue to be necessary. It is important that these core services are not impacted by budget cuts.

Third, the enrollment at the Vida Brightwood location has grown to the point where a full-time staff member is needed to keep the Center open and available to the seniors in the community full time. Right now, staff from the Calvert Street location spend one day each at Brightwood which impacts the large number of seniors that come to Calvert Street.

The staff is working with the Board to increase our level of fundraisisng, but your assistance of an additional $80,000 for staff and overhead would be greatly appreciated at this time.

I want to recognize the efforts of Dr. Thompson and his staff. They are always readily available and helpful.

Thank you for your time and hard work on behalf of all of the seniors and citizens of the District.

Thank you.

Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging Oversight
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
The Honorable Anita Bonds, Chairperson
April 23, 2015

Presented by
Thomye Cave, Executive Director
Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center, Inc.

Good morning, Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My Name is Thomye Cave and I am the Executive Director of Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center, Inc. and a member of the Senior Advisory Coalition. Thank you for this opportunity today.

Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center, Inc. offers a comprehensive system of person-centered, therapeutic and supportive community based services for functionally impaired, older Washingtonians, including those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, to help them remain in their homes and communities. We are supported by the DC Office on Aging and our programs promote healthy, active engagement of impaired, at-risk, older adults and serve, for many, as their only link to the community. Some of our programs include, physical, occupational, art and recreational therapy, intergenerational health/ wellness, toddler therapy and Montessori based activities for our Memory Care program, counseling, caregivers' support group meetings, and an extended day program for working caregivers, just to name a few. The average age is 82 and ninety-six percent require assistance with three or more activities and/or instrumental activities of daily living. Some come to us in wheelchairs and through our therapeutic programs are able to improve functioning to using walkers or canes. Were it not for support from the DC Office on Aging, they would be at the greatest risk for institutionalization.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, our older adults need and deserve your help. According to the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, in "2013, 20.3 percent of seniors in DC faced the threat of hunger. That shows a **33 percent increase from the previous year."** With DCOA's support and through Terrific Inc., our lead agency, we serve as a lifeline and ensure that elders like our 82 years young gentleman who lives alone and has no relatives in the area receive at least one nutritionally balanced meal by attending the Center. The Office on Aging can do more and we can do more but only so with adequate funding. Our older adults, our seniors, our seasoned citizens, our silver foxes need your help. There is a sense of urgency and no matter how creative we are, we cannot do more with less.

There's an old African Proverb that says, "if you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to walk far, walk with others." Walk with DCOA by providing adequate funding so that we, the community based organizations, may walk far and continue to give hope, inspire, challenge, and as our 90 years young participant says, gives him a "reason to wake up in the morning."

Walk with DCOA to help us continue on a path to stabilize cost-effective community services and improve service quality. For those on whose shoulders we stand, for those whom were there with a helping hand – Walk with DCOA, walk with community service providers as we champion the cause of aging - Walk with us...

Again, thank you for the opportunity.

Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center

2016 Budget Presentation

Good Morning Counsel Chair Person Bonds. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this morning to discuss the FY 2016 budget for our senior wellness center. My name is Patricia Hairston and I am a proud member of the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center, located at 324 Kennedy Street, NW. Teresa Moore is our director.

Hattie Holmes is one of the largest senior centers in the city; approximately 1,800 seniors are on the rolls, with over 120 taking advantage of the programs on a daily basis. In addition to the 120 daily members who engage in the various programs, we also have a growing lunch program that includes a well-balanced salad bar that attracts our seniors.

Our programs include chair aerobics, Pilates, stretch and tone, computer training (beginners and intermediate), piano lessons, quilting and crocheting lessons, line dancing, massage, arthritis exercises, and a state of the art fitness center with treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bikes, and circuit weights. We have had to shorten some of the exercise classes in order to meet demands. We are literally bursting at the seams.

Dr. Thompson, Office on Aging, presented the Mayor's 2016 proposed budget which included a $1 million cut in the six senior programs in the city. We are concerned that this cut will affect our core services. Last year, in addition to the $300,000 budget, we were awarded an additional $225, 000. As a result of the increased funding, new staff have been hired and new programs have been added to the schedule that were requested by our members; such as Zumba, yoga, enhancement of the nutrition program, health promotion classes, hand dancing, enhanced aerobics, and additional computer classes. Also, with the additional funding we were able to expand our hours to keep the center open later three nights a week and to offer Saturday exercise and lunch.

Dr. Thompson stated that the reduction in the budget would not affect our core programs; however, we're unclear as to how this reduction could be accomplished without having a detrimental effect on our current programs. In an effort to accommodate the proposed cuts, and after looking carefully at our programs, we could understand the elimination of our Saturday aerobics and luncheon programs to meet this budget issue. We want to make sure that our needs will still be met with the new budget proposal. If

we were made to operate with less that our current budget, after making the aforementioned adjustments, we may be forced to cancel the new programs, and possible lose staff.

We are appealing to you to keep our present budget in place for FY 2016.

Again, thank you for allowing the Hattie Holmes Seniors to voice our concerns.

WE ARE FAMILY
Senior Outreach Network

Testimony of Mark Andersen, Co-Director, We Are Family

DC CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

April 23, 2015

Dear Councilmember Bonds and other members of the Committee on Housing & Community Development,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Mark Andersen, and I am Co-Director of the We Are Family senior outreach network, a participant in the Senior Advisory Coalition and the Fair Budget Coalition. ***I am here to oppose the Mayor's proposed cut of $2.3 million from the DC Office On the Aging (DCOA), and urge the D.C. City Council to find additional revenue by raising income taxes on DC residents who make more than $100,000 to expand DCOA's services. In general, we must prioritize meeting the needs of low-income residents in our increasingly affluent city, fighting displacement created by gentrification and the consequent disappearance of affordable housing.***

We Are Family brings services, advocacy, and friendship into the homes of more than 600 isolated low-income seniors each month, seniors that reside primarily in Wards One and Six, in neighborhoods that have histories of concentrated poverty and the social problems that accompany such deprivation, and that now face the ambivalent repercussions of gentrification. Many seniors – largely folks who have worked their whole lives, patiently toiling and persevering through segregation, riots, drug wars, and more -- now are at risk for displacement, even homelessness. In the face of this, We Are Family doesn't wait for problems to come to us; we go out into the community to find – and meet – the need. We do all of this ***without funding from the DC Office on the Aging***, with a single full-time staff member, a half-time co-director, and hundreds of volunteers, through a network of caring eyes and ears built up from our grassroots base among senior leaders residing in our service areas.

Even though we are not a DCOA grantee, we fully support DCOA, since its fate – as that of the other social safety net services – will inevitably impact our seniors. Sadly, there is a grave danger that the life-or-death needs of elderly as well as the poor and marginalized may continue to be swept aside. We are called to make sure that the social safety net is fully funded as the cost of living rises for low-income residents in our economically booming city.

The reality is that while we can always find funding for sport stadiums or upscale development, the poor are often forgotten. This on-going underfunding is a special insult to our low-income seniors, those who built our community but who suffer because they are not a priority in our budgets. We can't pretend that inequality isn't growing, that poor people aren't being displaced—even thrown away--as we consistently choose other self-serving priorities.

The need of our seniors is immense, it is increasingly unmet, and it is growing... in the short term due to the economic challenges created by gentrification and a long pattern of service cutbacks, but in the medium- to long-term by a demographic shift in our aging population that is ominous and potentially catastrophic, if we do not begin to plan for it now. Government action is essential. Non-profits cannot be expected to be pick up the slack – our resources are too strapped already after trying for so long to meet the growing needs with fewer resources.

We should take this opportunity to be bold, to stretch ourselves to not only fully fund DCOA, but strive to end homelessness among our seniors—and beyond—by supporting additional funding of the Local Rent Supplemental and other affordable housing programs. DC has the resources to fund these initiatives--sales tax increases can't be our only recourse, progressive revenue-raising measures like income tax increases can and MUST be part of a fair budget, one that puts human needs first. While We Are Family has a special allegiance to the seniors who built our community, and believe they have a unique claim on our compassion, we understand that our seniors will not flourish, or be protected, if we do not prioritize the poor, marginalized, or vulnerable in the community as a whole.

As such, I am here to ask that human needs -- especially those of the most vulnerable -- be our central indicator for the moral measure of our city's budget. In particular, after years of cumulative, crippling cuts, we have to work to preserve – and improve – our network of day centers, nutrition sites, and other services for low-income seniors, while pressing forward towards a fully funded social safety net that protects all the vulnerable in our community, provides affordable housing and that begins to prepare for the longer term challenges now looming on the horizon.

We cannot accept a $2.3 million cut for DCOA, but must push for the $2.8 million increase itemized by the Senior Advisory Coalition. We question the justice of the sales tax increase but support additional funding for The Housing Production Trust Fund, Local Rent Supplement, Permanent Supportive Housing and other affordable housing programs, as well as critical services for those in need. It may not be politically easy to find the resources to do justice to DC's most vulnerable—beginning with low-income seniors–but it is essential, a test of our moral worth. The City – including this Council – has made many promises to the seniors who built our community. It must ensure that those whose shoulders we stand upon are not forgotten or abandoned, seen as all-too-expendable. Those with more resources must inevitably accept that they must shoulder a greater burden—it is only right and just.

In general, we must remember to put human needs first – as this is indeed the yardstick by which we all will some day be judged: how we responded to needs of the least of these sisters and brothers among us, beginning especially with the elders who have made our very lives possible. Thanks for your consideration of these thoughts.

1405 Monroe St., NW • Washington, DC 20010 • (202) 487-8698
Info@wearefamilydc.org • www.wearefamilydc.org

Advocacy Elevator Speech

- ***Who you are (The hook):*** A statement about yourself and your issue.
- ***Why you care (Your passion):*** Your personal story and/or statistics
- ***What they need to do (The "ask"):*** At the end of your elevator speech, you must ask for something. What d

Who are you? My name is Patricia Kelly. I am a disable senior. I'm a former aide to seniors and disable person. ~~Em~~ I had to struggle to get ~~assist~~ assist, because I didn't understand the steps I needed follow. I also took 4 years to get housing.

Why do you care? Because most seniors have been use to being independ and now may assist that isn't there for them, as affordable housing. When they find affordable housing, they have to go on waiting list. They may die before it comes available. Then applying for any kind of assist, there no one to explain it to you. They just give you appointments, forms, or tell you to go on the internet. Everyone do not have - continue back

What should they do about it?

Help make more affordable housing that we don't have to wait forever for. Help seniors that want to stay in their own homes to make home repairs. They pay their taxes or they wouldn't still be in those homes. Help seniors get off the step. Finally, I've gotten more informant and help from going to Senior Centers, then government agencies. They are also good social living for us. Plus, they have meals and the use of computers. Exercise, yoga, classes. Help those who love to get out and vote for you.

a computer, believe it or not.

April 22, 2015

To: Chairman, DCOA budget oversight hearing

From: Emmy Lu Daly

Re: Proposed cuts in funding for the elderly

My name is Emmy Lu Daly, I am 91 years old, a veteran of WWII and a resident of Sarah's Circle for 20 years. Sarah's Circle is a residential facility providing apartments for District of Columbia seniors with limited incomes where they can maintain their independent living, have community with others and enjoy stimulating programs.

Through my long and satisfying residence here, I have become aware of the many essential services our District government has provided for the D.C. seniors. However, I am alarmed at some of the proposed cuts in the budget and in particular, the cut in food services for housebound seniors. Hunger is a basic need for every human being. For seniors it may not be a question of managing that need by themselves; they may not be physically able to go out and obtain the necessary foods. Statistics show that poverty is increasing in the District and that includes in the elderly. Many of the elderly folk here in the city have lived here a lifetime, paid their taxes, maintained their homes and served their communities in many positive ways. These people deserve to have food delivered to them or made available through subsidized food services. Don't take away this one very essential need by cutting back the current services but rather increase the budget to meet the increasing need.

About the cutting back on the services of the senior centers, I can speak to the health and well- being of the residents in Sarah's Circle who participate in the programs provided for fun, stimulation and socializing. Folks shouldn't be stuck in their rooms, apartments, homes all weekend. The senior centers should be available to those people, many of whom only get their contact with other people through meeting others at the centers.

And one more point. Let's avoid considering the elderly as a "problem". We are people who deserve respect and have given and continue to contribute to our society. We are important. Please don't sell us short.

Jumpstart
Children first.

Testimony of Meg Duffy, Program Director, Jumpstart, Washington, DC

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015

Good morning. My name is Meg Duffy and I am the Program Director for the Jumpstart program in Washington DC. I would like to thank the Committee on Housing and Community Development for giving me the opportunity to speak about the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program.

In low-income neighborhoods, children start kindergarten 60% behind their peers from affluent communities, leaving them woefully unprepared. For Jumpstart, this statistic is one of the driving forces behind the work we do every day. Jumpstart is a national early education organization that, for the last 20+ years, has been working towards the day every child in American enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. In order to combat this statistic, Jumpstart came up with a simple idea. We would recruit college students and older adults and engage them in service in the community. Our program would partner with preschools that serve a majority of children identified as low-income and provide them with a yearlong, structured, intentional program which would focus on developing, supporting and strengthening the language, literacy and social skills necessary for the children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Since 1993, when Jumpstart began, we have done just that. Our program has trained over 36,000 college and older adult volunteers to work with and support preschool children in developing these important skills. To date over 76,000 children have been served by Jumpstart.

Across the country last year, Jumpstart engaged over 4,200 volunteers and these volunteers served 11, 300 children. Last year, in DC alone, our program served over 760 preschool students in various early childhood education programs and centers. Jumpstart volunteers spend, on average, 10-15 hours per week preparing to work with the children or actually engaging the children in the Jumpstart session. The sessions themselves are held twice a week for 2 hours and focus on helping the children to better name and identify letters and their sounds, introducing them to new and interesting vocabulary, strengthening their book and print knowledge and developing phonological awareness. The development of these skills and many others are what will help the children to find later success in school. We know that our

program is a success by the data we have collected on the children at the start and end of each Jumpstart program year. For the children who were part of the program in DC last year, almost 90% of them made gains in language and literacy skills over the course of the program year. On average, over 43% of the children served by Jumpstart DC demonstrated substantial gains of one developmental level or more on the Jumpstart School Success Checklist, which is the tool we use to measure the progress and gains children make while part of Jumpstart.

Based on the data collected, the feedback received from classroom teachers, parents and Corps members, we know how important Jumpstart is in the lives of the children we serve. It is through the generous support of the DC Office on Aging and other supporters and funders that we can continue to do the work we have been going for over 20 years and allows us to continue to put children first!

Jumpstart
Children first.

Testimony of Jamarl D. Clark, Jumpstart's DC Community Corps Program Site Manager

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015

My name is Jamarl Clark and I serve as the site manager of Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps program. I would like to thank the Committee on Housing and Community Development for giving me the opportunity to speak about Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps program.

The Jumpstart Community Corps program started in 2004 with the intent of creating meaningful, intergenerational relationships between preschool children and community members. Community Corps started in Boston then moved to Los Angeles, and Atlanta and finally in 2013 Jumpstart brought the Community Corps program to Washington DC.

This year Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps has partner with DC Office on Aging to use an intergenerational approach to engage DC's older adults (aged 55 and older) to deliver Jumpstart's innovative program to preschool children (ages 36 to 59 months) from under resourced communities. Jumpstart recruits and trains older adult volunteers, known as Community Corps members, who receive more than 40 hours of training in early-education and leadership and serve in preschool classrooms for 200 hours throughout the academic year. Corps members work together in teams to engage small groups of preschool-age children in the development of essential language and literacy skills. These volunteers implement an evidence-based, developmentally-appropriate curriculum, intentionally designed to deliver language and literacy instruction to children in under resourced communities, ensuring they enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps this year currently serves in two DC Public Schools, Noyce and Langdon Education Campuses, both located in Ward 5. These volunteers our impacting the lives of 60 preschoolers in the District of Columbia.

As, site manager of Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps program I have been fortunate to witness not only children lives transform but also Corps members. Corps members walk away valued by the community they serve. Corps Members walk away inspired when they see a child write their name for the very first time. Corps Members walk away knowing they have left a legacy, that you can do anything that you put your mind to.

By Jumpstart and DC Office on Aging focusing on the child, his or her family, and the older adult volunteers provides a comprehensive program to ensure children enter school prepared to succeed.

Jumpstart
Children first.

Testimony of Wilma Jones, Corps Member of Jumpstart's DC Community Corps Program

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015

I am Ms. Wilma Jones, and currently serving as a Corps Member with the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program. I would like to thank the Committee on Housing and Community Development for giving me the opportunity to speak on how the funds received from DC Office on Aging have been beneficial towards the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program and most of all myself.

Teaching is my passion! I have spent most of my professional career working with college students at Howard University all the way to working with students with special needs in DC Public Schools for over twenty years. I am fortunate now to use my professional background in education to help preschoolers excel in the classroom by participating in the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program.

I've been blessed to have four beautiful children. The District of Columbia has been instrumental in providing great services, like mentors and tutors to assist me with equipping my four children to be successful in the 21st century. My youngest son, Zumie, has multiple disabilities including down syndrome and has had a kidney transplant. I have to take Zumie to several doctors' appointments and meetings with his school and have come to rely on the support and services the District has been able to provide. The Jumpstart DC Community Corps program allows me to give back to my community as the District of Columbia has given to my family over the past several years. The Jumpstart DC Community Corps program, the children I serve, the teachers I work with, and the team members I share this awesome experience with, inspire me daily just as my son, Zumie does.

As a senior citizen I feel a sense of pride! As senior citizens we are not given many opportunities to use the skills and wisdom we have acquired over our lifetime to

give back to our community. The Jumpstart DC Community Corps program gives us that pride and opportunity.

I leave you with the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the preeminent leader of Indian independence movement *"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."* I've been fortunate to lose myself in serving the future of this city, the preschoolers we work with in the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program!

Jumpstart
Children first.

Testimony of Willetta Christian, Team Leader of Jumpstart's DC Community Corps Program

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015

My name is Ms. Willetta Christian and I am a senior citizen. I am a proud Team Leader for the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program.
As a retired DC Pubic Schools, Special Education Teacher, being a Jumpstart Team Leader provides me the opportunity to connect with our young scholars and continue in my role as an educator intergenerational.

Jumpstart Corp Members believe that as senior citizens, we can offer our years of real world experience regardless of our employment, to serve in the DC community. Jumpstart scholars benefit from the collaboration and teamwork of the Corp Members. The young scholars are empowered by the poems, songs and activities that are planned to teach and engage them in activities that will continue into their next level of learning.

My colleagues look forward to participating Tuesday and Thursday each week for two and a half hours. We reminess over songs we entertained in youth that are sung today; the "remix" is exciting when the young scholars give us the new version.
Jumpstart DC Community Corps program is an investment in the future of DC. We take this investment in the future of the young scholars and the future of this global society to heart. Working towards the day every young scholar in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

After I retired from DC Public Schools as a Highly Qualified educator, Special Education Teacher, I chose to serve at Jumpstart as my colleagues. I am also am Vietnam Veteran, United States Marine Corp. With this background of service, Jumpstart for me is a natural.
As a Corps Member for Jumpstart I was given an opportunity to travel to Boston in April, 2015 and see where Jumpstart began. This invaluable opportunity provided

me with insight and information that Jumpstart DC is able to incorporate and provide for our young preschool scholars.

In my tenure as a corp member and Team Leader under the leadership of Mr. Jamarl Clark, the growth of the young preschool scholars is academically awesome. Letter recognition and literacy skills are a process that is a plus for Jumpstart and Washington DC.
Thank you for allowing me to share such a positive volunteer experience with you and us at Jumpstart is excited to be a member of this exciting initiative.
"Jumpstart!"

Testimony for District of Columbia Office on Aging Budget Hearing

April 23, 2015

Presented by
Annette Leath, Chief Program Officer,
Family Matters of Greater Washington

Good Afternoon. Chairwoman Bonds, Members of the Council and Dr. Thompson, I am Annette Leath, Chief Program Officer for Family Matters of Greater Washington and testifying today, on behalf of our President and CEO, Tonya Jackson Smallwood.

Founded in 1882, Family Matters is one of our nation's oldest, leading social enterprises in the delivery of human and health services for individuals in need. We create and deliver compassionate solutions that empower, enrich and elevate all ages. We are proud of our rich history of delivering exemplary services for children, family and seniors throughout Washington, DC for more than 133 years.

Family Matters is also a member of the D.C. Senior Advisory Coalition (S.A.C), a membership organization of over 30 non-profit organizations. We advocate for improving the quality of life for seniors in the District of Columbia, especially vulnerable and low-income seniors.

We appreciate our partnership with DCOA and the opportunity to be a part of a network of support for those in need. We currently hold the DCOA grants as the

Lead Agency for senior services in Ward 8 and we manage the Senior Works and Golden Washingtonian programs.

As the Ward 8 Lead Agency, Family Matters of Greater Washington provides health promotion comprehensive assessment, case management, nutrition counseling and education, recreation/socialization, congregate meals, counseling, and home delivered meals to seniors in Ward 8. As a part of our 5 congregate meal nutrition sites, we operate the citywide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Center, the only such program providing comprehensive services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors in the District.

For our Senior Works program, we engage seniors who want to use their skills and life experiences to improve their communities by helping connect them with internships and volunteer opportunities that in some cases, can lead to paid positions.

We are also proud of our Golden Washingtonian program. It is an informal club that brings seniors together for special events that help them connect with other seniors and combat isolation. The program includes events like the Salute to Centenarians, the Ms. Senior DC and Ms. Senior America Pageant, and the Mayor's Holiday Celebration.

The primary focus of all of our senior programs is to help seniors to maintain their dignity as they advance in age, and assist them in continuing their independence which can lead to a better quality of life. We do this through advocacy, provision

of meals, health and nutrition counseling, long-term case management, respite care assistance, transportation assistance, recreational activities, and support for the deaf and hard of hearing. We are pleased to work in partnership with the DC Office on Aging on many of our senior programs and would like to recognize them for their hard work, on behalf of District seniors.

We understand that DCOA faces proposed budget cuts of more than $2 million dollars, an amount that we fear will have a detrimental impact on the health and welfare of the District's aging population. There are currently an estimated 100,000 older adults living in the District. Among these, 26% are living below 100 percent of the federal poverty line and 37% are living below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, according to data from DC Hunger Solutions. A budget cut of more than $2 million dollars will mean that DCOA will have fewer resources to support greater needs and could result in more District seniors slipping even further below the poverty line or facing the threat of hunger.

We currently partner with Catholic Charities and Mom's Meals to provide home-delivered meals to homebound seniors living in Ward 8

I would like to read to you the words from one of our Family Matters Ward 8 seniors that receive home delivered meals from Mom's Meals. She wrote the following:

"I would like for you to know that I am so thankful for Mom's Meals and I am very thankful to be able to get them. I had lost so much weight and had begun to give up , but now that I am eating properly I am gaining my weight back. I

We are also hopeful that Lead Agencies will be able to manage our own, home delivered meal slots. This would enable us fill all slots immediately, when someone leaves the program, and enroll someone who desperately need meals.

According to a 2014 study prepared for the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, food insecure seniors have significantly worse health outcomes than food secure seniors. Just think, they are 50% more likely to be diabetic, three times more like to suffer from depression and 60% more likely to have heart failure.

We have many testimonies of seniors in Ward 8 alone; who are receiving home delivered meals from DCOA through Family Matters. These meals are essential to the day to day lives of many vulnerable seniors who are desperately in need of home delivered meals. Adequate funding for the DC Office on Aging is important to ensure that our seniors are receiving the proper services to age in place with dignity and respect. The services provided by the DC Office on Aging, such as case management, counseling, congregate meals and home delivered meals are a lifeline to many seniors in the District.

As the population of seniors continue to grow it is important that the budget for DCOA will also grow, and match the needs of the ever increasing population of senior. According to the DC Office on Aging Senior Needs Assessment data, the

District's senior population was projected to be 72,000 by 2030. However, the senior population in the District has already exceeded the 100,000 plateau.

We are grateful that DCOA will not cut funding to the Lead Agencies and other senior service grants in FY 2016 however we are still concerned about the proposed cuts, of more than two million dollars, to DCOA and the impact that it will have on our seniors. We want to continue the momentum that DCOA currently has in improving their lives.

The Office on Aging, under the leadership of Dr. John Thompson has made great strides in the past several years in service provision to older adults. The most visible result is that transportation services have been modernized and expanded, many more seniors have access to nutritious meals, and essential social work services are helping people access the help needed to remain in their community. But we need to do more. We respectfully request a budget increase of $2.8 million dollars to expand vital services for older DC residents, attract and retain skilled staff and prevent loss of services and programs.

As DC's aging population continues to grow, it will take all of us working together to reverse the trend that led to fewer non-profit organizations like ours, being able to serve communities, when the grants available are not sufficient to cover the costs of the programs.

As you weigh your decision in revising the Mayor's budget, I hope that you will take into account, the needs of a very vulnerable group of District residents, our seniors, some whom are homebound and in need of a meal, and may also be either deaf, hard of hearing and homeless. We urge the DC City Council to fully fund senior programs so that the burden of providing vital services will not fall disproportionately upon the nonprofit community.

We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with DCOA and we are grateful to see such improvements, but we also understand that there is still much work to be done. We must continue to work together to respond to DC's growing senior population and ensure that these important services are in place and that the budget reflects the message that seniors are a priority in this city.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify and it is my hope that with all of us, seniors in the District, will have access to the programs and support that they need to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. I leave you with just one question. When will the cuts end, if not with you...then who?

Thank you

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING FY '2016 BUDGET

by

Carolyn Dungee Nicholas, President
Hilda & Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc.

October 23, 2015

Good morning! I am here this morning to testify on behalf of the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc., in support of adequate funding for the District of Columbia Office on Aging in FY '2016.

The mission of the District of Columbia Office on Aging (DCOA) is to promote longevity, independence, dignity, and choice for District of Columbia residents who are age 60 and older.

Office on Aging programs and services, which include a broad range of legal, nutrition, social and health services, are crucial to allowing seniors to age in place within their communities, including transportation services, senior wellness centers, congregate and in-home meals and nutrition programs, employment and job training, in-home care, adult day care, nursing home care, caregivers' respite and support, recreation and special annual events, case management, and information and assistance are provided to only a small percentage of elderly DC residents.

According to the 2012 U.S. Census Estimates for the District of Columbia, 103,483 - or 16.4% of the District's population is age 60 or above.

According to those same Census estimates, in 2012, the elderly population (persons 60 years and above) had grown since 2010 by 30,600 residents.

It was further estimated that by 2015, almost 17% of the District of Columbia – or one of every seven District of Columbia residents – could be at least 60 years of age and older.

Yet, although 16.4% of the District's population is age 60 or above, although the District's elderly population has grown since 2010 by 30,600 residents, although it is estimated that by 2015 almost 17% of the District's population – or one of every seven District of Columbia residents – could be at least 60 years of age and older,

the proposed FY '2016 Office on Aging budget reduces the Office on Aging FY '2015 budget by $2,355,078.00 ($1,664,922.00 DC $'s, 134,923.00 Federal $'s, $824,079.00 Intra-District $'s).

The increasing number of elderly DC residents means that the quantity of services provided to elderly DC residents by the Office on Aging needs to increased; not decreased. Currently, the Office on Aging serves about 35,000 – 40,000 of the District's 103,483 residents who are at least 60 years of age and older (or 34% to 39%). This includes transportation for those who do not drive, do not have easy access to public transportation and do not live near enough to a senior wellness center to walk to and from the center.

Wards 2 and 3 do not even have a senior wellness center. The residents of Wards 2 and 3 need a senior wellness center to benefit from the same community-based services for the elderly that the residents of Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 receive.

With the $2,355,078.00 proposed reduction of the Office on Aging budget, not only will the Office on Aging be unable to establish senior wellness centers in Wards 2 and 3, but other unserved elderly DC residents and underserved elderly DC residents throughout the City will not be provided services crucial to allowing them to age in place within their communities.

While the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc. understands that a budget increase for the Office on Aging may not be possible, given the District's projected $200,000,000.00 budget deficit, the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc. nevertheless encourages the Committee on Housing and Community Development and the Office of Aging to not only maintain the FY '2015 Office on Aging budget, i.e., to restore the proposed $1,664,922.00 DC $'s cut from the Office on Aging budget, and the concomitant loss of $134,923.00 Federal $'s and $825,079.00 Intra-District $'s, but to add funds for a senior wellness center in Ward 2.

Given the number of seniors who reside in the District of Columbia, the number of seniors who receive community-based services from the DC Office on Aging, the number of seniors who need community-based aging services that the DC Office on Aging is unable to provide due to insufficient resources, the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc. suggests that not only is it critical that the DC Office on Aging FY '2015 budget be sustained and hopefully increased, but that the D.C. Council replace the DC Office on Aging with a DC Department on Aging.

Twenty (20) states, including Maryland and Virginia, and the City of Chicago and Harvey County, Kansas, have Departments on Aging - or Departments on Services to the Elderly.

There are many more elderly residents of the District of Columbia than there are DC residents with behavioral health conditions and DC residents with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. Further, the DC Office on Aging is responsible for serving individuals in these population groups if they are age 60 and over. Yet there is a DC Department on Behavioral Health and a DC Department on Disabilities Services, but there is not a DC Department on Aging.

Last, the DC Adult Protective Services Division should be realigned with the new DC Department on Aging, because the Adult Protective Services Division does not aggressively and proactively protect elderly DC residents from neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation, including guardianship and conservatorship abuse. Seventeen (17) states organizationally align adult protective services with the Department on Aging. The District of Columbia should follow suit.

Though the DC Office on Aging has no mandate to inform and educate elderly DC residents about neglect, abuse and financial exploitation, or protect them from neglect, abuse and financial exploitation, the Office on Aging strives to do so by:

- establishing as one of the five (5) goals of the Office on Aging CY '2013-2015 State Plan to ensure the rights of older people and prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation;

- establishing prevention and prosecution of financial exploitation, neglect, and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of seniors as one of ten (10) domains for the Age-Friendly DC Strategic Plan;

- participating in an annual Elder Abuse Conference to improve the capabilities of professionals working with the elderly about elder neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation by sharing statistical information, trends, new techniques, cases and other information relating to the topic;

- conducting workshops on elder neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation at the Mayor's Annual Senior Symposiums;

- routinely hosting presentations on elder financial exploitation at the DC Office on Aging;

- routinely hosting on-line workshops on elder financial exploitation;

- investigating and reporting neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation of elderly DC residents and coordinating with the DC Adult Protective Services Division and the DC Metropolitan Police Department to ensure that victimized seniors are protected from the immediate threat and receive required protective services for as long as they are required.

WE ARE FAMILY
Senior Outreach Network

Testimony of Ronald Grey, We Are Family Board of Directors

Committee on Housing and Community Development April 23, 2015

Good morning Councilmember Bonds and the other members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Ronald Grey, and for ten years I was the president of the Kelsey Apartments Resident Association, a Section 8 subsidized senior building with 150 units in the Columbia Heights area. Today I am representing the We Are Family senior outreach network, which is part of the Senior Advisory Coalition as well as the Fair Budget Coalition. I have lived in DC since 1947.

Although the DC Office on the Aging (DCOA) does not fund We Are Family, we know how critical their services are. I am here because Mayor Bowser proposes to cut the DCOA budget by $2.3 million. While I know that money is tight, the services that DCOA provides are too important to cut. In fact, they should be expanded to meet a growing need. I urge you to raise taxes for richer folks to help fully fund DCOA, and all programs for DC's needy.

Right now, anyone who earns $40,000 a year pays the same rate of income tax as a millionaire, and that doesn't make any sense. The rates of DC taxes need to be higher for folks who make more money because they can afford it, we can't. Any extra revenue needs to be directed to building up the programs needy folks depend upon, and have been so often slashed.

I know there is a proposal to increase the sales tax to support additional resources for affordable housing and the homeless. I support this aim, but can't help but notice that this tax increase will hit low-income people most. Why can't the rich pay a bit more to support those in need? We should have an increase in income taxes to pay for needed services!

As a low-income senior and a We Are Family board member, I know these social services are critical. I see the needs of seniors around me growing

every day. One of my responsibilities through my work with We Are Family is to find out who is in need and get them connected to the services they otherwise might not know about, or have trouble accessing.

Beyond We Are Family, I also worked for years as a home health aide. I've seen the impact of past cuts up close and personal. Every time there is a budget gap, DCOA and low-income seniors get hit hard, like poor folks in general. When there is a budget surplus, there are always other priorities seen as more important. This can't go on. Small losses really add up for folks living off of Social Security or retirement; it can mean life or death.

It is not only DCOA that has been hit. Many programs for low-income people have been cut or not fully funded in the past, like Local Rent Supplement and Permanent Supportive Housing, affordable housing programs for the homeless or those in danger of being homeless. This heartless, thoughtless approach really hurts those who are already suffering so badly.

Instead of sustaining the status quo, we need to make sure to increase funding for social services by raising taxes for richer folks to protect and expand the safety net, since they are the ones who can most afford a little extra bite in the pocket book. Then we don't have to grab more from those who have almost nothing, and who cannot afford to lose anymore.

It costs less to keep folks in their homes than to have them in the shelter system or in nursing homes. We think we are saving money but we are wasting money and lives with our misplaced priorities.

This has to change, and we have to do better by our seniors and all our low-income people. DC is for everybody, not just the rich... and especially we have to look out for the seniors, because we built this community.

DCOA is a critical part of DC's safety net – please make sure it and other programs for poor folks are not only protected but expanded. We are counting on you to stand up for us... please don't let us down.

Ronald Grey 3322 14th Street NW #243 WDC 20010 202-276-7227

TERRIFIC, Inc.
Oasis Senior Center for the Homeless Aged
Ward 2 Senior Services

Written Testimony

My name is Dee Hudnell. I am 60 years old. I live in ward 2. I am a senior that uses services provided by DCOA and TERRIFIC, INC. When I first started attending TERRIFIC Inc.'s Oasis Senior Center, I was homeless. I have been a member at Oasis Senior Center for 2 months, and in those two months things have done a 180 degree turn for me.

I have obtained a SRO apartment. Which I know if it had not been for the staff at Oasis than I would still be homeless. When I first came to Oasis I was sick and felt like I had no one to turn to. I did not know where to go, and a friend pointed me in the direction of Oasis. She assured me that Ms. McQueen would help me. So, I stepped out on faith and came for an orientation at Oasis.

When I came to TERRIFIC I explained my issues and what I needed help with. The staff started working on my problems right away. They saw that I needed help and they did not tell me to come back. We started working that day. I felt like I finally had someone in my corner, and that I could count on. TERRIFIC advocated on my behalf in housing meetings. It lifted the weight off my shoulders. Ms. McQueen came out in the snow when Oasis was closed just to attend a rescheduled meeting with me. This resulted in me getting my current housing placement.

TERRIFIC, Inc.'s Oasis Senior Center has been like a heaven on earth. The atmosphere is commoning to my nerves. The staff is supportive and compassionate, because they realize that I am still healing from the experience of being homeless. They are a wonderful support system, and they realize how difficult it is to be in the streets. Through DCOA funded programming that occurs daily at Oasis, I have been able to learn to live a healthier style. I learned to balance my

meals through the balanced breakfasts and lunches provided. I learn to bring those same principles into my dinners. Also, through health talks given by the activities coordinator (Mr. Griffin) and nutritionist (Ms. Griffiths). The staff are willing to take suggestion on programming. They are willing to adjust to meet the needs of the seniors they serve. They take into account the special needs that surface when dealing with seniors and homelessness.

I am thankful for a Community based program like TERRIFIC, INC. If I did not have services by DCOA or TERRIFIC, Inc., I would be lost. I would not be as conscious about my health. They provide me and my peers with a support system. You have staff that are willing to help. They try to bring relevant subjects and materials with limited resources. Community based programs provides me with an opportunity to network with a group of peers in similar battles and struggles. Without Oasis I would not have housing, and I will be forever in debt of the staff of TERRIFIC, INC. and DCOA for being my shoulder to cry on.

TESTIMONY: DC OFFICE ON AGING AND TERRIFIC INC. April 23, 2015

My name is Timothea Howard. Currently, I reside in the Crestwood neighborhood of Ward 4. I'm newly disabled and at age 60 find myself in need of support and resources. I'm here today to testify on behalf of the DC Office on Aging and Terrific Inc., because without their help I would be in dire straits.

In 2012, I fell on concrete in the street injuring my left leg. Because the healing process was difficult, I suffered additional physical issues in both legs that resulted in very decreasing mobility. In 2014, I turned 60, I lost my job and health insurance, thus lost access to much needed physiotherapy.

When my unemployment benefits ended, the DC Office on Aging was my saving grace. The agency connected me to the service center near my home. Terrific, Inc., a contractor of the agency answered the phone and immediately took information that allowed them to provide immediate service. Within a days of my initial call, I was assigned a social worker who called to set the first appointment which was a home visit. I was relieved because it was winter and my mobility was less than reliable.

My home intake session with the social worker lasted three hours – it consisted of a multilayer interview, assessment of needs and resources, documentation of medical conditions and planning if future goals. By the end of the interview, I had a working plan in place and benchmarks to weekly assess my goals and outcomes. To date, I've met all the benchmarks including stabilizing my living situation and taking care of medical needs.

The DC Office on Aging and Terrific Inc., are successful because the organizations consistently:

1. **Answers the phone** - I cannot emphasize enough the importance of people in need hearing a live voice. When you are seeking help, trying to negotiate systems and processes, spending literally hours in voicemail systems is a waste of time and energy. It leads to frustration' stress and disillusionment at just the moment you need optimism and hope.

2. **Provides nuanced services** - tailored to the individual rather than a prescription. DC Office on Aging and Terrific Inc., view me as an individual with needs as well as assets to help myself. I received weekly check ins via phone, text and email from both my social worker and from referred agency that also offer services.

3. **Work with agency and urgency** – DC Office on Aging responds to both email and calls, more often than not, the same day. My social worker is empowered to seek resources, and actively seeks my partnership in changing my situation. Ms. Johnson Robinson and everyone I've spoken with at Terrific Inc., responds to my needs. I always feel I can call Terrific for help and they will be there.

4. **Consistent professionalism** – The Department on Aging and Terrific Inc., are respected by service sector professionals and peers. Both agencies are willing to bargain so that clients like me don't have to beg.

With all the current success, Things were not always this way. My life over the last year was beyond difficult. I struggled to get unemployment benefits almost losing my apartment in the process. I juggled trying to get a clear diagnosis of my injury with a treatment plan. At the same time, I was in chronic pain, lost significant mobility and was admitted to the hospital with blood clots in my lungs.

By Thanksgiving 2014, I was exhausted and depressed. Part of the exhaustion came from constantly trying to get information, services, and resources on my own. Calling agency after agency trying to get a live person was frustrating and demoralizing. Showing up at agencies was not always possible because of mobility challenges.

Moreover, even when services were available, the number of agency that are physically inaccessible is astounding – for example, standing in line for registration or intake, waiting areas and lobbies that have no benches for the disabled to wait, offices located far away from entrances and elevators. These are all barriers that I have faced.

As a professional I worked as a program director for service agencies and in out of school time programs so it tenacious and persistent when it cones to getting through to people. But as a client, newly disabled, going from being self sufficient and independent to dependence on others was difficult beyond measure.

If the **DC Office on Aging** and **Terrific Inc.**,. did not exist I would not be sitting here. The DC Office on Aging needs to be fully funded. It is a life line to seniors, linking us to essential services and creating entry to organizations that are unresponsive. The staff provides vital answers to pressing issues for example I had legal representation in landlord tenants court to settle issues with my landlord avoiding eviction. At the same time, my social worker made a necessary referral to help get essential documents in place like a prime medical directive.

I came here today to support two agencies that represent the best in social services that deserve every dollar of public funding. I am living proof these agencies carry out their mission. Full funding for these programs constitutes public dollars well spent.

I thank the Council for this opportunity to speak. And I think Terrific Inc., for the opportunity to support their work on behalf of seniors in this city.

TESTIMONY OF MR. ENITAN OSUNKOYA

April 2015

DC Office on Aging Oversight Hearing

Good morning Chairwoman Anita Bonds and council members. My name is Enitan Osunkoya and I reside at 4825 North Capitol Street, NE. I am 68 years old, single and have resided, worked, and paid taxes in the NW and NE areas of DC for over 20 years, but all of a sudden the possibility of becoming homeless is staring at me. This is the bane of my testimony.

I retired in May 2014 and am now on SSDI. About a decade ago, I suffered a stroke that left me disabled with a right side hemiplegia. I mention this because when I moved to my present abode, I was given an apartment on the 3rd floor only accessible by staircase. When I became disabled, I requested for an apartment on the ground floor. That request has not been met and I've suffered all this time going out to work, church, and grocery shopping while walking with a stick and paralyzed right upper and lower limbs up/down three floors of stairs. By the time I get to my door, I am huffing and puffing, out of breath and fumbling for my keys to get to the door.

Presently the situation of the safety of the building/tenants has become comprised because the front door is unlock all of the time. This comprises the entire building inhabitants. Three weeks ago I experience a home evasion where I was accosted by two strangers. As a result I suffered physical injuries to my head and damage to my property. My personal items were stolen as

well. Ms. Bond not only do I not want to be homeless, but I also want to live where I will be safe.

The DC Office on Aging and the Ward 4 Office of TERRIFIC, Inc. with Social Worker, Mr. Dexter Reed as well as the nutritionist Ms. Deanna Nara continue to give the best in their support. Both agencies have been tremendous value and support to me. Working with this agencies, I was introduced to and got breaks (discounts) on paying for my utility bills, transportation to/from my medical appointments, discounted Metro Senior fare card and taxicab service etc. But the accommodations problem which I need most still remains unsolved, looming, and still gives me sleepless nights.

Meanwhile, please address something drastic that needs to be done about my accommodation problem as well as other seniors who are looking for affordable. I have no problems with the geographical location, but all of my ties, friends, roots, church, and community affiliation are in NW. How am I now at 68 years old going to start integrating in a completely new environment?

In regards to senior management, my medical situation which is complex and varied is being handled well, thanks to various government assistance programs like Medicaid and Medicare. I could not afford the numerous medication I'm on that are astronomically expensive now. Thank you TERRIFIC, Inc., DC Office on Aging, National Prescription Savings Network, DHCF and the DC City Council.

THE DC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Chairperson, Ms. Anita Barnes

April 23, 2015

Presentation of Harold Valentine

Madam Chair, members of the committee good morning. My name is Harold Valentine, a resident of the Shaw community in Ward Six. I come before today seeking to have the DC City Council to increase the budget of the DC Office on Aging in fiscal year 2016. This increase will address the transportation issue among seniors in the greater Shaw community, and especially along the 7th street, and Lower Georgia Avenue corridors. Several years ago Madam Chair the Convention Center Circulator Bus stopped running from Arena Stage Southwest to 9th and O Street, NW, in the Shaw community. Since that time many seniors in the Greater Shaw area lack transportation, especially on Saturday's and Sunday's to shop and enjoy the many amenities of the "economic boom" in and around this city. To address this issue, I am proposing that the Committee on Aging form a tri-parte partnership, composed of a non-profit community based organization, the DC Office on Aging, and the DC Department of Transportation to create a "Transportation Production Trust Fund" similar to the DC Housing Production Trust. This Fund will assist in purchasing "buses" for the affected corridors (7th and Georgia Ave.) and will travel from Southwest to Howard University Hospital and other points in Wards (One, Two, Five, and Six). Besides the potential increase in the Office On Aging Budget Madam Chair, additional funding will comé from the increase in ridership and revenue, as well as the DC Department of Transportation's Enterprise Fund. The money for this fund was, and is collected for Parking Space Inconvenience on the part of Contractors and other developers via D.DOTS (Permits Process). This fund is to be used for "Innovated Projects" to lessen community inconvenience. I submit Madam Chair, that the development in and around the Shaw community created both and opportunity and an

inconvience for its seniors. Attached to this presentation are a list of the affected apartment buildings.

Affected Buildings:

1. The Foster House
2. The Gibson Plaza
3. Kings Tower
4. Immaculate Conception
5. Washington Apartments
6. Lincoln Wetmoreland Phase (One and Two)
7. Asbury Dwellings Apartments
8. The United House of Prayer
9. New Hope Apartments
10. The Hodge Apartments

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE ON AGING

Office of the Executive Director

May 14, 2014

Mr. Michael Joseph Sindram
6645 Georgia Avenue, NW #306
Washington, DC 20012

Dear Mr. Sindram:

It was a pleasure speaking with you at the Mayor's Budget Town Hall meeting at Turkey Thicket Recreational Center. I wanted to follow-up with you on the conversation that we had regarding the D.C. Office of Aging's involvement with assisting seniors with the national digital television conversion.

In 2009, the D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) partnered with National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities to launch the "Keeping Seniors Connected" campaign. This campaign was designed to help seniors 60 years of age and older in the District of Columbia prepare for the national digital television conversion that took place on June 12, 2009. Through this initiative, DCOA worked with volunteers to educate seniors on the conversion and assisted them with getting digital boxes installed in their homes.

If I can assist you with any other matters, please contact my office at 202-724-5622.

Sincerely,

John M. Thompson, Ph.D., FAAMA
Executive Director

NEWS NEWS NEWS

★ ★ ★ Government of the District of Columbia
Office on Aging

RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 5, 2009

CONTACT: Darlene Nowlin
(202) 727-8364

DISTRICT LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO HELP SENIORS WITH DTV

Assistance is available to meet the upcoming all-digital television conversion.

[Washington, DC] – The DC Office on Aging has launched a new initiative, "Keeping Seniors Connected," to help senior citizens 60 years of age and older in the District prepare for the national digital television (DTV) conversion taking place June 12. Through this new initiative, the Office on Aging will provide seniors in the District with the education and one-on-one assistance necessary to make the conversion to digital programming.

Clarence Brown, Ph.D., executive director of the Office on Aging said, "June 2009 will be here sooner than we think. Now is the time for us all to get up to speed on DTV: what is it; what does it mean to me; what do I need to do?"

To help seniors with the DTV transition, the Office on Aging will send DTV experts into the community to provide in-home assessments and converter box installation for seniors as needed. DTV experts will also help seniors understand the converter box coupon program, install converter boxes, provide training on new converter box equipment and answer any questions seniors may have regarding the DTV transition and new technology.

"We at the Office on Aging encourage every senior in the District to educate themselves on this important issue and take the necessary steps to prepare for the conversion," Dr. Brown added.

For more information, contact the DC Office on Aging at (202) 724-5626 or visit us online at www.dcoa.dc.gov.

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Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging Oversight
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
The Honorable Anita Bonds, Chairperson
April 23, 2015

Presented by
Rogeria Westbrooks, Caregiver
Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Adult Day Care Center, Inc.

Hello, my name is Rogeria Westbrooks. I am here to tell you my story of caregiving for my aunt, Dr. Edna Niecie Sims, and of those who have supported me along the way.

Dr. Edna Sims was a college professor, opera singer (she sang personally for President Clinton), spoke 13 languages, played the piano and guitar, wrote many published books, traveled the world, gave her life to the service of others, and now she's in her final stages of Alzheimer's Disease.

On April 13, 2007, I quit my job of 30 years to move out of the country to begin my new life. On April 18, 2007, after receiving information from a family member who lived in Washington DC regarding Aunt Edna that I was not comfortable with, I traveled from Illinois to Washington DC to find Aunt Edna living in filth, no food in the refrigerator she could eat, it was all rotten, yet she was getting up every morning, grooming herself, looking like a million dollars as she always had, and had been driving herself to work, but she did not have a clue as to what she was doing. It was all out of habit. For me, what was supposed to be a four-day visit ended up changing my life forever.

Trying to figure out what to do for her and how to put together the pieces of a woman's life who had never been ill, was always independent, but who now could no longer live alone and care for herself was overwhelming.

A nursing home was never an option for me for Aunt Edna. Making that decision has been emotionally, financially and spiritually taxing, I called several day care agencies in the Washington, DC area. The cost was $200 per day and higher, which we could not afford. If Aunt Edna qualified for Medicaid, which she did not, the day care expense would have been paid in full. That's when I met Downtown Cluster's.

Downtown Cluster's offers Aunt Edna an opportunity to attend free of charge, offered her a quality of life in a safe, caring, structured and loving environment. I never worry about my aunt while she is in their care.

Downtown Clusters has also provided me with countless hours of support and encouragement personally and through their caregivers' workshops which are held monthly.

While Aunt Edna is at day care, I have had the opportunity to continue my life, make friends, take

off some of the stress of caregiving, and also to know that I am not alone in the decision to care for my aunt. One of the highlights of my life was that while Aunt Edna attended at daycare, I was able to swim and train with the Washington DC Water Wizards, a free senior swim team, and competed in the 2013 Senior Olympics.

I greatly appreciated the care and concern for Aunt Edna and myself from Downtown Cluster's. I have learned that most of the funding for Downtown Cluster's comes from the DC Office on Aging, grants, and other donations. Continued funding for the DC Office on Aging without any cuts is critical for folks like my aunt and me. Without Downtown Cluster's the quality of life for Dr. Edna Sims and myself would have been totally different.

I would like to end with a quote from Daisaku Ikeda, President of the Soka Gaiki International, a lay Buddhist organization based on the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin, and I quote, "A great human revolution in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation and further, will enable a change in the destiny of all humankind."

Thank you so much for the opportunity.
Rogeria L. Westbrooks

Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging
Budget Oversight Hearing before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015

Written Testimony by Joanne Hampton
For
Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5

Written Testimony
As a young person, I was impacted by a profound experience. I witnessed my great grandmother's less than adequate care at a senior nursing care facility (known as DC Village). At the end of each visit, my great grandmother would cry and plead with us not to leave her. She did not want to be separated from her family. And, although she lived until 92 years of age, my heart tells me she could have lived longer if she were able to live at home with her family.

Personal Impact
As a teenager, I made a sacred promise to myself and my grandmother. I promised myself that I would care for my grandmother in her later years and see to it that she never experience less than adequate care, never.

I made a promise to keep her at home where she felt most comfortable surrounded by family members who love her dearly.

I am a business owner. My business demands my constant attention. My average work day lasts 10-14 hours.

My grandmother was self-sufficient for a long time. She washed her own clothes and prepared her own meals until she was 95 years old, but as she continues to age, her health has declined and her risk of falling has increased over time. I needed someone to be in the home while I was away operating my business. I attempted to pay the out of pocket expense, but I was unable to afford lengthy private duty care, a mortgage, car payment, insurance, school loans, utilities, food, etc. The situation was unmanageable and I was facing some hard decisions.

My neighbor told me that there was help available through the DC Government. I research the problem and learned about Seabury Resources for the Aging in Ward 5.

I made contact with Seabury Resources and they advised me of Home Health Care services, and most importantly, the Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities (EPD) Waiver Program. With assistance from a Seabury social worker, I initiated the application process. Eligibility for the EPD Waiver would provide my grandmother access to home

May 05, 2015

Council of the District of Columbia

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Agenda/Witness List.

To: Anita Bonds, CHAIR PERSON

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

I Florestine Jones, would like for you to know that I am very much Interested in the fact that the Budget should not be cut, as we seniors, Here in Ward 8 we really need the Services that the Office on Aging is Supplying us with. We need to have better Transportation, From Seabury Transportation Services, which they have not been Doing a good job of picking people up, they are always full. We seniors here enjoy a wonderful Salad Bar, which is very healthy For us, as some individuals are not able to get this, and we get a Wonderful meal which some individuals only receive the one meal A day. The Congress Heights Center enables us seniors to Exercise, Attend Educational Programs, go on Trips, we also have a wonderful Staff that Teaches the Exercises, Nutrition, Computer Classes, Tai-Chi Classes, Zambia, Enhance Fitness, Afro Jazz, we have also started a Garden Club in which our Nutrition Teacher has been very productive

In teaching us about Healthy Foods and how they grow. The Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center is a wonderful place to come and its

Environment has enabled us seniors to live Longer and want to continue

Having good Health as well as becoming more productive in our later years.

Thanking You In Advance,

Ms. Florestine Jones, Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center

The Overlook at Oxon Run, where I Reside

3700 9th Street S.E. #131

Washington D.C. 20032

Email: florestine jones1941@gmail.com

care services as well as eligibility to receive incontinent supplies and even some limited respite services for myself.

Until I received help from Seabury, I was unaware all the valuable resources available to DC seniors! Seabury helped me to locate and focus on my priorities to help my grandmother continue to live at home. Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5's Case Management Program made a difference in my grandmother's quality of life. The Care givers program allows my grandmother the opportunity to live where she feels most comfortable, and gives me the peace of mind that I need while I'm away from home. Connecting with Seabury was the turning point in my unmanageable situation. The care giver support program helped me tackle obstacles that held us back from living life to the fullest. Additionally, Seabury arranged for limited respite services. Wow! This provided me time for self-care, a chance to breathe, and get back on track with my business, family and friends! My stress level seemed to melt away.

Seabury also provided an emergency supply of disposable underwear until our "719" order was approved. I felt an immediate reduction in my stress level, and my grandmother was dry and seemed to be thriving too! Through the Caregiver Support program and while the EPD Waiver was pending, Seabury Resources provided a much needed caregiver and a welcomed period of respite services whereby a home health aide came into the home to care for my grandmother. For the first time in years, I could concentrate on all the details that seemed to have gone unattended for so long!

Fortunately my grandmother was eligible for the EPD Waiver through which she currently receives 12 hours of in-home care services daily, 7 days a week. Seabury Resources continues to supply information regarding caregiver support, and welcomes any questions that I may have pertaining to care giving.

Without Seabury Resources, I don't know how I could have honored my sacred promise that I made to my grandmother over 40 years ago as a teenager. I feel strongly that Seabury was the turning point in helping me to complete my promise. And currently, at 98 years of age, my heart tells me that my grandmother receives the best care that I can provide, and I look forward to her reaching her 100th birthday with Seabury Resources helping me along the way.

Support DC Office on Aging

I am encouraging the District of Columbia City Council to continue to fund Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5 ADRC and the DC Office on Aging and not cut their budget. Although, the seniors need more and could benefit from additional funds.

Thank you for your support of the District's older adults and the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging
Budget Hearing for the DC Office on Aging FY 2016
Before the District of Columbia City Council Committee on
Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015

Written Testimony by Linda Lewis
For
Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5

Written Testimony

Good Morning Chairwoman Bonds and the members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Linda Lewis. I am a 65 year old resident of Ward 5. I have lived at the Petersburg Apartments, 3298 Ft. Lincoln Drive, NE for twenty-one years in Ward 5.

Personal Impact

In 1981, I suffered a stroke and I was unable to walk or talk. I started taking exercise with Ms. Corrine, a volunteer at the Petersburg Senior Nutrition Site on Thursdays. I lost 50 pounds and began eating properly. Ms. Corrine suggested that I take the six month training to become a fitness instructor and I completed the course. I take classes in fitness and nutrition to keep me certified. I volunteer with Seabury and lead exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I want to be able to help others. I tell the seniors to get up and try to exercise. Exercise is the key to your body.

I added a second exercise session. I started out with two people regularly attending the classes. Now there are 21 to 25 – men and women. We have t-shirts "Linda's Exercise". The seniors motivate one another to exercise and eat right. One lady had never walked before exercising; now she walks regularly and has been taking the class with me for over 10 years. If anyone has a problem or need to talk or say a prayer or go to the hospital – we help one another. We laugh and have a good time.

The services offered by Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5 are superb! Seabury brings the services to us in our building – our community. You don't have to fix lunch. I eat lunch here three or four times a week; the meals are good. This is a good fellowship for all. Everybody is eating and talking together. Seabury arranges the trips, gets the buses and drivers. It is a blessing to have someone to come to take us on trips.

Ms. Vivian Grayton always says "Good work, Ms. Lewis!" Every time I need her to do something, she will do it. She is excellent.

Mr. Bostick, our Site Manager is awesome. He Loves music and knows how to get things done. Mr. Bostick is supportive. He helps me get the papers and things needed for the classes and trips. If he doesn't know something, he will find out for me.

Kevin (Seabury Connector driver) is on the ball. But we do need more buses and additional space for wheelchairs.

Support DC Office on Aging

I am encouraging the District of Columbia City Council to continue to fund Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5 ADRC and the DC Office on Aging and not cut their budget. Although, the seniors need more and could benefit from additional funds.

Thank you for your support of the District's older adults and the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Stoddard Baptist Global Care
Panel Presentation

1. **Jacquelyn L. Brown,** Caregiver of Program Participant
   Center Care Adult Day Care Program

2. **Paulette C. Holloway,** Caregiver of Program Participant
   Center Care Adult Day Care Program

3. **Dorothy L. Amis,** Caregiver of Program Participant
   Center Care Adult Day Care Program

4. **Valencia Singleton,** Program Director
   Center Care Adult Day Care Program

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAIRED BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

JACQUELYN L. BROWN
CAREGIVER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS JACQUELYN L. BROWN AND I AM THE CAREGIVER FOR MY DAD, JAMES HARRIS, JR. MY DAD IS A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENT AND HAS RESIDED HERE FOR OVER 70 YEARS. HE IS 92 YEARS YOUNG, AND A RETIRED CIVIL SERVANT WITH OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. HE IS ALSO A WORLD WAR II VETERAN WHO SERVED HIS COUNTRY PROUDLY.

THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR AGING SERVICES, STODDARD BAPTIST GLOBAL CARE IS AN ADULT DAY CARE CENTER THAT PROVIDES A SAFE HAVEN FOR ELDERLY RESIDENTS THAT ARE UNABLE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES DURING THE DAY WITHOUT THE HELP OF THEIR LOVED ONES. THE CENTER IS A VITAL AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE NEEDED DURING THE DAY THAT ALLOWS OUR LOVED ONES TO HAVE ADULT INTERACTIONS, NUTRITIONAL MEALS, HEALTHCARE, PHYSICAL THERAPY AND EXERCISE FOR THE MIND AND BODY. WITHOUT THE CENTER OUR LOVED ONES WOULD HAVE TO BE INSTITUTIONALIZED, BE HOMEBOUND OR ALONE DURING THE DAY.

MY DAD WAS DIAGNOSED WITH DEMENTIA, NOT LONG AFTER HE LOST HIS WIFE, OF OVER 60 YEARS, TO BREAST CANCER. THE DIAGNOSIS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE ALONE DURING THE DAY, AND ALLOWED HIM TO REMAIN IN THE ONLY PLACE HE KNOWS AS HOME. BEFORE FINDING THE SERVICES OF THE CENTER, I WOULD RECEIVE PHONE CALLS DAILY SAYING THAT HE WAS SPOTTED IN DIFFERENT PLACES AND I WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE MY JOB TO FIND HIM AND BRING HIM HOME. BECAUSE OF THESE INCIDENTS, I SOUGHT OUT THE SERVICES OF CENTER CARE. HE HAS BEEN A PARTICIPANT OF THE PROGRAM SINCE 2010. HAVING MY DAD AT THE CENTER GIVES ME AND MY FAMILY A GREAT RELIEF KNOWING THAT HE IS SOME PLACE SAFE, WITH LOVING, CARING AND SUPPORTIVE STAFF. THE WELFARE, CARE AND SAFETY OF A LOVED ONE IS VERY IMPORTANT. CENTER CARE PROVIDES THIS ESSENTIAL SERVICE AND IT'S WORRY-FREE. THE CENTER CARE STAFF IS GREAT AND EXTREMELY COMPETENT AND RELIABLE. MY FAMILY AND I ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE AT THIS ESSENTIAL SAFE HAVEN FOR THE ELDERLY.

I AM ASKING THAT THE COUNCIL PLEASE REINSTATE THE FUNDING RECEIVED THROUGH THE DC OFFICE ON AGING BACK INTO THE BUDGET SO THAT CENTER CARE CAN ONCE AGAIN RECEIVE FUNDING NEEDED TO OFFSET THIS VITAL SENIOR DAY CENTER PROGRAM. THIS FUNDING IS ALSO DESPERATELY NEEDED TO OFFSET THE INCREASINGLY RISING COSTS OF DAYCARE FOR SENIORS IN THESE TYPE OF PROGRAMS. WITHOUT THIS FUNDING, FAMILIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO SEND THEIR LOVED ONES TO DAY CARE PROGRAMS AT A REASONABLE COST.

CONSIDER THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY, VETERANS, LONG-TIME DC RESIDENTS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND SOMEONE'S LOVED ONES. THIS CARE ALLOWS OUR SENIIORS TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THEIR GOLDEN YEARS WITH STAFF THAT ARE DEDICATED AND CARING.

SENIOR SAFETY IS NEEDED FOR ALL, AND I ASK THAT YOU DO YOUR PART IN ENSURING THAT OUR LOVED ONES ARE NOT A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATISTIC BECAUSE OF SOME MISPLACED FUNDING. THANK YOU.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAIRED BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

PAULETTE C. HOLLOWAY
CAREGIVER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS PAULETTE C. HOLLOWAY AND I AM A WARD 5 RESIDENT AND A FULL TIME CAREGIVER FOR MY 87 YEAR OLD MOTHER WHO LIVES DAILY WITH DEMENTIA. I WORK FULL TIME AS WELL AND I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE FOUND A SAFE PLACE OR REFUGE FOR MY MOTHER DURING THE DAY TIME. THAT SAFE PLACE IS CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM, WHICH MY MOTHER HAS BEEN A PART OF SINCE SEPTEMBER 2013. THIS WONDERFUL PLACE OF REFUGE COMES WITH TRANSPORTATION, MEALS, SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT, MEDICAL AVAILABILITY, AND A STAFF THAT SHE THINKS IS HER LOVING CHILDREN.

EXCEPT FOR HER OUTINGS TO THE STODDARD BAPTIST CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM ON WEEKDAYS AND HER SUNDAYS AT ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH, MY MOTHER WOULD SIT HOME ALONE FOR HOURS EACH DAY. CENTER CARE HAS PROVIDED THAT SAFE PLACE OF REFUGE THAT WE BOTH CAN CONFIDENTLY RELY ON AND TO HAVE THAT CONFIDENCE SHAKEN WOULD TOTALLY DEVASTATE MY MOTHER AND GROSSLY BURDEN MY OWN HEART.

WITHOUT TRYING TO DELVE INTO THE MANY CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMENTIA, HAVING A ROUTINE OF FAMILIARITY CERTAINLY REDUCES THE COMPLICATIONS. MY SIMPLE PLEA IS THAT YOU USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE POSSIBLE TO KEEP THIS LIFELINE AVAILABLE FOR US, SO THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO BE BLESSED WITH AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MY MOTHER FOR AS LONG AS SHE LIVES.

SO PLEASE PROVIDE FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF CENTER CARE ADULT DAYCARE PROGRAM AT STODDARD BAPTIST IN ORDER FOR IT TO REMAIN A SAFE PLACE FOR SENIORS LIKE MY MOM AND THE COMMUNITY.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAIRED BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

DOROTHY AMIS
CAREGIVER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS DOROTHY AMIS AND I AM A RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WARD 7 AND ALSO THE WIFE AND CAREGIVER OF MY HUSBAND RALPH AMIS.

SINCE 2010, MY HUSBAND, RALPH W. AMIS, HAS BEEN A PARTICIPANT AT CENTER CARE DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM. HE ATTENDS 5 DAYS A WEEK AND THE PAST 5 YEARS AT THE CENTER HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL YEARS FOR HIM. THE SERVICE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT, THE STAFF IS DEVOTED, EXPERIENCED, LOVING AND CONCERNED, NOT ONLY FOR MY HUSBAND BUT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH. THEY OFFER A FULL ROUNDED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES WHICH INCLUDES CURRENT EVENTS, SPORTS, WORKOUTS, SING-A-LONGS, AFTERNOON STROLLS, INDOOR BOWLING, TABLE AND FLOOR GAMES, BINGO AND MANY MORE. THESE ACTIVITIES HELP TO KEEP THE PARTICIPANTS MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY ALERT. I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY SATISIED WITH THE SERVICE GIVEN AND I KNOW THAT WHEN MY HUSBAND IS AT THE CENTER, HE IS BEING WELL TAKEN CARE OF. HE IS ALSO ABLE TO SOCIALIZE WITH HIS PEERS, GET NUTRITIOUS MEALS

AND EVEN VENTURE OUT ON APPROPRIATE TRIPS THAT STIMULATE HIM. BECAUSE I AM SO PLEASED WITH THE SERVICES PROVIDED, I HAVE REFERRED FRIENDS AND CHURCH MEMBERS TO THE PROGRAM SO THAT THEIR FAMILIES COULD EXPERIENCE RELIEF AND WHILE THEIR LOVED ONES BENEFIT FROM THE MUCH NEEDED SERVICES OF THIS GREAT PROGRAM.

THIS PROGRAM IS VERY MUCH NEEDED IN THE COMMUNITY AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL REMAIN A VITAL PART OF IT FOR YEARS TO COME. THEREFORE, MY REQUEST TO THE DISTRICT AND OFFICE ON AGING IS THAT FUNDED BE PROVIDED TO STODDARD BAPTIST GLOBAL CARE FOR CENTER CARE ADULT DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THE SERVICES THAT ARE MUCH NEED FOR SENIORS, PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND CAREGIVERS WHO RELY ON SERVICES LIKE THIS CENTER PROVIDES.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAIRED BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

VALENCIA SINGLETON
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS VALENCIA SINGLETON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM. AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION FOR OVER 17 YEARS, MY HEART IS BURDENED TO PHANTHOM THAT THERE IS JEOPARDY OF NOT PROVIDING ADULT DAY CARE SERVICES TO THE SENIORS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CENTER CARE IS BY FAR ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE AND STRUCTURAL DAY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE. WE OFFER A VARIETY OF SERVICES TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO MAINTAIN THEIR ROLE WITHIN THE FAMILY STRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. OUR GOAL IS TO APPROACH EACH PERSON AS UNIQUE, ENCOURAGE GROWTH AND TO SERVE THE ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUFFERES IN AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM. CENTER CARE ALSO PROVIDES A SAFE AND SECURE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR IMPAIRED ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN DOING SO, WE HELP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PREVENT OR DELAY INSTITUTIONALIZATION.

FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS, OUR PROGRAM HAS BEEN INTERUPTED BY NEW MANDATES FROM THE CENTER FOR MEDICAID AND MEDICARE SERVICES (CMS) AND THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE FINANCE (DHCF) WHICH IMPACTED THE FUNCTION OF OUR PROGRAM FINANCIALLY AND PHYSICALLY. OUR MEDICAID ENROLLMENT HAS BEEN CEASED SINCE THIS TIME WHICH HAS IMPACTED OUR CENSUS AND ABILITY TO SERVE THE ELDERLY POPULATION. THEREFORE, THE FINANCIAL BURDEN HAS LAID HEAVILY ON THE STODDARD BAPTIST NURSING HOME FOUNDATION.

ALONG WITH THE NEW MANDATES OUR CENTER'S LOCATION IS NOW NOT CONSIDERED AS AN APPROVED SETTING TO OPERATE OR PROVIDE ADULT DAY CARE SERVICES AND WE ARE NOW FORCED TO RELOCATE. STODDARD BAPTIST NURSING HOME FOUNDATION HAS BEEN DILIGENT IN MAKING EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN OUR PROGRAM, BUT THE MANDATES ARE OVERWHELMING FOR THE FACILITY AS A WHOLE.

AS CENTER CARE STANDS AS ONE OF THE MILESTONES FOR THE DC OFFICE ON AGING PROGRAMS, I REQUEST, I PLEA AND I ASK THAT CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM BEIS PROVIDED FUNDING UNDER THE DC OFFICE ON AGING'S BUDGET THROUGH THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD THAT WE ARE ENDURING AS WE CONTINUE TO SERVE THE VAST POPULATION THROUGHOUT WARDS 5, 6, 7, AND 8 OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT MY TESTIMONY BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE DC OFFICE ON AGING'S BUDGET HEARING.

Good Morning/Afternoon

My name is Joe Henery. I am a senior citizen and a native Washingtonian living in the Ward 2 area. I, like so many other elderly individuals, am finding it increasingly difficult to survive in Washington, DC without the help of outside sources like Terrific, Inc.

I was introduced to Terrific, Inc. by someone who lives in my building. Since then Terrific, Inc. has helped me when I could not find any other source to do so. For example, they assisted me with meals. This help was extremely beneficial because after taking the bus to and from my medical appointments, I am usually too exhausted to fix a nutritious meal. Activities that I once took for granted (like cooking) have now become a challenge as I get older.

Terrific, Inc. also helped me when I lost my wallet. The amount of red tape to replace my important documents was overwhelming. I would make phone calls and get put on hold, never able to get to the right person who could help. I physically went to the various buildings to try and get help and still got the "run-around". All of this was both mentally and physically stressful. Terrific, Inc. assisted me in cutting through the red tape so that I am now able to replace the lost documents such as my Medicare identification and Social Security card.

I sincerely believe Terrific, Inc. is an organization that should be a permanent fixture in the lives of Washington, DC senior citizens. We need them and they have proven they can help.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Dear Budget Committee:

I Frankie Whitfield am a native Washingtonian who's lived here my entire life, received my education from grade school to high school, raised two daughters, worked and now retired as a District resident. I retired a few years ago and have since been an active participant at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center, 500 K Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

It has come to my attention that the city want to cut the budget where funds are allocated to help keep the center up and running, and it makes me and many other seniors sad to know that the city has no problem taking funds from so many that have helped build and shape the city to what it is today. We've worked, paid taxes, and now that we've retired and enjoying our golden years, the city wants to take away funds from a center we've grown to count on in helping provide a place of comfort, security, activities in which we participate in daily from exercise to computer literacy. I personally take advantage of many programs the center offers: aerobics, yoga, line dancing, lunch, blood pressure screening, cataract and glaucoma screenings, trips, and a few others, so as you can see I'm very active at the center.

Since joining the center and participating in a variety of exercise and nutritional classes my doctor is very proud that I maintain a healthy weight, my blood pressure and cholesterol are down, I've gained better strength in my arms and legs, and these are areas I've had previous problems with, however, since joining the center and taking advantage of everything it has to offer, it's made me a healthier person and for that I'm thankful, however, I'm also fearful that cutting the budget would put me on a path of reversing the good work the center has helped me with on becoming a healthier and stronger person.

This is the reason for my letter and I'm sure many like it to follow from other concerned retired district residents who have come to rely on the center to help live an active retired life. We are very disgraced that the senior center is being looked at for budget cuts when there are so many people being helped by this program. As a concerned resident who have paid my dues I am asking you to please find somewhere else to do budget cuts, this center means the world to me and I enjoy being able to get out of the house and being an active senior and The Hayes Senior Wellness Center is a MAJOR factor of ensuring my days are filled with activities of interest to me.

Thank you and I pray that you take this letter into consideration for me and many other senior citizens that would suffer if this center is closed.

Sincerely,

Frankie Whitfield
District of Columbia Resident

4/2015

Dear Councilor

I am writing to address the budget. I am a BC senior citizen who attends the senior wellness center. I am aware of the need to cut services. Please do not cut the Wellness Center budget. This one element of senior life adds pride and dignity. Surely seniors ~~[illegible]~~ left in this wonderful city of ours deserve to be spared from cuts, our lives are already strained from the high cost of living that seem to be growing.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely

Jean Jones

To whom it may concern

I am a Senior of This great City Washington, D.C. and me as a Senior of this city I ask that this Government keep all programs concerning us open.

I have benifited from all the classes that I have taken. This program has put me on a more happier life, with out this service that the office for Aging provide for me I wouldn't have to much to do. This program mean a lot to me.

I was completely ignorant about operating a computer, but when I start going to the computer classes at Hayes wellness center for aging, "boy" how I thank God for this program.

The staff are some of the greatics people I have ever mete in my life. Everyone at the center treat you like a person and they make you feel very welcome.

Now if this letter Matter to anyone on this budget committy, then I as a senior of this great City ask that not one dollar be taken away from this program. I not only speak just for me but I believe I speak for ever person that participate in the senior ~~her~~ program. We the senior that participate in this program ask very stergely to keep this program in service for us.

I hope and pray that this budget committy will concern them self that one day they will get old to if God see fit, you will know then that this is a great ~~per~~ program for the (elders).

Please do not cut any finance support for this program for (D.C. Office on Aging) senior service network.

Marcus B. Lawrence
Date: 4·16·2015

April 20, 2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Councilmember Bonds,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I share comments on my experience as a member of the Hayes Senior Wellness Center. I hope my words can assist your committee in appreciating the impact this center has had on my life and the lives of many seniors throughout the District.

During my time at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center, I've noticed the holistic approach towards addressing the needs of each member. All of the activities seem to be designed to promote physical, nutritional, social, intellectual, and spiritual health in all aspects life. This is extremely empowering and gives me confidence when performing everyday activities at home as well as in the community. Additionally, the free health assessments and presentations help me track my fitness and remind me to stay vigilant about monitoring lifestyle habits.

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In closing, my experiences at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center have truthfully been remarkable and have contributed to the improvement of my overall health. Furthermore, it is my belief that all wellness centers have a similar immeasurable impact on the elderly population they serve and it is very important that these relationships are maintained for the sake of all seniors in the District.

Please add additional comments below:

Hayes SWC have been a blessing to me since I have been coming 2 days 5 days a week. It has been Keeping me in shape w/ the variety of activities and new mind gizmo and I love it. My doctors at Kaiser are very impress with the outcome of my health tests, etc. since I have been attending Hayes SWC. Blood Pressure, Sugar Level, Cholesterol level - perfect and all because of my participation at the Hayes SWC.

Sincerely,

Martha Sanders
Printed Name

Martha Sanders
Signature

4-21-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

We need the centers. Since I have been coming to the Center my blood pressure have gone down.

Sincerely,

Anita Jones
Printed Name

Anita Jones
Signature

04/21/2014
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

No Matter What Dont Cut Our Services
We Need Them a lot to help to
become more Indepent Cause In Wheelchair
& Growing

Sincerely,

Aileen Mizzell
Printed Name

Aileen Mizzell
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Don't cut our budget for this coming.

Sincerely,

Joan Jones
Printed Name

Signature

4/21/2015
Date

April 20, 2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

The Hayes Senior Center provides services essential to my well-being: exercise classes, gym equipment, lunches, & assistance with government programs and other life issues.

Sincerely,

Ralph Dumain

Printed Name

Ralph Dumain

Signature

20 April 2015

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

The Hayes Senior Wellness Center is likened unto an oasis in the middle of the desert! Please! Rethink your assessment of this program and know that it would not be wise or prudent to downsize or diminish the services for our Seniors! This program is literally a Lifeline for this special population Group!!

Sincerely,

Edna Gorham-Bey
Printed Name

Signature

4/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

It is a wonderful experience to be able to attend Exercise program at the Hayes Center.

Sincerely,

Portia B. Johnson
Printed Name

Portia B Johnson
Signature

4/24/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

I have always exercise but never could lose the weight until participating in exercise classes and using the equipment. I have also benefited due to the Nutrition Awareness talks and handouts, that have cause me to have a Healthy Diet. Hayes Senior Wellness Center is a excellent Program for Seniors!!!

Sincerely,

Gloria Young
Printed Name

Gloria Young
Signature

April 22, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

I want the increase the service 100% in all department and benefits
Allen Hayes

Sincerely,

Thank you
And God Bless you.

ALLEN GAYE
Printed Name

Allen Hayes
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

The programs provided at the Hayes Wellness Center are very beneficial and rewarding for seniors and the community at large.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bullock
Printed Name

Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

I am in awe of the wonderful programs at the Hayes Sr Wellness Center. Please keep funding this wonderful program

Sincerely,

MARCELLA HILT
Printed Name

Marcella Hilt
Signature

April 22, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Since I have been Coming to this Center I have lost at least 10 lbs and my pressure has come down a lot & I feel good

Sincerely,

Doris Gilliam
Printed Name

Doris Gilliam
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

I've been coming to the Wellness Center for over a year & I've enjoyed it & benefited from it every session I attended.

Sincerely,

(Mr.) Jean Mooskin
Printed Name

Jean Mooskin
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

I concur with the above statement and many thanks, I truly appreciate all the benefits associated with the Hayes Wellness Center.

Sincerely,

JOYCE KING YOUNGER
Printed Name

Joyce King Younger
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

This Center help ~~Hot~~ Seniors We Need it
bad. The Senior have Something to do & go.

Sincerely,

Elaine Dickens
Printed Name

Elaine Dickens
Signature

4-22-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

This program is very much needed.

Sincerely,

Shirley M. Clarke
Printed Name

Shirley M. Clarke
Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

Weight loss was my goal and by coming to The Hayes Wellness Center I have reached my goal. pain in shoulder is gone.

Sincerely,

MAZIE Young
Printed Name

Mazie Young
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
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Please add additional comments below:

The energy, laughter, movement, camaraderie of Hayes Center are admirable !! We love it !

Sincerely,

M. D. McCullough
Printed Name

Signature

4/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

Dear Councilmember Bonds,

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Please add additional comments below:

Since 12/2012 I have participated in the exercise program and health fairs at Hayes. They all have helped me maintain good physical reports from Doctors. The comradarie of the staff & members has greatly added to my life. The staff is welcoming & loving. Hope these programs Remain in place!!

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Williams
Printed Name

Deborah J. Williams
Signature

4/20/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

I have really enjoyed the program. The
instructors & the fellow members are great to me.
I hope the program remains.

Sincerely,

Alfreda C Burrell
Printed Name

Alfreda C. Burrell
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

DCOA and its activities for those of us who have worked all our lives and have now reached the golden age is the only place we can come to to get what we need NOW. Please do not cut its budget.

Thank You.

Sincerely,

VIRA HOWARD
Printed Name

Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

THE PROGRAMS AT SENIOR CENTERS PROVIDE A VIABLE LINK FOR SENIORS TO MAINTAINE PHYSICAL FITNESS ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR FAMILIES, GRANDCHILDREN'S

Sincerely,

STANFORD HOSTON
Printed Name

Stanford Hoston
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Fantastic facility

Sincerely,

Mary Page Nelson

Printed Name

Signature

Date

April 20, 2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Doreen C. DeSasso
Printed Name

Doreen C. DeSasso
Signature

4/20/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

MARCIA LEE
Printed Name

Signature

April 21, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

JOYCE TOYE
Printed Name

Joyce Toye
Signature

4/21/15
Date

April 20, 2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Dessaso
Printed Name

Douglas C. Dessaso
Signature

4/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

I have noticed improvement in my movements - I now have more Flexibility

Sincerely,

Susan Harper
Printed Name

Susan Harper
Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:
PARTICIPATING/PERFORMING AT WASHINGTON REDSKINS FOOTBALL GAMES IS BEING EXPLORED AS A WAY OF STIMULATING INTEREST IN HEALTH & LIFESTYLE ADVANTAGES FOR SENIORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY VIA NATIONAL TELEVISION. THIS IS BEING ADDRESSED AND INITIATED BY THE HAYES SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER BY ITS PARTICIPANTS.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH M. HUBBARD III
Printed Name

Joseph M Hubbard III
Signature

4-22-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:
1. The receptionists were really helpful. The staff returned calls which is surprising. The staff went out of the way to give helpful information.
The lobby is free of litter and excess noise. It has a business atmosphere.

Sincerely,

Marian O. Williams
Printed Name

Marian O. Williams
Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Joyce P. Abney
Printed Name

Joyce P. Abney
Signature

4/21/2015
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

DIANE J. WASH
Printed Name

Diane J Wash
Signature

4/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Sandra B. Pugh
Printed Name

Sandra B. Pugh
Signature

04/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Beulah Sherard
Printed Name

Beulah Sherard
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Catherine Hawkins
Printed Name

Catherine Hawkins
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Rachel Ford
Printed Name

Rachel Ford
Signature

April 21, 2014
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Natalie Russell
Printed Name

Natalie Russell
Signature

4-21-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

Dear Councilmember Bonds,

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

CARMENCITA STEWART
Printed Name

Carmencita Stewart
Signature

4-21-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Kathryn Chandler
Printed Name

Kathryn Chandler
Signature

04/20/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Printed Name

Bernetha Blackwell
Signature

April 21, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

HUGH MICHAEL MCCULLOUGH

Printed Name

Signature

4/21/57

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

KELVIN BOWE
Printed Name

Kelvin Bowe
Signature

4-21-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

_____

_____

_____

Sincerely,

JOCELYN LANCASTER
Printed Name

Jocelyn Lancaster
Signature

4-21-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Gertrude Benjamin
Printed Name

Gertrude Benjamin
Signature

4-21-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Blenda Person
Printed Name

Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E SLEPP
Printed Name

Signature

4-23-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

VALENCIA M. JONES
Printed Name

Valencia M. Jones
Signature

4-22-15
Date

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Helen King
Printed Name

Helen King
Signature

April 22, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Maurice ALEXANDER
Printed Name

Maurice Alexander
Signature

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Herbert St. Clair
Printed Name

Signature

4-23-15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

KAREN ZERLING
Printed Name

K. Zerling
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Edward J. White, Jr
Printed Name

Edward White II
Signature

April 23, 2014
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

DeVon Pettigrew
Printed Name

DeVon Pettigrew
Signature

4/22/15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Georgia Bloss
Printed Name

Georgia Bloss
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Lorraine Simpson
Printed Name

Lorraine Simpson
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Scott
Printed Name

Joyce A Scott
Signature

4/20/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

It's a great program!

Sincerely,

Ida M. Prosky

Printed Name

IDA. M. PROSKY

Signature

4/22/2015

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

No

Sincerely,

Geneva Sykes
Printed Name

Geneva Sykes
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

ERMA D. Ellis-Stewart
Printed Name

Erma D. Ellis-Stewart
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Sandra Washington
Printed Name

Sandra Washington
Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Natalie Jones Caldwell
Printed Name

Natalie Jones Caldwell
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Annette J. White
Printed Name

Annette J. White
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Kuchenberg
Printed Name

Signature

4/22/15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

GHOLA DAWKINS
Printed Name

Signature

04/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

DONNA BRAUTH
Printed Name

Signature

04/22/15
Date

To Promote the General Welfare and enhance the Quality of Life in Our Neighborhood
MANOR PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
est. 1923
P.O. Box 60622
Washington, DC 20039
April 23, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET HEARINGS, DC OFFICE OF AGING

TESTIMONY OF CARROLL GREEN
PRESIDENT

GOOD MORNING MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE;

WE THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY DURING THESE BUDGET HEARINGS ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF AGING AND IN SUPPORT OF VILLAGES WHO ASSIST SENIORS TO AGE IN PLACE IN THEIR OWN HOMES. IT IS LITTLE KNOWN THAT THIS NATIONS CAPITAL LEADS CITIES IN THIS COUNTRY IN THE NUMBER OF OPERATING VILLAGES, AND THAT THE OFFICE OF AGING PROVIDED A HELPING HAND IN THE LAUNCHING OF EACH OF THESE VILLAGES, USUALLY WITH START UP FUNDING THROUGH THE AWARDING OF GRANTS. LAST YEAR WHEN THE EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SERVICE TO MANOR PARK RESIDENTS AND RESIDENTS OF SIX OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS IN UPPER NORTHWEST, APPLIED TO THE OFFICE OF AGING FOR START UP FUNDING, GOVERNMENT FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE. WHILE THIS RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENA OF VILLAGES, VOLUNTEERS HELPING SENIOR AGE IN THEIR OWN HOMES FOR AS LONG AS PRACTICAL, REMAINS LARGELY UNKNOWN TO THE GENERAL POPULATION, IT IS A GROWING MOVEMENT, FILLING UNMET NEEDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND PERHAPS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE ON. THE EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE IS STILL IN DEVELOPMENT HAVING STARTED OVER TWO YEARS AGO; HAS OBTAIN IT'S 501 (c) (3) CERTIFICATION FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, HAS IN HAND IT'S DC CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSE AND HAS MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW TO OPERATE AS A NON PROFIT ENTITY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. THE HIGH HURDLE FOR VILLAGES IS IN THE START UP PHASE WHERE GOVERNMENT FUNDING HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE LINCHPIN FOR A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH. THIS START UP PHASE INCLUDES THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN LIABILITY INSURANCE, THE NEED TO SCRUTINIZE PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS THROUGH BACKGROUND CHECKS, THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN SUITABLE OFFICE SPACE AND GENERALLY TO HIRE AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE. THE OFFICE OF AGING HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM DAY ONE OF THIS LAUDABLE

UNDERTAKING TO THE PRESENT. NOTWITHSTANDING, THE ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO ASSIST IN THIS PHASE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DELAYED THE LAUNCH OF EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE AND THE AVAILABILITY OF URGENTLY NEEDED SERVICE TO A LARGE SEGMENT OF OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS. WE RESPECTFULLYREQUEST THAT THIS COMMITTEE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE AN ABUNDANCE OF RESIDENTS READY AND WILLING TO PITCH IN TO HELP EACH OTHER THROUGH THE VILLAGE CONCEPT AND THE NOTION OF VOLUNTEERISM. WHAT IS NEEDED TO HELP LAUNCH THESE EFFORTS WITH DISPATCH IS THE RETURN OF GOVERNMENT START UP FUNDING. VILLAGES RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT FUND RAISING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LIFE OF A VILLAGE, THAT FUND RAISING WILL ALWAYS BE AN ANNUAL UNDERTAKING. VILLAGES SIMPLY ASK THAT THE GOVERNMENT DO WHAT IT HAS TRADITIONALLY UNDERTOOK; TO HELP RESIDENTS HELP THEMSELVES BY PROVIDING START UP FUNDING. THE CREATION OF VILLAGES IMPROVES IMMENSELY THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR SENIORS, DELAYING, AND IN SOME INSTANCES, AVOIDING THE MOVE INTO ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES. YOUR COLLECTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THIS MODEST REQUEST WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY MANY.

Testimony of

Gottlieb Simon, Executive Director, Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Concerning the FY2016 Budget Request

April 23, 2015

I am here today to discuss the "DX0," or Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, section of the proposed FY2016 budget. Like the ANCs themselves, this section of the budget is unique. In reality it contains two separate components. One component is the budget request for the 40 Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, which is shown in category 50, "Subsidies and Transfers." The other component is the budget for the Office of ANCs (OANC), which provides support for the Commissions, and which in the language of the budget is referred to as the Agency Management Program. Overall, except for a mandated increase in personal services, this is largely a status quo budget.

The proposed budget continues support for the 40 ANCs at the same level as in FY15, $677,688. Seven years ago, in FY2009, the ANCs collectively were allotted $850,818. Although this represented the largest allotment in over a decade, it was still less than the historic high the ANCs

reached in the FY1995 budget when the amount budgeted was $1,196,000. The proposed FY16 budget maintains the allocation for the ANCs at $677,688, but this is only just a little a more than half the amount that was approved for FY1995, and it does not take inflation over the last 20 years into account.

In accordance with the requirements of the Home Rule Charter this money will be distributed to the ANCs on a per capita basis. The larger the ANC's population, the larger will be its share of the total. If an ANC has 2.4% share of the city-wide population, which is the population of the "typical" ANC, it will receive a 2.4% share of the total allotment. In FY2009 this meant that each ANC was allotted approximately a dollar and half for each person who lived in their neighborhood. Currently ANCs receive approximately $1.13 per neighborhood resident.[1] While ANCs vary widely in size, the typical ANC has 7 Single Member Districts (SMDs). Since each SMD on average comprises 2,000 people, the typical ANC, made up of 7 SMDs, has a population of roughly 14,000 people. Thus the typical allotment in FY2009 was roughly $20,800. In FY2016 it will be $15,800. This translates into a cut of nearly 25% from 2009 to 2016 experienced by

[1] This figure is based on the 2010 census city-wide population of 601,723. If we use instead the 2014 estimated population of 658,900, the per capita amount drops to $1.05. At the present rate of increase in the District's population, the per capita amount in FY2016 will drop to under a dollar.

each Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

The lion's share of the DX0 budget line is accounted for by these annual allotments to the ANCs. The remaining funds cover the operating costs of the Office of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (OANC). In FY2016, this will amount to approximately $249,000. Personnel costs, salaries and benefits, for 2.5 employees (FTEs), account for most of funds, i.e. $234,000.

The purpose of the OANC funding, of course, is to provide technical and administrative support to the 40 ANCs and the Commissioners of the 296 Single Member Districts. This support includes the training of new Commissioners prior to the beginning of each term, and then throughout the term as new Commissioners are brought on to fill vacancies. Our work also includes the updating and preparation of the ANC Handbook and other information during the course of each term. We manage the various programs for the Commissioners such as parking pass program and the ANC email system. We provide websites to participating Commissions and train and assist them in their operation and maintenance. We assist the ANCs in meeting their financial reporting responsibilities, including helping them in determining their payroll obligations if they hire staff. The Office also assists ANCs with the running of special elections to fill mid-term vacancies

(which we have done twice this month). We also regularly provide information about the ANCs to other agencies and to the public. And finally we provide daily advice to individual Commissioners and Commissions on a range of issues from getting information from government agencies to giving information to the public.

In conclusion, allow me to repeat a couple of recommendations that I have made previously. A number of ANCs in recent years have forfeited funds because the Office of the DC Auditor was unable to complete their review of the required reports before the end of the relevant fiscal year. In response to this problem, the late Councilmember Barry, who had oversight of the ANCs at the time, introduced Bill 19-0886 ("The Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Allotment Efficiency Amendment Act of 2012"). This bill would have amended the ANC law [section 1-309.13(j)(3) of the DC Official Code] so that the ANCs would not have to forfeit their allotments as long as they have submitted their reports on time. Unfortunately the hearing on this bill had to be cancelled due to external events, and it could not be re-rescheduled before the end of the term, and so no action was taken on it.

Bill 19-0886 would have cured a second problem as well. In addition to turning in their reports in a timely manner defined in the law, an ANC's

quarterly report must be signed by the ANC's Treasurer and Chairperson, as well as by the Secretary, whose signature certifies that the ANC approved the quarterly report at a properly noticed ANC meeting. Without these signatures, the Auditor's Office, in accordance with the ANC law, will not approve the ANCs' reports. If, as has happened, the office of ANC Secretary is vacant, or if for reasons unrelated to the report itself, a Secretary willfully withholds his or her signature, an ANC's report cannot be approved by the approval deadline. As a result, therefore, some ANCs have forfeited their quarterly allotments even though their quarterly reports were otherwise fully in order. Bill 19-0886 provided a remedy for this problem. Accordingly, I would recommend that this Committee consider re-introduction of that or similar legislation.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initatives

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
Kimberly A. Bassett
Director

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

April 23, 2015
Room 120
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good Afternoon Chairwoman Bonds, council members and Committee staff. I am Kimberly Bassett the Director of the Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI). I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in working to make sure our investments in education, economic opportunities, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure help District residents in all eight wards have reach pathways towards the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

To achieve this, this budget was the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The direct feedback resulted in a more comprehensive budget and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year.

MOWPI works in conjunction with the DC Commission for Women, other DC government agencies and an array of local and national partners to address the unique challenges faced by the women of Washington DC.. We use our resources and grassroots initiatives to both connect and assist women across a range of issues, and to offer strategic policy recommendations to the Mayor and other agencies when

appropriate. Every MOWPI initiative is structured to preserve and expand the middle class and to create more opportunities for the women of DC to thrive. Our top priorities are to Engage, Educate, and Empower.

The last time I testified before this Committee, we discussed our future initiatives to celebrate the many outstanding women in the District. You will be happy to know, these efforts have begun. Last month, The Mayor's Office on Women's Policy honored eight Washingtonian women at Washington Women of Excellence Awards ceremony. Nearly 200 people joined us, including Mayor Bowser, agency directors, community stakeholders, Council staff and our own Police Chief, Cathy Lanier.

We also hosted a State of the District social last month. This event brought together 75 Washingtonians prior to attending the Mayor's first State of the District Address. Attendees met other civic-minded Washingtonians to discuss their views on the state of the District for women and what they hoped to hear in Mayor's speech

Madam Chair, I am excited to say that these events are only a beginning to a promising year for the MOWPI. We will continue to empower the DC's women towards a path of sustainable socioeconomic prosperity. The following are just a few of the initiatives made possible by our funding:

- MOWPI is establishing a network of 150 socially engaged women from all 8 wards called SHE DC (She Helps Engage DC). This group will harness the collective

power of our many exceptional women of Washington to create greater visibility for the opportunities to serve and celebrate each other.

- MOWPI continues to meet with the Commission for Women every month. This commission consists of 21 movers and shakers from diverse professional backgrounds that provide a prominent voice in ensuring we are enacting effective policies and legislation that substantially impact DC women. Our new Commissioners will be sworn in tomorrow, April 24th.

- We are creating a Women on the Rise series—a quarterly engagement forum of speakers, leaders, and service organizations to provide training, inspiration and exposure to our many city services. This effort will place a spotlight on the private and public partnerships that are working to address critical women's issues. Our inaugural event will be held at the RISE Center in Ward 8.

- MOWPI is planning a DC Girls for Girls Conference for later in the year. This event will bring together 14-18 year old high school girls from all eight wards. They will engage in a leadership speaker series covering contemporary issues impacting today's DC youth: social media, conflict resolution and self-esteem. These speakers will use positive themes to reinforce celebrating our differences, striving for personal achievement and working collectively to support each other.

- Lastly, MOWPI will organize a Women's Policy Conference to engage our national thought leaders and elected officials. This conference will feature inspirational women leaders sharing the best practices for turning social and personal problems into opportunities.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving our mission and helping the women of Washington, DC thrive. The Council and this Committee, led by you, Chairwoman Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Most importantly, the Mayor's proposed budget presents a strong vision for MOWPI and the women of Washington, DC. It builds on our achievements of our women leaders and challenges us to be a pathway to economic and personal success. On behalf of MOWPI and the Commission on Women, we will do just that. We will continue to reach out to women in need, operate as a resource for the services in our city, and provide solution-oriented policies that address a range of issues impacting local women. We will not rest until every woman in the District has the access and ability to reach her full potential! Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

ANNOUNCES A BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

on

Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs
Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs
Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs
Office on Veterans Affairs
Office on African Affairs
Office on African American Affairs
Office of Latino Affairs
DC Youth Advisory Council

on

Wednesday, May 6, 2015
10:00 a.m., Room 500, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. OPENING REMARKS

III. WITNESS TESTIMONY

Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs

1. *Executive Witness*
   Margaret Forde — Chair, Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs

Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs

Executive Witness
Sheila Alexander-Reid — Director, Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Affairs

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

1. Lakshmi Sridaran	Board Chair, API Domestic Violence Resource Project
2. Marie Ramos	Outreach and Training Coordinator, API Domestic Violence Resource Project
3. Mariam Rauf	Outreach Program Manager, API Domestic Violence Resource Project
4. Surjeet Ahluwalia	Executive Director, Asian American LEAD
5. Tamaso Johnson	Public Witness
6. Jane Pan	Public Witness- Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC
7. Shirley Woo	Director, Chinatown Service Center

Executive Witness

David Do	Director, Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Office on Veteran Affairs

1. Michael Sindram	Justice for All DC/Disabled Veteran
2. Cecil Byrd	National Association for Concerned Veterans

Executive Witness

Charon Hines	Director, Mayor's Office on Community Affairs

Office on African Affairs

1. Ify Nwabukwu	Commission on African Affairs
2. Debbie Idiagbonya	Commission on African Affairs
3. Gbenga Ogunjimi	CEO and Founder, LDI
4. Anthony Chuukwu	Executive Director, Citiwide Computer Training Center
5. Amelia Missieledies	Executive Director, The Person Center
6. David Haiman	Acting Director, Many Languages One Voice
7. Dr. Desta Yabassa	Board Chairman, Oromo Community Organization of Washington, DC
8. Hermela Kebede	Executive Director, Ethiopian Community Center DC
9. Assane Konte	Co-founder & Artistic Director, KanKouran West African Dance Company
10. Jane Pan	Executive Director, HBI-DC

Executive Witness

Mamadou Samba	Director, Office on African Affairs

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
AGENDA/WITNESS LIST
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 112, Washington, DC 20004

Office on African American Affairs

1. Gbenga Ogunjimi	CEO and Founder, LDI
2. Ify Nwabukwu	Executive Director, African Women's Cancer Awareness Association
Executive Witness	
Rahman Branch	Director, Office on African American Affairs

Office of Latino Affairs

1. Marla Bilonick	Executive Director, Latino Economic Development Center
2. Rosa E. Pizzi	VIDA Senior Centers
3. Bethany Henderson	Executive Director, DC SCORES
4. Sonia Alvarenga	Public Witness
5. Penny Griffith	Executive Director, Collaborative Solutions for Communities\
6. Anne Garcia	Chair, Commission on the Latino Community Development
7. Lori Kaplan	President/CEO, Latinamerican Youth Center
8. Olga Noriega	LDM Family Services
9. Angela Franco	President/CEO, Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
10. Ruby Corado	Executive Director, CASA Ruby
11. Megan Merchant	Education and Community Programs Manager, Washington Performing Arts
12. Rogelio Cedillo	Member, Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC
13. Jose Antonio Cisneros	Member, Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC
14. Anne Garcia	Chair for the Commission on the Latino Community Development
15. Elvis Ernest Mod	Public Witness
16. Lisa Alfaro	Public Witness
17. Francisca Diaz	Participant, VIDA Senior Centers
Executive Witness	
Jackie Reyes	Director, Office of Latino Affairs

DC Youth Advisory Council

Executive Witness	
Dionne C. Burkett	Director, DC Youth Advisory Council

IV. ADJOURNMENT

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
MARGARET M.J. FORDE, CHAIRPERSON
MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (MACCCA)

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015
Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning Chairperson Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am honored to appear before you today on Mayor Browser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class".

I am Margaret Forde, the Chairperson of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean Community Affairs, often referred to as MACCCA. I would like to especially thank the Chair for the opportunity to testify -- which is a first for our Commission.

Through Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission, MACCCA wants to ensure that our Commission and the entire government have

the necessary resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

Let me now give a brief overview of MACCCA. MACCCA's mission is to advise the Mayor on best practices of mutual interests and importance to her and to be a resource, facilitator and advocate for the Caribbean-American community in Washington, D.C. This Commission was established in the Executive Office of the Government of the District of Columbia on August 15, 2012 by Mayor's Order 2012-127, and operates under the direction of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs or MOCA.

MACCCA is the representative body in the District of Columbia for Caribbean residents from any of twenty-seven Caribbean nations and

Territories listed in the Mayor's Order. This represents a large, and often overlooked, population in the district.

At times it may be difficult to distinguish and appreciate the depth and diversity of the City's Caribbean-American residents. Due to the many languages, races, and ethnicities of the people who have roots in the Caribbean region, we are often categorized and associated with other communities.

In order for MACCCA to carry out its duties and responsibilities effectively, government funding is absolutely necessary. It is critically important that the Commission has the ability and authority to provide programming and resources to the

Caribbean-American residents of Washington, D.C., many of whom feel like forgotten constituencies.

Originally, ten Commissioners were appointed to fill eleven seats; all are volunteers and are not paid for their service. There are currently eight commissioners, four of whom have terms which expire this year. The Commissioners live in different wards across the city, represent the diversity of the Caribbean region, and have strong careers in public and private service. MACCCA is required to meet twice a year; however, the Commissioners feel that monthly meetings are necessary in order to realize the goals of our mandate.

The Commissioners hope to organize regular town hall meetings, health and housing fairs, educational forums, and grants seminars to connect Caribbean-American residents of all ages and wards to the City's services, programs, and opportunities.

Many D.C. residents have noticed that Caribbean-owned businesses are struggling to compete and survive, and we hope improved outreach and support will help retain the vibrant, diversity which makes Washington, D.C. a global city.

The Commissioners also hope to institutionalize within the City's programs recognition of Caribbean-American Heritage Month each June, and improve outreach and programs which focus on mentoring,

and building cultural and educational bridges to Washington, D.C. youth and students with roots or interests in the Caribbean.

In order to meet these goals and complete our mission, we hope that the FY16 budget will include the requested funding and flexibility for MACCCA to provide much-needed support and service to Washington, D.C.'s Caribbean-American residents.

Again, I would like to thank the Chair and Members of this Committee for the opportunity to appear today, and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

Talking Points for Responding to Specific Agency Budget Questions for MACCCA

1. What would be the advantages of a separate line-item for the Mayor's Advisory Committee on Caribbean Community Affairs (MACCCA) within the Mayor's proposed budget in FY16?

   Chair's Response:

   - **Line-item funding for MACCCA would provide clearer guidance and authority for MACCCA to execute its mission.**
   - **Unlike many other community-focused commissions, MACCCA falls under the general scope of the Mayor's Office on Community Affairs (MOCA).**
   - **As a result, line-item funding would ensure that MACCCA has clearer authority and accountability in meeting its mission.**

2. What are MACCCA's spending priorities for FY16?

   Chair's Response:

   - **Operational funding and the ability to conduct community outreach and programs are key.**
   - **The Caribbean-American community in Washington, D.C. feels disconnected from the City and its services. Flexible and adequate funding will help us to bridge this gap.**

3. What would be the largest priority for the MACCCA if there are any increases in funding?

Chair's Response:

- **Our priority is to become operational and execute programs and outreach.**
- **We have been lucky to have the support of Ms. Charon Hines, the director of MOCA and training, support, and access by Ms. Traci Hughes, Esq., director of the Office of Open Government in the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability. Our goal is to be transparent, accountable, and ethical in all matters -- especially when using City funds.**

4. What has MACCCA completed in the three years that it has operated?

Chair's Response:

- **During the first two years, MACCCA supported the effort to have a Caribbean festival -- Jammin' D.C. in September. In 2013 and in 2014, the program was hosted in collaboration between the City, through the**

Office of Community Affairs, MACCCA, and the MONAD Marketing Group, producers of the festival.

- **We have been hampered in organizing programs and events due to the lack of flexible funding and equipment to execute our mission. I hope that this Committee will find a way to remedy our predicament.**
- **Commissioners have represented MACCCA at numerous events, recognizing and presenting a proclamation from the City, to the Howard University Men's Soccer Team for their 1974 NCAA Division One Championship with a 19-0 undefeated season, for which they were not recognized due to cultural conditions at that time.**
- **Actively involved with local business and community groups presenting forums and workshops.**

PROPOSED FY2016 BUDGET FOR MAYOR'S ADVISORY COMMISSION ON CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS (MACCCA)

Community Outreach/Education: $3,800

1. Newsletters publication - $2,000
2. Flyer printing and distribution- $1,000
3. Permits (DPR, DCRA) - $300
4. Postage and mail services - $500

Internal Coordination: $3,500

1. Website/Webhosting $2,000
2. Telephone services - $1,000
3. Business cards - $500

Advocacy: $7,500

1. Business development workshops - $5,500
2. Annual Caribbean-American Heritage Month Celebration - $1,500
3. Town hall meetings - $700

Other Needs:

1. Office Space (unless provided by District Government)
2. Equipment & Supplies (Computer, printer, office supplies, et al.)
3. Rental facilities for events when District Government space is not available
4. Grants for student internships and fellows who assist the Commission

FY16 MACCCA Total Proposal: $25,000

To Promote the General Welfare and enhance the Quality of Life in Our Neighborhood
MANOR PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
est. 1923
P.O. Box 60622
Washington, DC 20039
April 23, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET HEARINGS,
DC OFFICE OF AGING

TESTIMONY OF MR. CARROLL GREEN
PRESIDENT

GOOD MORNING MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE;

WE THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY DURING THESE BUDGET HEARINGS ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF AGING AND IN SUPPORT OF VILLAGES WHO ASSIST SENIORS TO AGE IN PLACE IN THEIR OWN HOMES. IT IS LITTLE KNOWN THAT THIS NATIONS CAPITAL LEADS CITIES IN THIS COUNTRY IN THE NUMBER OF OPERATING VILLAGES, AND THAT THE OFFICE OF AGING PROVIDED A HELPING HAND IN THE LAUNCHING OF EACH OF THESE VILLAGES, USUALLY WITH START UP FUNDING THROUGH THE AWARDING OF GRANTS. LAST YEAR WHEN THE EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SERVICE TO MANOR PARK RESIDENTS AND RESIDENTS OF SIX OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS IN UPPER NORTHWEST, APPLIED TO THE OFFICE OF AGING FOR START UP FUNDING, GOVERNMENT FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE. WHILE THIS RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENA OF VILLAGES, VOLUNTEERS HELPING SENIOR AGE IN THEIR OWN HOMES FOR AS LONG AS PRACTICAL, REMAINS LARGELY UNKNOWN TO THE GENERAL POPULATION, IT IS A GROWING MOVEMENT, FILLING UNMET NEEDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND PERHAPS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE ON. THE EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE IS STILL IN DEVELOPMENT HAVING STARTED OVER TWO YEARS AGO; HAS OBTAIN IT'S 501 (c) (3) CERTIFICATION FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, HAS IN HAND IT'S DC CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSE AND HAS MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW TO OPERATE AS A NON PROFIT ENTITY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. THE HIGH

HURDLE FOR VILLAGES IS IN THE START UP PHASE WHERE GOVERNMENT FUNDING HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE LINCHPIN FOR A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH. THIS START UP PHASE INCLUDES THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN LIABILITY INSURANCE, THE NEED TO SCRUTINIZE PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS THROUGH BACKGROUND CHECKS, THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN SUITABLE OFFICE SPACE AND GENERALLY TO HIRE AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE. THE OFFICE OF AGING HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM DAY ONE OF THIS LAUDABLE UNDERTAKING TO THE PRESENT. NOTWITHSTANDING, THE ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO ASSIST IN THIS PHASE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DELAYED THE LAUNCH OF EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE AND THE AVAILABILITY OF URGENTLY NEEDED SERVICE TO A LARGE SEGMENT OF OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THIS COMMITTEE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE AN ABUNDANCE OF RESIDENTS READY AND WILLING TO PITCH IN TO HELP EACH OTHER THROUGH THE VILLAGE CONCEPT AND THE NOTION OF VOLUNTEERISM. WHAT IS NEEDED TO HELP LAUNCH THESE EFFORTS WITH DISPATCH IS THE RETURN OF GOVERNMENT START UP FUNDING. VILLAGES RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT FUND RAISING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LIFE OF A VILLAGE, THAT FUND RAISING WILL ALWAYS BE AN ANNUAL UNDERTAKING. VILLAGES SIMPLY ASK THAT THE GOVERNMENT DO WHAT IT HAS TRADITIONALLY UNDERTOOK; TO HELP RESIDENTS HELP THEMSELVES BY PROVIDING START UP FUNDING. THE CREATION OF VILLAGES IMPROVES IMMENSELY THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR SENIORS, DELAYING, AND IN SOME INSTANCES, AVOIDING THE MOVE INTO ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES. YOUR COLLECTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THIS MODEST REQUEST WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY MANY.

D.C. Council Budget Hearing
Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean-American Community Affairs (MACCCA)
Committee on Housing & Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds

Testimony of Doreen E. Thompson
1510 Emerson Street NW, Washington, DC 20011
May 14, 2015

Good day Chairwoman Bonds and members of the Committee. My name is Doreen Thompson. I reside in Ward 4 of the District and I have lived in the District for forty years. I am an attorney, a past federal and District government employee and a community activist of Caribbean heritage, having migrated to the United States at age ten from Jamaica. I served on the first Mayoral Commission addressing Caribbean-American affairs created in 1998 by Mayor Marion Barry. I am very proud of my Caribbean heritage and initiated the celebration of June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month, the celebration of the last week in June as Caribbean Cuisine & Restaurant Week and the founding of the non-profit, National Caribbean-American Food & Foodways Alliance (NCAFFA), to celebrate and promote Caribbean cuisine while telling its history and influences.

The District's Caribbean residents have played a vital role in the District's growth and development. Our contributions to the District are numerous and include those of individuals and signature events such as: the Ali Family of Ben's Chili Bowl, Tony Gittens of the DC Film Festival, the DC Carnival Committee's twenty-year Georgia Avenue Caribbean Carnival which helped to revitalize an ailing corridor. These social, cultural, political and economic contributions have added to the fabric and unique culture that is the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia elected officials should also be proud of their contribution to the recognition of the District's Caribbean-American citizens. The District's executives were at the forefront of creating local government advisory Caribbean-American commissions, starting with the creation of the first commission focused on the Caribbean-American community in the District in 1998 by Mayor Marion Barry. This was continued by Mayor Anthony Williams, who in 2001 issued the first proclamation of June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month. June was subsequently recognized as National Caribbean-American Month by President George Bush in 2005. Mayor Vincent Gray and Mayor Muriel Bowser have proudly continued this tradition.

I want to thank you Councilmember Bonds and Committee members for another first, which is facilitating this opportunity for funding for this Commission and through this hearing giving the District's Caribbean-American community an opportunity to share information, express some of the needs of our community, and

state our case for needed funding of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean-American Community Affairs (MACCCA).

As you know, MACCCA was created by Mayor's Order to advise the Mayor as to the concerns of the District's Caribbean-American communities. Specifically, MACCCA has four (4) major mandates, which it cannot effectively carry out without adequate funding:

- Making recommendations to promote greater collaboration in cultural and artistic exchange between the District Government and members of the Caribbean communities, who reside in the District of Columbia;
- Advising on approaches to developing, stimulating, enhancing, or expanding, business and investment opportunities in the District among members of the Caribbean community who reside in the District of Columbia;
- Advising on means to develop and encourage health and environmental awareness issues and information exchange; and
- Serving as an advocate for members of Caribbean communities who reside in the District of Columbia by providing review and comment on proposed District laws, regulations and policies that may affect members of these Caribbean communities.

Because of my interest in Caribbean cuisine and interest in the contributions of African-Americans to American cuisine, I am particularly interested in MACCCA's mandate to develop, stimulate, enhance and expand business and investment opportunities for Caribbean-American entrepreneurs. For many of the District's Caribbean-American food businesses, the past few years have been challenging, resulting in numerous closings of 30-year old businesses. Georgia Avenue closings include: Brown's Caribbean Bakery, Sweet Mango, Lion's Den, Rita's West Indian, etc. Some of the challenges faced by these businesses can be attributed to gentrification with its resulting changes in clientele, rents and marketing challenges which are often difficult for small entrepreneurs to overcome. The Commission can play a vital role in connecting entrepreneurs with District government services and assistance available to them as well as serving as an advocate within the District government.

Thanks so very much for this opportunity to share the community's concerns regarding MACCCA's needed funding.

--

NORMAN O. GALLIMORE, D.D.S.

∞ 18 Girard Street NE, Washington, DC 20002-1010 ∞ Phone: 202-506-4617 ∞ Fax: 202-506-4617 ∞

∞ e-mail: normanogallimore@gmail.com ∞

12 May 2015

D.C. Council Budget Hearing
Committee on Housing & Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
Testimony of

Norman O. Gallimore, D.D.S.
18 Girard Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
May 12, 2015

Good day Chairwoman Bonds and members of the Committee. My name is Norman O. Gallimore, D.D.S. and I reside in Ward 5 of the District. I am retired Orthodontist, a past federal and District government employee activist of Caribbean heritage. I have lived in the District from 1961 to the present over (50) years. I am very proud of my heritage. After medical retirement from US Army as an Orthodontist, I practiced in Connecticut and Maryland and Washington DC getting involved in the West Indian communities there. However, Washington DC will always be my home and I look forward to my participation toward a more substantial representation of the Caribbean community in our city.

There have been significant contributions in the field Health by many of West Indian heritage culminating with the presidency of Howard University who is of West Indian heritage.The late Norman H.C. Griffiths, DDS, my uncle, was president of CAIO (Caribbean American Intercultural Organization) for over 30 years. Along with the late Dovie Roundtree Esq, famed local lawyer and activist, worked to improve intercultural relations locally, nationally and internationally.

The District's Caribbean residents have played a vital role in the District's growth and development. Our contributions to the District are numerous and include those of individuals and signature events such as: the Ali Family of

Ben's Chili Bowl, Tony Gittens of the DC Film Festival, the DC Carnival Committee's twenty plus year Georgia Avenue Caribbean Carnival which helped to revitalize an ailing corridor. These social, cultural, political and economic contributions have added to the fabric and culture that is the District of Columbia.

District of Columbia elected officials should also be proud of their contribution to the recognition of the District's Caribbean residents. The District of Columbia's leadership was at the forefront of creating advisory Caribbean-American commissions with the creation of the first commission in the District in 1998 by Mayor Marion Barry. This was continued by Mayor Anthony Williams, who in 2001 issued the first proclamation of June as Caribbean-American Heritage Month. June was subsequently recognized as National Caribbean-American Month by President George Bush in 2005. Mayor Vincent Gray and Mayor Muriel Bowser have proudly continued this tradition.

I want to thank you Councilmember Bonds and Committee members for another first, which is facilitating this opportunity for funding for this Commission and through this hearing giving the District's Caribbean-American community an opportunity to share information, express some of the needs of our community, and state our case for needed funding of the Mayor's Advisory Commission on Caribbean-American Community Affairs (MACCCA).

As you know, MACCCA was created by Mayor's Order to advise the Mayor as to the concerns of the District's Caribbean-American communities. Specifically, MACCCA has four (4) tasks:

1. Making recommendations to promote greater collaboration in cultural and artistic exchange between the District Government and members of the Caribbean communities, who reside in the District of Columbia;

2. Advising on approaches to developing, stimulating, enhancing, or expanding, business and investment opportunities in the District among members of the Caribbean community who reside in the District of Columbia;

3. Advising on means to develop and encourage health and environmental awareness issues and information exchange; and

4. Serving as an advocate for members of Caribbean communities who reside in the District of Columbia by providing review and comment on proposed District laws, regulations and policies that may affect members of these Caribbean communities.

MACCCA cannot effectively carry out these roles without adequate funding.

I am particularly interested in MACCCA's Task #4, identified above and how funding can help MACCCA achieve this goal. This task

involves "developing, stimulating, enhancing and expanding business and investment opportunities" for Caribbean-American entrepreneurs, particularly in the culinary arts and food businesses. Like many small businesses, the past few years have been challenging for many Caribbean-American food businesses in the city, resulting in numerous closings. Some of these challenges can be attributed to gentrification with its resulting changes in clientele, rents, and other factors which are difficult for small entrepreneurs to maneuver during a period of rapid change. The Commission can play a vital role in connecting entrepreneurs with services and assistance available to them as well as serving as an advocate within the District government.
Thanks so very much for this opportunity to share the community's concerns regarding MACCCA's needed funding

Norm
an O. Gallimore, D.D.S.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
[AGENCY]

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
SHEILA ALEXANDER-REID
Director
Mayor's Office of GLBT Affairs

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development
Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015
Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Good morning Chairperson Anita Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am Sheila Alexander-Reid, the Director of the Office of GLBT Affairs, which stands for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Browser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class." As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents that described how they would allocate an imaginary $100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year. The Office of GLBT Affairs works in collaboration with an Advisory Committee, appointed by the Mayor, to define issues of concern to the GLBT community and find innovative ways of utilizing government resources to help address these issues. Our FY16 focus aligns with the Mayor's priorities of safety, housing, creating a pathway to the middle class for LGBTQ residents, and

providing an accessible and responsive administration. Here are the ways we are implementing programs and initiatives to fulfill those priorities:

Improve Safety: Reducing and preventing hate crimes, particularly against the transgender community

Our office is working with the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLUU) of the Metropolitan Police Department to provide LGBT competency training for its entire force. This training will ensure that members of the LGBT community are given the respect they deserve from MPD and will ensure that the Force is protecting all residents, including the LGBT residents. We are especially proud that Sgt Jessica Hawkins, a transgender woman, is now leading GLUU. The difference she is making for transgender people is tremendous.

In addition, we are also working with the National LGBTQ Task Force on their "Stop Transgender Murders" campaign here in DC.

Increasing opportunities for employment for our most vulnerable constituents

The Office is providing training to all members of the Bowser administration on LGBT Competency in order for them to provide respectful and professional services to the LGBTQ community, and to ensure they are aware of this under-employed community when hiring District residents. We are also working with several agencies and programs (DOES, Project Empowerment, DHS, LEAP, Capital City Fellows, DCHD), to identify employment opportunities that we can make our constituents aware of. In addition, we are working with private sector groups and non-profit organizations on a Transgender Employment Summit taking place this fall. This segment of our community is disproportionately under-employed. So, this Summit will go a long way towards solving that problem and offering the first steps in the pathway to the middle class, for a segment of constituents that have been shut out of the process to prosperity.

Providing more accessible and more responsive government

Making good on her campaign promise to make the District government more accessible and responsive to DC residents, the Mayor has moved the Office of GLBT Affairs to the Reeves Center. This puts the office closer to organizations like the DC Gay and Lesbian Community Center, Whitman-Walker, the Washington Blade, and Casa Ruby who all serve LGBT residents every day.

Our Office is open from 9-5pm and is located just one block from U Street/Cardoza Metro on the Green line, making us much more accessible. Parking in the U Street area is less expensive than the Wilson Building location on Pennsylvania Ave., which decreases the costly burden on constituents, and makes it more affordable for them to drive to our office.

With approval from the City Council, we hope to move forward with changing the name of the Mayor's Office of GLBT Affairs to the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs. This is in response to the community's request to bring the name of the Office up to date to reflect the movement's preferred acronym.

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

The Office of GLBT Affairs will receive increased funding for improved housing opportunities for LGBTQ youth, seniors and the transgender community:

The office will also expand to include a Housing Specialist who will focus on addressing the needs of LGBTQ Homeless Youth. This is being funded by the Homeless Youth Reform Act. Our Office was instrumental in opening a new transition shelter specifically for LGBTQ youth. Additionally, the Housing Specialist will work to award over $100K to organizations working to serve the needs homeless LGBT Youth. It's important to note that while the administration has targeted programming (eg, LGBTQ shelter beds), we are working to ensure all of providers are culturally competent and well equipped to serve members of the LBGTQ community in an effective and sensitive way.

We are also a part of the ICH youth subcommittee which is just launching a work group to help examine policy and training needs across our continuum.

We are working with agencies that oversee shelters that impact LGBT seniors facing isolation as a result of their sexual orientation.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairperson Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
David Do
Director

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015
Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning Chairperson Bonds, members, and staff of the Committee. I am David Do, the Director of the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Browser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". I am joined by our agency's fiscal officer, Dr. Jim Hurley, from the Office of Finance and Resource Management. As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all eights wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

As a community advocate and organizer, I can confidently say that this budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents that described how they would allocate an imaginary $100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year. Inclusion, engagement, and outreach are major themes for the upcoming year. I will highlight my significant new programs that support three key areas of Mayor Bowser's vision that the public identified as spending priorities: education, economic opportunity, and neighborhoods.

- In education, the OAPIA will continue partnering with our nonprofits to support their robust mentorship program and rich extracurricular opportunities to engage Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) youth of all ages, from Pre-K to high school. Moreover, I will leverage my strong education connections to reduce program costs and increase the track record of developing creative solutions to ensure our young people receive high quality mentorship.
- In economic opportunity, I will broaden our outreach to include underrepresented communities across the District in the conversations that will sustain and continue this economic growth. Specifically, I will engage AAPI communities in a more meaningful and productive way by reaching out to the LGBTQ community and young professionals.
- In neighborhoods, I will examine collaborative solutions that may help address affordable housing issues for AAPI residents and preserve Chinatown's communities. Moreover, the OAPIA will continue connecting with residents and small businesses in all eight wards to guarantee that we are maintaining a strong connection to all communities that we serve. I will ensure a transparent process so that all residents and community members may hold me accountable for the agency's actions.
- Finally, we will continue to work with local nonprofits to ensure that the most vulnerable residents in the AAPI communities receive the necessary District government services. The reach of the organizations that we partner with range from a variety of program areas, and includes education, domestic violence, direct outreach, language access, capacity building, legal assistance, and health.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving our mission to improve the quality of life of AAPI residents and

grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairperson Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Dr. Hurley and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

DVRP

Asian/Pacific Islander
Domestic Violence Resource Project

Committee on Housing and Community Development
Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Hearing

Testimony of Marie Ramos, Training and Outreach Coordinator
Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
May 6, 2015

Good afternoon. My name is Marie Ramos, and I am the Training and Outreach Coordinator of the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP). Thank you, Chairwoman Bonds, members of the Committee, and the staff for your time and attention. DVRP has served over 750 survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault since we were founded 20 years ago. Of the 750 survivors, over 300 of them were served just in the last three years. As our number of clients rise each year, we continue to be survivor-centered and survivor-run. We serve A/PI women, men, and members of the LGBTQ community. The survivors drive; we help navigate.

Allow me to tell you a story of one such survivor: a Vietnamese individual in DC called our hotline this past year, telling our case manager that she was experiencing physical and verbal abuse from her partner. She also showed concern for her two children who were bystanders, and could potentially be in danger. Our team provided culturally specific safety planning services, crisis counseling, legal referrals, and housing services so that she could separate from her spouse. She is now living in another state with her children, and is safe, employed, and enjoying her new life.

Another survivor was referred to us by OAPIA. There was abuse in the home with minor children demonstrating the effects of child witness to domestic violence. DVRP assisted the survivor by finding housing for her and her children. We also helped her find a lawyer who gave her options for an order of protection and represented her in her divorce case.

It's important that while we share survivor stories that you also hear the words from a survivor directly. We have removed identifying information in the following survivor testimonial:

I left my abusive husband with the help of a girlfriend. In two days, I called different women's organizations for help. The case workers' lack of enthusiasm to help me during my conversations with them only made me feel more rejected. Later, a friend found out about an organization that helps Asian women, DVRP, on the internet. Even in the beginning, a DVRP advocate used a very kind voice with me and was able to take my case very quickly. DVRP advocates helped me, a person who had been restricted in the house for nearly two years and had never had contact with American society, to find a shelter. They were my companions. They taught me how to use public transportation, helped me find a school and a job, provided gift cards to the supermarket, and remembered to greet me during different holidays…DVRP came a long way for me- what I saw was not just their physical help; they helped me with their hearts which was beyond the call

of their duty. I do not know how to express my thanks to them for the help and the humanity they have shown me on my journey of life.

Thank you again Chairwoman Bonds, members of the Committee, and staff for your hard work and for your time.

DVRP

Asian/Pacific Islander
Domestic Violence Resource Project

Committee on Housing and Community Development
Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Hearing

Testimony of Mariam Rauf, Outreach Program Manager
Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project
May 6, 2015

Good afternoon. My name is Mariam Rauf, and I am the Outreach Program Manager of the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP). Thank you, Chairwoman Bonds, members of the Committee, and the staff for your hard work. DVRP is a non-profit organization in Washington, D.C. that aims to provide culturally and linguistically specific direct services to survivors of domestic violence (DV) and sexual assault (SA) in Asian/Pacific Islander (A/PI) communities in this region – we are the ONLY such nonprofit in this area that focuses on services to A/PI underserved survivors.

We provide services in over 20 A/PI languages including Chinese and Vietnamese, which are two of the top Asian languages spoken in the District. Our Survivor Services Program consists of four full-time case managers and is supplemented by language advocates recruited from the community. Case Managers provide safety planning, crisis intervention, translation, interpretation, court accompaniment, peer support and referrals to social, legal and housing services. In addition, our Outreach and Technical Assistance programs strengthen the DC victim services infrastructure by providing cultural competency training to mainstream providers and educating A/PI businesses, nonprofits, leaders, and community members on DV and SA, and the resources available to them. Our public service announcements, which are available in 5 languages, address bystander awareness. Our hope is to equip our communities with the right tools in dealing with DV and SA properly.

OAPIA's support is critical to mitigating and ultimately ending DV and SA within our communities in DC. The majority of the survivors we work with are low-income immigrants and refugees who are limited English proficient. They face numerous cultural and language barriers. Without DVRP (and OAPIA's support of DVRP), A/PI survivors living in DC would have nowhere to go. In the first two quarters of this fiscal year alone, we have served 16 survivors living in the District. If the demand for services remains steady for the remainder of this year, we will surpass the total number of survivors served last year (which was 23). We believe the significant increase in the first two quarters is due to our outreach efforts in DC, not necessarily because of a rise in domestic violence or sexual assault.

We save lives. We give hope. We provide opportunity. And we cannot do that without OAPIA's support.

During this past fiscal year, OAPIA provided us with a $56,000 grant from its domestic violence budget in order to sustain our core services for survivors and our outreach and training/technical assistance programs. This funding was made possible by Chairman McDuffie, who understood that this support was necessary to maintain the budget – what budget so that it aligned with previous budget levels.

This past year, OAPIA supported several critical projects, including an ongoing community assessment that surveys 250 Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) DC residents on their understanding of domestic

violence and awareness of the District's services available for survivors. This assessment finds that more than half of AAPI DC residents are not aware of services available for DV survivors. Additionally, it is believed the A/PI communities are leaving DC due to the high rent. But that is simply not the case. We have new A/PI refugees, including the Burmese and Bhutanese moving into the District every day. The entire D.C. metropolitan area has the FOURTH largest A/PI population in the country. There are approximately 22,000 A/PIs in the District alone, including Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese, Pakistani, and Burmese.

Jurisdiction	A/PI (#)	Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Korean	Vietnamese	Pakistan	Burmese
District of Columbia								
Washington, DC	21,959	6,417	6,204	3,670	2,990	1,856	688	134

The nonprofit infrastructure for the D.C. metropolitan area is not keeping pace with the demand for services. We need OAPIA's support to sustain our organizational capacity to serve this vulnerable population living in the District. We also anticipate some loss to our revenue because the Mayor also cut the DC Office of Victim Services budget – therefore, OAPIA's budget cut, combined with a potential OVS cut, and other potential cuts at the federal level – could have a devastating impact on our services to DC clients.

Though the District is facing a real budget gap this year, we do not think the OAPIA budget should be cut by any amount due to the potentially life-saving services that OAPIA supports.

Thank you Chairwoman Bonds, members of the Committee, and staff for your hard work and for your time.

Asian American LEAD
Leadership, Empowerment, and Development for Youth and Families

Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs Budget Hearing
Written Testimony of Surjeet Ahluwalia, Executive Director, Asian American LEAD
May 6, 2015

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

My name is Surjeet Ahluwalia and I am the Executive Director of Asian American LEAD.

Asian American LEAD supports low-income and underserved Asian Pacific American youth with educational empowerment, identity development, and leadership opportunities through afterschool, summer, and mentoring programs. We were founded in DC in 1998 and are currently serving 144 youth in need in our city.

Asian Americans are the fastest growing population in the District, but our needs often go under the radar. Being seen as the perpetual foreigner and "model minority" often limits integration into our city.

To effectively serve low-income Asian American youth, we depend on many supporters. One long-time supporter that we are very fortunate to have is the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs. The Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs has supported our work in many ways over the years.

I was concerned to see that the Mayor's FY16 budget shows a decrease in funding for OAPIA for next year. Specifically, the budget shows a removal of additional funds set aside last year to address domestic violence in the Asian American community. Now this very important work will have to share the same pool of resources as other Asian American organizations which means there may be less available for each of us. I am concerned about this especially given that the Mayor's budget also proposes cuts to afterschool programs funded through the DC Trust and DC Public Schools.

Asian American LEAD requires District government funding to address the linguistic and cultural barriers that our families face. I request that you at least maintain last year's level of funding to OAPIA to maintain the same high quality services the Asian American community deserves.

Thank you.

1029 Vermont Avenue NW, Suite 810, Washington, DC 20009 Tel: (202) 884-0322 Fax: (202) 884-0012
Email: info@aalead.org Web: www.aalead.org

DCCoalition
Against Domestic Violence

Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

May 6, 2015

Testimony of Tamaso Johnson

Policy Attorney, DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Good morning Chairperson Bonds, members of the Committee, and staff. My name is Tamaso Johnson and I am a Policy Attorney with the District of Columbia Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV).[1] I am here today to highlight the importance of the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) to the District, particularly the roll this office plays in supporting community-based organizations that offer vital help and support to vulnerable District residents such as domestic violence survivors and their children. Because of the critical nature of the work that these organizations are able to do, dependent on the support of OAPIA, we believe the proposed decrease in funding available for grants is a critical gap in the Administration's Fiscal Year 2016 (FY16) budget proposal for OAPIA that may endanger Asian / Pacific Islander victims of domestic violence in DC.

A critical charge of our work at DCCADV is to envision and advocate for a system of local resources and services that is responsive to the needs of domestic violence survivors and addresses and prevents the root causes of abuse. One of the biggest challenges in this work continues to be effective reaching and connecting with underserved and linguistically/culturally-isolated communities. In particular, experience has shown us that our neighbors in the District with limited English proficiency, those who are recent immigrants, and those from minority groups from unique cultural backgrounds not well represented in the District face significant additional barriers when impacted by domestic violence. Local community organizations, such as DCCADV member program the Asian Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP), provide domestic violence services, training, and outreach to Asian immigrant communities that is unique and unparalleled in the District in terms of both on-staff linguistic capability and cultural competency and sensitivity. These critical services are possible, in large part, because of funding from OAPIA—funding that would suffer a large cut under the Administration's proposed budget.

The Mayor's FY16 OAPIA budget proposal includes a $120,000 decrease of local funds designated for grants to local community organizations. The administration, in the OAPIA *FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan,* characterizes this decrease as "a reduction of $120,000 to account for the *removal of one-time funding* appropriated in FY 2015 to support a domestic violence intervention program and

[1] The DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DCCADV, The Coalition) is the federally-recognized statewide coalition of domestic violence service providers in the District. DCCADV's members include crisis and transitional shelter providers, legal service, and culturally specific organizations serving: African-American; Latino; Asian and Pacific Islander; Immigrant: and LGBTQ survivors of domestic violence.

other services. [emphasis added]"[2] However, this Council's Committee of the Whole report on the FY15 Budget Request Act from last year reflects a somewhat different understanding of this money, stating that the Council approved an FY15 increase of "$120,000 to the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs to *restore lost domestic violence prevention funding*. [emphasis added]"[3] Arguably, the intent of the Council, as reflected in last year's committee report, in approving the $120,000 increase was to restore the grant-making budget of OAPIA to a level commensurate with the needs of the District's rapidly-growing Asian population—not to make a limited one-time-only investment. We believe that a fuller picture of the OAPIA budget historically can help inform this context and the need for additional funding in FY16 and beyond. Since FY09, OAPIA's budget for grants has decreased every fiscal year.[4] What appear to be small year-to-year decreases in this part of the OAPIA budget add up to a downward funding trend that stands in contrast to population growth of the Asian / Pacific Islander community in the District in the same period. Between 2010 and 2013, the Asian / Pacific Islander population in DC grew by more than 5% each year.[5] During approximately that same period, OAPIA's grant-making budget decreased by 27.5%, or $81,000.[6] We do not believe that the needs of domestic violence survivors in the District's Asian / Pacific Islander community are "one time". The services these funds can support are vital to the District and we ask the Council to support increased funding for OAPIA in FY16 at a level commensurate to the needs of this growing community, and not a cut that impact needed services.

Thank you for supporting survivors of domestic violence and other vulnerable District residents. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

---

[2] Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, FY 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan, pg. E-135. Available at: http://cfo.dc.gov/sites/default/files/dc/sites/ocfo/publication/attachments/ap_apia_chapter_2016a.pdf

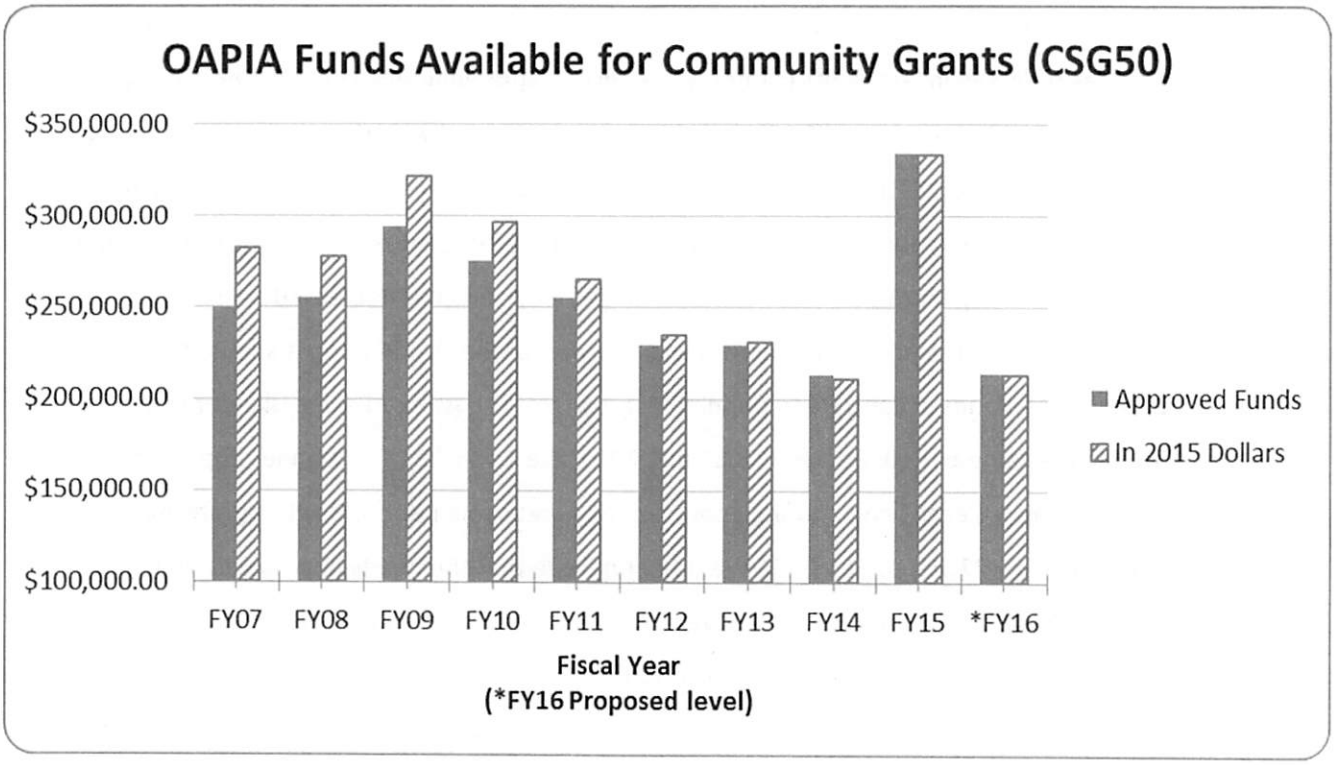
[3] District of Columbia Council Committee of the Whole, Report on Bill 20-749, the "Fiscal Year 2015 Budget Request Act of 2014", pg. 21-22. Available at: http://lims.dccouncil.us/Download/31513/B20-0749-CommitteeReport10.pdf

[4] See Appendix A. All data from the District Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

[5] US Census Bureau American Community Survey for Washington, DC; 2010 through 2013. See: http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml

[6] See Appendix A.

Appendix A: Office on Asian Pacific Islander Affairs Funds Available for Grants, by Fiscal Year



Fiscal Year	Approved Funds	*In 2015 Dollars*
FY07	$250,000	*$283,013*
FY08	$255,000	*$277,999*
FY09	$294,000	*$321,661*
FY10	$276,000	*$297,095*
FY11	$255,000	*$266,090*
FY12	$230,000	*$235,197*
FY13	$230,000	*$231,743*
FY14	$213,000	*$211,188*
FY15	$334,000	$334,000
FY16*	$214,000	$214,000

*FY16 proposed funding level

Source: District Office of the Chief Financial Officer

Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC
1725 I Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
www.hepbinitiative.org

May 6, 2015

TO: COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan, Fiscal Year 2016

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
for

Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs

From : Jane Pan, Executive Director for Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C.

Good morning, Chairperson and other distinguished members of the committee.

[I am Jane Pan, Executive Director for Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C., I am honored to be here today to discuss the silent epidemic of viral hepatitis and the support of the office of OAPIA's community grant]

The Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C. (HBI-DC) was organized exclusively for charitable purposes. Our founder lost her brother and mother within 3 years of each other while she was going to School of Public Health at Harvard. Specifically, HBI-DC's mission is to mobilize communities to prevent liver disease caused by hepatitis B among at-risk groups, particularly Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and African Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Through collaborative partnerships, HBI-DC provides culturally and linguistically appropriate hepatitis B outreach, education, screening, vaccination, linkages to care, and patient navigation services for impacted communities. In 2013, we started screening for hepatitis C as well.

What is viral hepatitis? The word "hepatitis" means inflammation of the liver. The most common types are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. Today our discussion is on hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Hepatitis B (HBV)

-There are almost one million people in the U.S. chronically infected with hepatitis B. About 54,000 persons with chronic hepatitis B infections immigrate to the U.S. annually.
-One in twelve Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders is living with chronic hepatitis B. D.C. Asian population grew 9.9% to nearly 23,239.
-Hepatitis B can cause liver damage, failure and cancer, as well as the need for a liver transplant.
-Vaccination is the most important way to prevent hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC
1725 I Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
www.hepbinitiative.org

Hepatitis C (HCV)
-Individuals born form 1945 – 1965 are five times more likely to have hepatitis C.
-African Americans, Latinos, and Veterans are among those disproportionately impacted by hepatitis C. According to U.S. 2012 census statistics, in the district there are 307,150 Black and 62,726 Hispanic.
-Hepatitis C can cause liver damage, failure and cancer, as well as the need for a liver transplant.
-Most individuals can be cured.

Who should be screened? Over 5 million Americans have chronic viral hepatitis; most of them do not know they are infected.
Hepatitis B (HBV)

- Individuals not vaccinated as infants whose parents were born in regions with a high prevalence of HBV infection.
- Individuals born in countries and regions with high prevalence of HBV infection.
- Patients who have a weakened immune system or undergo treatment for kidney failure (Hemodialysis).
- Individuals who are HIV-positive, inject drugs or men who have sex with men.

Hepatitis C (HCV)

- CDC recommends that everyone born between the years of 1945 and 1065 get a one-time blood test for hepatitis C.
- Routine screening for HCV is recommended for individuals based on recognized exposure and factors such as injection drug use, certain medical conditions, or were prior recipients of transfusions or organ transplants.

Viral hepatitis is a major public health problem in Washington DC. The most recent epidemiological update for the District of Columbia includes the first ever viral hepatitis surveillance data. The data shows that from 2004 to 2008, 11,624 cases of chronic hepatitis C infection and 3530 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported
AAPI populations are often unaware of the importance of screening, which involves a simple blood test. Often known as the "silent disease", hepatitis B is difficult to diagnose because many hepatitis B carriers have no symptoms.

HBI-DC is one of the grantee for the FY 2015 OAPIA community grant with this funding we are able to **Educate** (200) at many hard to reach at risk communities for viral hepatitis awareness to DC residents, small business owners. Provide **free screenings** (100) and protect those vulnerable individuals with 3 doses of **vaccinations (45)**. Those individuals tested positive, we link them to care provide a chance so they can live a normal healthy lives.
We are able to accomplish all of the above because of the Community grant. We believe that these intervention programs will benefit AAPIs who are disproportionately underserved that can help reduce liver cancer mortality and morbidity. In the long run the medical cost to save a few people from HBV and HCV are well justify the budget. Thank you.

Committee on Housing & Community Development
Budget Hearing
May 6, 2015

My name is Shirley Woo and I am the Director of the Chinatown Service Center. The Chinatown Service Center (CSC) was founded by the Chinese Community Church in 1977 to provide social services to the Chinese immigrant community. CSC is located in the District's Chinatown at 5th and I Streets, NW.

I support the proposed budget of the Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs (OAPIA) enabling OAPIA to continue their work serving the Asian community. CSC appreciates OAPIA's program to provide community grant funding which insures our financial viability to continue our service of providing the necessary social needs of the Chinese immigrant community in the District and the metropolitan area. Newly-arrived Chinese immigrants locate primarily in the Chinatown area and live in subsidized housing. They are limited or have no English proficiency making it difficult for them to communicate with government and social service agencies. There is a long waiting list for public housing and shortage of affordable housing. As the Chinatown community becomes more gentrified, it will become increasingly more difficult for low-income Asian immigrants to find affordable housing. CSC appreciates the support of OAPIA, other District's agencies, and other community-based organizations in helping those in need to find housing for families to live and work in the District.

CSC has only one paid staff member to intake directly to clients. CSC depends on volunteers and donations for our programs. Last year CSC answered 4,043 inquiries ranging from health care needs, enrollment in schools, immigration, domestic problems, and referrals to appropriate legal and other social service agencies. CSC has one weekday citizenship class and on Saturdays we have English and a citizenship classes. We are listed with the DC Public Library and have students from numerous countries. Last year two students from our citizenship class became U.S. citizen.

CSC and the Asian community thank the staff of OAPIA for addressing the needs of our community much of which would otherwise go unnoticed and providing grant funding to community-based organizations. Their continued financial support and assistance are essential in helping us remain viable in servicing the increasing social service needs of this underserved population. Thank you for this opportunity to speak to support the work of the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

THE WASHINGTON Informer

D.C. Council's Anita Bonds Proposes Bill to Fight Homelessness

Seniors, Veterans Targeted in Measure

Stacy M. Brown | 5/13/2015, 3 p.m.

Nearly 8,000 individuals in the District are homeless, including a number of senior citizens and U.S. war veterans. (Courtesy of hatdc.org)

On any given night, there are nearly 8,000 homeless individuals in the District of Columbia.

The facts and figures provided by the Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness in Northeast also reveal that 5,790 individuals find themselves in emergency shelters, approximately 1,600 in transitional housing facilities with another 396 simply are unsheltered.

While those numbers are disconcerting, District Councilwoman At-Large Anita Bonds said making matters worse is the growing number of senior citizens and U.S. war veterans who now count among the homeless.

"We have a moral imperative to decease homelessness among our veteran and senior populations," Bonds said.

The councilwoman, who chairs the Committee on Housing and Community Development, has introduced the "Caring for Our Homeless Heroes and Seniors Amendment Act of 2015," a bill that brings the District's veteran and senior services agencies onto the Interagency Council on Homelessness to increase coordination of services and to more effectively combat homelessness among these two important populations.

Since her re-election in November, Bonds has remained active in trying to curb problems tied to housing in the District.

In March, she introduced the TOPA Bona Fide Offer of Sale Clarification Amendment Act of 2015, a bill aimed at protecting tenants and providing further clarity to the Tenants Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA).

To prevent the permanent loss of affordable housing units, as well as prevent the displacement of elderly, long-time and low-income residents, Bonds introduced the bill which was drafted in consultation with representatives on all sides of the issue.

Later, she introduced the Rent Control Housing Clearinghouse Amendment Act that would establish the first ever database of rent-controlled housing units making it significantly easier for residents to find affordable housing in the District of Columbia.

In introducing her latest bill on May 5, the councilwoman noted that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development estimate that nearly 50,000 veterans are homeless on any given night across the country.

She said declining availability of affordable housing and increased costs of living in the District have resulted in a rising homeless senior population.

"Homeless seniors are more likely to suffer from depression or dementia, susceptible to bodily harm and often find it difficult to get around to receive services," Bonds said.

In order for the Interagency Council on Homelessness to most effectively decrease the District's veteran and senior homeless population, the District Office of Veterans Affairs and the Office on Aging need to have a voice at the table so these important populations will have a strong advocate in drafting policy and services can be further coordinated across District agencies, she said.

"This bill will be an important step forward to combat this pervasive problem," Bonds said.

Josh Brown, Bonds' community outreach director, said the councilwoman has for some time been concerned over the plight of the homeless in the District.

He said she learned even more of the seriousness of the matter as she drove city streets and looked on in anguish as seniors and veterans were easily spotted among the vulnerable.

"She believes very strongly that more action needed to be done to combat homelessness among these two important populations," Brown said.

"The legislation that she's proposed gives the veterans and the senior communities a voice at the table as the District works to combat homelessness and the bill will allow a further coordination of services across District agencies to combat homelessness among veterans and the senior community," he said.

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Government of the District of Columbia
Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Office of Tax and Revenue

1101 4th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

NOTICE OF PROPOSED REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT FOR TAX YEAR 2016

This is NOT a tax bill

See Appeal Information on Back – Electronic Filing Now Available

Date of Notice: March 1, 2015

ANTONIO ALMENARA
MICHAEL SINDRAM
6645 GA AVE NW APT 306
WASHINGTON DC 20012-2541

Appraiser ID: 213
Appraiser Phone Number: 202-442-6695
Notice Number: 5698591150214

Square	Suffix	Lot	2016 Proposed Property Classification	2015 Current Assessed Value	2016 Proposed Assessed Value
2971		2028	001	$60,220	$60,220
Property Address 6645 GEORGIA AVE NW Unit: 306			Neighborhood Code	2015 Estimated Taxable Assessment	2016 Estimated Taxable Assessment
			006	$24,088	$24,088

Your real property located in the District of Columbia has been assessed for real property taxation purposes. An analysis of local real estate market conditions has resulted in the above proposed assessed value. **This Notice of Proposed Real Property Assessment for Tax Year 2016 is the Office of Tax and Revenue's estimate of the market value of your real property as of January 1, 2015.** You may not rely on this Notice for the proposed tax classification of the real property if the real property has been or will be classified as Class 3 or Class 4 Property.

Estimated Taxable Assessment

There is a tax cap in the District of Columbia for eligible real properties receiving the homestead deduction. Under current law, the tax cap generally limits the increase in the taxable assessment to 10% over the prior year and may provide additional relief if the homestead deduction increases by a cost of living adjustment (COLA). Eligible properties will receive the benefit of the tax cap or the homestead deduction to determine the taxable assessment, whichever is more favorable to the taxpayer. However, the taxable assessment must be at least 40% of the real property's actual assessment. The tax rate is applied to the taxable assessment to determine the amount of tax that you owe. **Your Tax Year 2016 tax bill will generally be based on the proposed estimated taxable assessment shown above.** The proposed estimated taxable assessment is offered as a guide to estimating the amount of taxes that your real property may owe in Tax Year 2016, and it is subject to being lowered primarily because the homestead deduction may increase every year based on a COLA that is determined before billing.

Homestead, Senior Citizen/Disabled and Other Tax Relief

If you are domiciled in the District and your home is your principal place of residence, you may qualify for the District's homestead and senior citizen/disabled programs. The homestead benefit currently equates to a $606.90 tax deduction, which may increase for the proposed tax year by a COLA. The senior citizen/disabled property tax relief generally reduces the tax by 50%. Additional requirements for the senior citizen/disabled program are that your household's federal adjusted gross income must be less than $127,100 (a threshold that may increase for the proposed tax year by a COLA) and you individually must own at least 50% of the real property. Revised deductions and thresholds resulting from COLA increases will be published and the applicable application form revised accordingly.

Apply For These or Other Tax Relief Benefits

If you believe you are eligible for the homestead deduction or senior citizen/disabled tax relief but have not applied, or if you wish to cancel such programs, and for information regarding other tax relief benefits, deductions or exemptions, please see our Web site at *www.taxpayerservicecenter.com* and select Real Property, or contact Customer Service at 202-727-4829 for further information. Please note that generally you must inform us within 30 days if you become ineligible for a tax relief program.

T2TDCF51 178853 5698591150214 NNNNN NNNNN NNNNN 000002 C1 20CFTA 715411

AFFORDABLE HOME IMPROVEMENTS
6309 Georgia Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20011
Phone 202-726-6666 Facsimile 202-726-5550

August 13, 2014

Michael Sindram
6645 Georgia Avenue N.W.
Unit#306
Washington, DC 20011

RE: Repairs to Unit

Mr. Sindram, although I am not a roofer, it is my opinion that you can't undertake any of my repair recommendations until you get your association or management company to repair the chronic water infiltration directly in your condo.

1. Replace garbage disposal. $329.00
2. Replace missing smoke detector $195.00
3. Reinstall loose granite in kitchen $175.00
4. Replace double hung window brown double-hung with low-e argon -$3,012.00
5. Repair cracks in exterior window ledges- $450.00
6. Replace water damaged gypsum and paint ceiling in living room $2,250.00
7. Your bath tub was badly glazed and should have been replaced when you purchased your unit. We can't re-glaze it will have to be replaced. your sub-wall has been compromised by extensive water damage and you have signs of moister damage to tile and backboard. Likewise, the bath room ceiling is ruined from the same roof leakage. The toilet and sink must be pulled and can be replaced. However, the floor tile also needs to be replaced. The entire bath needs to be plastered, sanded and repainted and all the bath tile work redone. This means removing all fixtures; light bar, mirror, etc. and resetting them after the work is done. Note: you will be without a bathroom for approximately 10 days. $8,500.00
   Total costs: Labor and material $14,911.00

Be advised we observed that your HVAC system is in need of service, start up, or repair. During our visit your HVAC radiator(s) units and the radiators in the common areas were off and dead cold. The central HVAC room was locked so no further suggestions can be offered at this time.

Please advise if we can be of further assistance. Good luck, you have quite a mess on your hands.

Sincerely,

Sydney Paskel
Senior Estimator

Parable of Widow and [Unjust] Judge

Then Jesus *told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always* pray *and never become discouraged. "In a certain town there was a* judge *who neither feared* God *nor respected man. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her* rights, *saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the* judge *refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear* God *or respect man, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her* rights. *If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'"*

And the LORD *continued, "Listen to what that corrupt* judge *said. Now, will* God *not* judge *in favor of His Own people who cry to Him day and night for help? Will He be slow to help them? I tell you, He will* judge *in their favor and do it quickly. But will the* Son of Man *find* faith *on earth when He comes.*

Luke 18:1-8 (TEV)

It Is The Veteran

It is the Veteran, not the preacher, Who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the Veteran, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the Veteran, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer, Who has given us freedom to assemble.
It is the Veteran, not the lawyer, Who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the Veteran, not the politician, Who has given us the right to vote.
It is the Veteran, Who salutes the Flag, Who serves under the Flag!

God Bless America & Our Troops.

cap management

OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

MAY 05 2015

RECEIVED

g. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 2:00 PM ($20)

10. April 13, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. Altering the position of couch on left side and right of lobby at 11:30 AM ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 7:00 PM ($20)

11. April 12, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. No shirt or shoes while in common areas ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby ($20)

12. April 11, 2015
a. Altering the position of couch on left side and right of lobby ($20)

The citations highlighted in this violation total one-thousand eighty dollars **($600)**. For the convenience, cleanliness, and well-being of all owners and residents in the building, we hope these fines will result in the stoppage of this behavior.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks

Sincerely,

UNSIGNED

Kim Sperling
Cap City Property Manager
Office – 202-759-6777
kimsperling@capcitymgmt.com

5-1-15 / Happy Sabbath!

cap city property manager Kim Sperling / Thomas J. Kokolis, Esq (FAX 301-656-7834)

Greetings again in matchless Name of Yahshua Messiah – our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ!

As you know, or should know, this Disabled Veteran, who has served our country more than most, is represented by: Craig A. Butler, Esq 1425 K St N.W., Ste. 350 Washington, DC 20005

You continue to harass me with bogus "violations" not well-grounded in fact or warranted by existing law for which I categorically emphatically DENY. Your "letter" is postmarked "Apr 23 2015" with water mail "00018595944" constituting mail fraud with your postmarked letter of same date with same water mail dated "Tuesday April 28, 2015." You have yet to respond to my weighty letter to you of 1-18-15 so that afore-referenced "violations" now held to be void of legal force or effect. Bylaws of Tamion Condominium empowers Standards Committee to take adverse action erroneously undertaken by you for which you have abused your discretion and exceeded your jurisdiction. See Order Superior Court Case No. 2003-CMD-22695 U.S. v. Michael Jindrich Self-appointed unlicensed attorney and president Mothers Hangrow, Esq continues to harass me and continues to enlist you to maliciously prosecute me and abuse process. "Order Denying Plaintiffs Motion for Order To U.S. Attorney" Mother T. Hangrow v. Michael J. Sindrich Case No. 18 CA 1453 B. We continue to have no functional on-site building attorney required by law. You have yet to send reasonable statement requested multiple times. I await receipt of check of Standards Committee. (at there be) hearing within five (5) days.

I God I do trust.

capitol management

OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

MAY 05 2015

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Monday, April 27, 2015

Michael Sindram
6645 Georgia Ave, Apt 306
Washington, DC 20012

Re: Violation of Condominium Rules and Regulations

Dear Michael Sindram:

As per section 8.b in the Jamison Condominium Rules and Regulations as highlighted in a notice mailed to the building on October 16, 2012, this letter serves as a notice of violation of the Jamison Rules & Regulations.

Rule 2.d. states: "There should be no obstructions placed or temporarily left in any of the common areas."

Rule 2.f. prevents this posting of unapproved decorations or advertising in common areas.

Rule 2.g. states: "No one shall interfere in any manner with the heating, cooling, hot water, lighting or similar apparatus in or about the building and common areas."

Rule 2.k. states: "All persons shall be properly attired when appearing in any of the common areas. Bare feet, bare chests, and bedroom attire are not acceptable."

Rule 3.f states: "...Nothing shall be thrown or emptied out of windows, doors, balcony or terrace of any Unit. Nothing shall be thrown or emptied down stairways or other common areas."

Evidence supporting these citations have been documented using pictures and/or video from the lobby's video camera. Further details with times and dates are listed below.

As per section 8.b of the Rules and Regulations, before a fine is imposed, you have the opportunity to respond by submitting a written denial or explanation of the alleged violation to the Managing Agent within five (5) days of receipt of this notice. After notice and opportunity to be heard, the

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Board reserves the right to levy a reasonable fine for violation in the amount of **twenty dollars ($20)** for each infraction to be added to your ledger and due in full 30 days from the date of this letter. This notice specifically targets the following items:

1. April 22, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)

2. April 21, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)

3. April 20, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)

4. April 19, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. No shirt and no shoes while in common areas ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby ($20)

5. April 18, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. Crate placed in common area laundry ($20)
c. Container placed in common area laundry ($20)

6. April 17, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)

7. April 16, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)

8. April 15, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. Unplugging four (4) separate machines in the laundry room ($20)
c. No shirt or shoes while in common areas ($20)
d. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 11:30 PM ($20)
e. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 5:45 AM ($20)

9. April 14, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. Flyer placed above mailboxes in common area ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side of lobby at 6:30 AM ($20)
d. No shirt or shoes while in common areas at 6:30 AM ($20)
e. No shit or shoes while in common areas at 9:00 AM ($20)
f. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 9:00 AM ($20)

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SENIOR JUDGES CHAMBERS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	:	
	:	
v.	:	Case No. 2013-CMD-22695
	:	Judge Burgess
MICHAEL SINDRAM	:	

O R D E R

Before the court is defendant's Motion to Treat the Defendant's Renewed Motion to Disallow Amendment of the Information, for Entry of a Judgment of Acquittal, and for the Court to Direct Entry of a New Judgment as Conceded (hereinafter referred to as "Motion to Treat"). The Government has not filed an opposition.

On May 28, 2014 this Court found defendant guilty of defacing private property and sentenced him to 15 days incarceration, execution suspended as to all, unsupervised probation for 3 months and ordered defendant to pay a $50.00 fine pursuant to the Victims of Violent Crime Compensation Act. On May 29, 2014 defendant filed a Renewed Motion to Disallow Amendment of the Information, for Entry of a Judgment of Acquittal, and for the Court to

Direct Entry of a New Judgment with Points and Authorities in Support (hereinafter referred to as "Renewed Motion"). Defendant's Renewed Motion requests that the court change its ruling allowing amendment of the information, and then enter a judgment of acquittal under Rule 29 or direct the entry of a new judgment under Rule 33. The Renewed Motion is accompanied by a certificate of service, certifying that on May 29, 2014 a copy of the motion was delivered by hand to Ryan Raybould, Esq., at the United States Attorney's Office. The Government response was due on or before June 12, 2014. As of July 18, 2014 the Government has not filed a response.

On June 30, 2014 Defendant filed the Motion to Treat the Defendant's Renewed Motion as Conceded. The Motion to Treat is likewise accompanied by a certificate of service, certifying that on June 30, 2014 a copy of this Motion was delivered by hand to Ryan Raybould, Esq., at the United States Attorney's Office. The Government response to the Motion to Treat was due on or before July 14, 2014. As of July 18, 2014 the Government has not filed a response.

Rule 47-I of the Superior Court Rules of Criminal Procedure provides that "[a] written statement of opposing

points and authorities shall be filed within 10 days . . . If the opposition is not filed within the prescribed time, the Court may treat the motion as conceded." Sup. Ct. R. Crim. Pro. 47-I(c).

Accordingly, it is this 18 day of July, 2014, **ORDERED** that the defendant's motion to treat the defendant's renewed motion as conceded is **GRANTED**. The Court

FURTHER ORDERS that a judgment of acquittal is entered in favor of the defendant.

SIGNED IN CHAMBERS
July 18, 2014

A. Franklin Burgess, Jr.
Judge

Copies mailed to:

Lee R. Goebes,
Public Defender Service
633 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Ryan Raybould,
United States Attorney's Office
555 Fourth Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20530

Clerk, Criminal Division
District of Columbia Superior Court
500 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20001

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CIVIL DIVISION

MATHEW T. HARGROW,	)	**CASE NO. 2013 CA 1453 B**
	)	
Plaintiff(s),	)	**CALENDAR 8**
	)	
vs	)	**JUDGE RONNA LEE BECK**
	)	
MICHAEL J. SINDRAM,	)	
	)	
Defendant(s).	)	

ORDER DENYING PLAINTIFF'S MOTION FOR ORDER TO THE U.S. ATTORNEY

Before the court is Plaintiff's Motion for an Order to the U.S. Attorney to Consider Whether Contemnor Michael J. Sindram Should Stand Charges for Criminal Contempt.

The United States Attorney is not a party to this action, and it is within his discretion whether to bring criminal charges for contempt. Under the circumstances, the court concludes it would be inappropriate to order the United States Attorney to consider whether to initiate criminal contempt charges.

With respect to criminal contempt charges, if Plaintiff contends Defendant has violated the court order, Plaintiff could consider calling the police (as the court indicated at the last hearing.) Alternatively, Plaintiff could consider contacting the office of the United States Attorney to discuss with them bringing criminal contempt charges.

Accordingly, it is this **9th** day of **March, 2015**, hereby

ORDERED that Plaintiff's motion is **DENIED**.

Ronna Lee Beck

JUDGE RONNA LEE BECK
(Signed in Chambers)

Copies mailed from chambers to:

Matthew T. Hargow
6645 Georgia Avenue, NW #310
Washington, DC 20012
Pro Se Plaintiff

Michael J. Sindram
6645 Georgia Avenue, NW #306
Washington, DC 20012
Pro Se Defendant

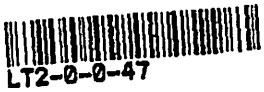
10/16/2014
Donyelle L. R

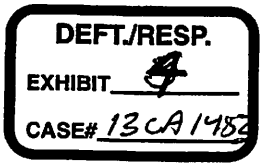
Donyelle C Pinkney
-Assistant Property Manager
email: donyelle@capcitymgmt.com
phone: 202 759 6777
240 412 3538

BYLAWS

OF

THE JAMISON CONDOMINIUM





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ARTICLE I

IDENTIFICATION OF THE CONDOMINIUM AND DEFINITIONS

Section 1. Submission to Condominium Regime. Certain land, buildings and improvements located in the District of Columbia (said land being identified on Exhibit A attached hereto) have been submitted to the provisions of Title 42, Chapter 19 of the District of Columbia Code (2001 Edition, as amended) by a Declaration (the "Declaration") recorded among the Land Records of the District of Columbia immediately prior to recordation of these Bylaws. The name of the Condominium is "The Jamison Condominium" and the address of the Condominium is 6645 Georgia Avenue NW Washington, DC 20012.

Section 2. Definitions. Capitalized terms used in these Bylaws without definition shall have the meanings specified for such terms in the Declaration or, if not defined therein, the meanings specified for such terms in Section 42-1902.02 of the Condominium Act.

Section 3. Applicability of Bylaws. The provisions of these Bylaws are applicable to the use and occupancy of the Condominium and the structure and operation of the Unit Owners' Association. All present and future Unit Owners, Mortgagees, lessees and occupants of Units and any other persons who may use the facilities of the Condominium in any manner are subject to these Bylaws, the Declaration and the Rules and Regulations, as any of the same may be amended from time to time.

Section 4. Office. The office of the Condominium, the Unit Owners' Association and the Board of Directors shall be located at the Condominium or at such other place as may be designated from time to time by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE II

UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION

Section 1. Composition. All Unit Owners in the Condominium, acting in accordance with the Condominium Act, the Declaration and these Bylaws, shall constitute the Unit Owners' Association. The Unit Owners' Association shall have the responsibility of administering the Condominium, establishing the means and methods of collecting the assessments for Common Expenses and arranging for the management of the Condominium, and performing all of the other acts that may be performed by the Unit Owners' Association pursuant to the Condominium Act, the Declaration and these Bylaws. The Unit Owners' Association may be incorporated.

Section 2. Annual Meetings.

(a) The first annual meeting of the Unit Owners' Association shall be held on a date to be determined by the Declarant at the earlier to occur of (i) the time Units representing 75% of the Percentage Interests in the Condominium shall have been conveyed by the Declarant or (ii) the date of expiration of two (2) years from the date the first Unit in the Condominium shall have been conveyed by the Declarant. Annual meetings of the Unit Owners' Association held after the first annual meeting shall be held on a date to be established by the Board of Directors, which date shall be no later than 395 days after the previous annual meeting and no earlier than 305 days after the previous annual meeting. Subject to the provisions of Section 2 of

Article III of these Bylaws, at all annual meetings of the Unit Owners' Association, members of the Board of Directors shall be elected and such other business as may properly come before a meeting may be transacted.

(b) As used in these Bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires, "conveyance" means conveyance of fee simple title by deed.

Section 3. Place of Meetings. Meetings of the Unit Owners' Association shall be held at the office of the Condominium or at such other suitable place convenient to Unit Owners as from time to time may be designated by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Special Meetings. It shall be the duty of the President to call a special meeting of the Unit Owners' Association if so directed by resolution of the Board of Directors or, after the first annual meeting of the Unit Owners' Association, upon a petition signed and presented to the Secretary by Unit Owners holding not less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the Percentage Interests in the Condominium. No business shall be transacted at a special meeting except as stated in the notice of such meeting given in accordance with the provisions of Section 5 of this Article.

Section 5. Notice of Meetings. At least twenty-one (21) days in advance of each annual meeting of the Unit Owners' Association, and at least seven (7) days in advance of each special meeting of the Unit Owners' Association, the Secretary shall cause to be sent to each Unit Owner of record notice of the time, place and purpose or purposes of such meeting. Such notice shall be sent by United States mail, first class postage prepaid, to each Unit Owner of record, at the address of such Owner's Unit and at such other address as such Owner shall have designated in writing to the Secretary. The mailing of a notice of a meeting in the manner provided in this Section shall be deemed service of notice. In lieu of mailing notice of a meeting in the manner provided in this Section, the Secretary may cause such notice to be personally delivered, provided, that the Secretary shall obtain a receipt of acceptance of such notice from the Unit Owner.

Section 6. Presiding Officer. Until the first meeting of the Unit Owners' Association following the special meeting at which all members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by all Unit Owners as provided in Section 2 of Article III of these Bylaws, any person designated by the Declarant shall preside at all meetings of the Unit Owners' Association. Thereafter, the President or his or her designee shall preside at all meetings of the Unit Owners' Association. In the absence of the President or such designee from any meeting of the Association, any person designated by the Board of Directors shall preside over such meeting.

Section 7. Conduct of Meeting. The minutes of all meetings shall be held in a Minute Book maintained for the Unit Owners' Association by the Secretary. The then current Robert's Rules of Order or any other rules of procedure acceptable to a majority of the votes of Unit Owners shall govern the conduct of all meetings of the Unit Owners' Association when not in conflict with these Bylaws, the Declaration or the Condominium Act. All votes shall be tallied by a person or persons appointed by the presiding officer of the meeting.

Section 8. Inspectors of Election. One or more Inspector(s) of Election shall be appointed by the Board of Directors prior to the time of any meeting of the Association at which Directors shall be elected.

Unit Owners authorize, approve or ratify such contract or transaction in good faith and by a vote sufficient for the purpose; or

(c) Such contract or transaction was fair and commercially reasonable to the Unit Owners' Association in view of all the facts known to any member, officer or director of the Unit Owners' Association at the time it was authorized, ratified, approved or executed.

Any common or interested officer or director of the Unit Owners' Association may be counted in determining the presence of a quorum at any meeting of the Board of Directors or committee thereof which authorizes, ratifies or approves any contract or transaction. Arrangements between the Unit Owners' Association and the Declarant or the initial Managing Agent shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of this Section.

Section 21. Committees. The Board of Directors from time to time may appoint (and expand and/or disband) such committees from among its own membership and/or from among the Unit Owners' Association as the Board of Directors from time to time deems desirable to assist in the administration or operation or affairs of the Condominium.

Section 22. Standards Committee.

(a) Purpose. After the expiration of the Declarant Control Period, the Board of Directors shall establish a Standards Committee, consisting of three members appointed by the Board, each to serve for a term of one year, in order to assure that the Condominium shall always be maintained in a manner: (1) providing for visual harmony and soundness of repair; (2) avoiding activities deleterious to the esthetic or property values of the Condominium; (3) furthering the comfort of the Unit Owners, their guests and tenants; and (4) promoting the general welfare and safety of the Condominium community.

(b) Powers. The Standards Committee shall regulate the appearance, use and maintenance of the Common Elements. The Standards Committee shall have the power to impose reasonable application fees as well as the costs of reports, analyses, or consultations required in connection with improvements or changes proposed by a Unit Owner. The Standards Committee shall have the power to impose reasonable charges (pursuant to Article X, Section 6 hereof) upon, and issue a cease and desist request to, a Unit Owner, his guests, invitees, or lessees whose actions are inconsistent with the provisions of the Condominium Act, the Declaration, these Bylaws, the Rules and Regulations or resolutions of the Board Directors (upon petition of any Unit Owner or upon its own motion). The Standards Committee shall from time to time, as required, provide interpretations of the Declaration, Bylaws, the Rules and Regulations and resolutions pursuant to the intents, provisions and qualifications thereof when requested to do so by a Unit Owner or the Board of Directors. Any action, ruling or decision of the Standards Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors by any party deemed by the Board to have standing as an aggrieved party and the Board may modify or reverse any such action, ruling or decision.

(c) Authority. The Standards Committee shall have such additional duties, power and authority as the Board of Directors may from time to time provide by resolution. The Board of Directors may relieve the Standards Committee of any of its duties, powers and authority either generally or on a case-by-case basis. The Standards Committee shall carry out

its duties and exercise its powers and authority in the manner provided for in the Rules and Regulations or by resolution of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

Section 1. Designation. The principal officers of the Condominium shall be a President, a Vice President, a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Board of Directors may elect an assistant treasurer, an assistant secretary and/or such other officers as in its judgment may be necessary or desirable. Two or more offices may be held by the same person, except that the President shall not hold any other office and the President and Vice President must be owners of different Units.

(a) President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Unit Owners' Association; preside at all meetings of the Association and of the Board of Directors; have general and active direction of the business of the Association subject to the control of the Board; see that all orders and resolutions of the Board are carried into effect; and appoint committees from time to time as the President may decide is appropriate to assist in the conduct of the affairs of the Association.

(b) Vice President. The Vice President shall take the place of the President and perform the duties of the President whenever the President shall be absent or unable to act. If neither the President nor the Vice President is able to act, the Board of Directors shall appoint some other director to act in the place of the President on an interim basis. The Vice President shall also perform such other duties as shall from time to time be imposed by the Board of Directors or by the President.

(c) Secretary. The Secretary shall: (i) keep the minutes of all meetings of the Unit Owners' Association and of the Board of Directors; (ii) have charge of such books and papers as the Board may direct; (iii) give or cause to be given all notices required to be given by the Association; (iv) maintain a register setting forth the place to which all notices to Unit Owners and Mortgagees hereunder shall be delivered; and (v) perform all the duties incident to the office of Secretary. An assistant secretary, if one is elected, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Secretary in the absence or disability of the Secretary and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

(d) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall (together with the Managing Agent): be responsible for Unit Owners' Association funds and securities; keep full and accurate financial records and books of account showing all receipts and disbursements; prepare all required financial data; deposit all monies and other valuable effects in the name of the Board of Directors, the Association or the managing agent, in such depositories as may from time to time be designated by the Board; and, in general, perform all the duties incident to the office of treasurer. An assistant treasurer, if one is elected, shall perform the duties and exercise the powers of the Treasurer in the absence or disability of the Treasurer and shall perform such other duties as the Board of Directors may prescribe.

Section 2. Qualifications. All officers shall be Unit Owners (or partners, officers, directors, trustees, agents or employees of Unit Owners who are not natural persons). The President and Secretary shall be members of the Board of Directors. Any officers other than the

Confirmation Report – Memory Send

Page : 001
Date & Time: 05-05-2015 04:13pm
Line 1 :
Line 2 :
E-mail :
Machine ID :

Job number : 392

Date : 05-05 04:03pm

To : ☎913016567834

Number of pages : 016

Start time : 05-05 04:03pm

End time : 05-05 04:07pm

Pages sent : 016

Status : OK

Job number : 392 *** SEND SUCCESSFUL ***

OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL
MAY 05 2015
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g. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 2:00 PM ($20)

10. April 13, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. Altering the position of couch on left side and right of lobby at 11:20 AM ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 7:00 PM ($20)

11. April 12, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. No shirt or shoes while in common areas ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby ($20)

12. April 11, 2015
a. Altering the position of couch on left side and right of lobby ($20)

The citations highlighted in this violation total one-thousand eighty dollars ($600). For the convenience, cleanliness, and well-being of all owners and residents in the building, we hope these fines will result in the stoppage of this behavior.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks

Sincerely,

DON SIGNED

Kim Sperling
Cap City Property Manager
Office – 202-259-6177
kimsperling@capcitymgmt.com

5-1-15 Happy Sabbath!
Thomas J. Kokalis, Esq. (FAX 301-656-7834)

?Address?

cap city ?Address?

?Address? management ?Address?

OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

b. Unplugging two (2) separate machines in the laundry room at 10:00 PM ($20)
c. No shoes while in common areas ($20)
d. Flyer placed in common areas above mailboxes ($20)
e. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby at 11:30 AM ($20)
f. Altering the position of ~~couch~~ on left and right ~~side~~ side of lobby ~~at~~ 10:00 PM ($20)

MAY 05 2015

RECEIVED

8. April 20, 2015
a. Unplugging four (4) separate machines in the laundry room at 11:45 AM ($20)
b. Unplugging two (2) separate machines in the laundry room at 11:00 PM ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby ($20)

The citations highlighted in this violation total one-thousand eighty dollars **($660)**. For the convenience, cleanliness, and well-being of all owners and residents in the building, we hope these fines will result in the stoppage of this behavior.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

Sincerely,

NOT SIGNED

Kim Sperling
Cap City Property Manager
Office – 202-759-6777
kimgperling@capcitymgmt.com

5-1-15 / Happy Sabbath!

city property manager Kim Sperling / Thomas K. Kokolis, Esq (FAX 301-656-9834)

Greetings again in matchless Name of Yahshua Messiah – our LORD and Saviour Jesus the Christ!

All you knows, or should know, this Disabled Veteran who has served our country more than most, is represented by: Craig A. Butler, Esq, 1425 K St NW Ste 350 Washington, D.C. 20005.

You continue to harass me with bogus violations that are ill-grounded in fact or unwarranted by existing law for which Standards Committee retains sole jurisdiction pursuant to Board of Juror Conduct as adopted and incorporated herein by reference, copy annexed hereto. Your "letter" is post-marked "Apr 23 2015" with regular mail "00018595949" constituting mail fraud with your postmarked letter at same date with same letter mail dated "Monday, April 27, 2015." You have yet to respond & respond to my multiple Letter to you of 4-18-15 so that above-referenced "violations" now held void of legal force or effect. In one further answer door number 306 was removed for which two(2) papers are required for identification purposes as an ADA reasonable accommodation. You require of me dress code not required of all other similarly situated to set for me a different separate standard violative of D.C Human Rights Act of 1977. Animals and dogs continue to defecate and urinate on lobby couches requiring "altering position." You provide no storage facility within building or laundry room that remain under triple lock & further violate American with Disabilities Act of 1990 You continue to interfere with mailing erroneously placed in my door to suppress which you have yet to provide me and others with functional on-site building officer required by law. You have yet to send me recordable statement proverb required by my multiply times of you. You tried to inflate your stripe to present the factor as you would like them to be rather than as they actually are. You permit resident pepper on lobby with adverse comment. You continue to arrogate self-appointed unlicensed attorney under president Nathan T. Hargrove, Esq to violate "Order" Superior Court Civil Action #2015 CA 1587 Michael Sindram v. Gabriel Leibowitz III et al. cause me loss of enjoyment of the quiet enjoyment of my home. I await receipt of check and standards committee if there any by) Leary within five(5) days.

In God I do trust!

Michael Sindram

capcity management

Tuesday, April 28, 2015

OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

MAY 05 2015

RECEIVED

Michael Sindram
6645 Georgia Ave, Apt 306
Washington, DC 20012

Re: Violation of Condominium Rules and Regulations

Dear Michael Sindram:

As per section 8.b in the Jamison Condominium Rules and Regulations as highlighted in a notice mailed to the building on October 16, 2012, this letter serves as a notice of violation of the Jamison Rules & Regulations.

Rule 2.d. states: "There should be no obstructions placed or temporarily left in any of the common areas."

Rule 2.f. prevents this posting of unapproved decorations or advertising in common areas.

Rule 2.g. states: "No one shall interfere in any manner with the heating, cooling, hot water, lighting or similar apparatus in or about the building and common areas."

Rule 2.k. states: "All persons shall be properly attired when appearing in any of the common areas. Bare feet, bare chests, and bedroom attire are not acceptable."

Rule 3.f states: "...Nothing shall be thrown or emptied out of windows, doors, balcony or terrace of any Unit. Nothing shall be thrown or emptied down stairways or other common areas."

Evidence supporting these citations have been documented using pictures and/or video from the lobby's video camera. Further details with times and dates are listed below.

As per section 8.b of the Rules and Regulations, before a fine is imposed, you have the opportunity to respond by submitting a written denial or explanation of the alleged violation to the Managing Agent within five (5) days of receipt of this notice. After notice and opportunity to be heard, the

?Address?

capcity management

?Address? ?Address?

?Address?

Board reserves the right to levy a reasonable fine for violation in the amount of **twenty dollars ($20)** for each infraction to be added to your ledger and due in full 30 days from the date of this letter. This notice specifically targets the following items:

OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

MAY 05 2015

RECEIVED

1. April 27, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)

2. April 26, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. No shoes while in common areas ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby ($20)
d. Trash can stored in common area laundry ($20)
e. Plunger stored in common area laundry ($20)
f. 3 Linens (towels or sheets or curtains) stored in common area laundry ($20)

3. April 25, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. Unplugging a machine in laundry area ($20)
c. Trash can stored in common area laundry ($20)
d. Trash can lid stored in common area laundry ($20)
e. Plunger stored in common area laundry ($20)
f. No shoes in common area ($20)
g. 3 Linens (towels or sheets or curtains) stored in common area laundry ($20)
h. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby at 12:30 AM ($20)
i. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby at 11:00 AM ($20)
j. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby at 11:20 PM ($20)

4. April 24, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)

5. April 23, 2015
a. Two (2) papers taped to wall outside Unit 306 ($20)
b. Flyer placed above mailboxes in common area ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby ($20)

6. April 22, 2015
a. No shoes while in common area ($20)
b. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby at 6:30 AM ($20)
c. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby at 11:15 AM ($20)
d. Altering the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby at 8:00 PM ($20)

7. April 21, 2015
a. Unplugging three (3) separate machines in the laundry room at 6:00 AM ($20)

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CIVIL DIVISION

Michael Sindram
Plaintiff

vs.

Cohen P. Cosby III
Defendant

FILED
IN OPEN COURT
APR 03 2015
SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WASHINGTON, DC

Civil Action # 2015 CA 1537

ORDER

Upon consideration of the plaintiff's application for an Injunction, and the record herein, it is by the Court this 3rd day of April, 2015, hereby **ORDERED,** that;

1. The Motion for an Injunction be, and the same is hereby **GRANTED.**
2. The Defendant shall not knock on Plaintiff's door, nor approach the Plaintiff closer than 10 feet, nor address, speak to or contact the Plaintiff except by written letter delivered by U.S. mail.
3. The Defendant shall not cause other individuals to initiate contact with the Plaintiff.

FURTHER ORDERED, that this Order shall expire on the 3rd day of April, 2016, unless extended for a like period for good cause shown; and that the parties shall next appear in Court on the 8th day of May, 2015 for an Ex Parte Proof Hearing at 10:30am in Courtroom 200.

Judge Stuart Nash

Copy Hand-Delivered in Open Court to:

Michael Sindram, *Plaintiff*
6645 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW #306
WASHINGTON, DC 20012

Copy Mailed to:

Cohen P. Cosby III, *Defendant*
6645 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW #308
WASHINGTON, DC 20012

Copy Hand-Delivered in Open Court to:

Michael Sindram, *Plaintiff*
6645 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW #306
WASHINGTON, DC 20012

Copy Mailed to:

Cohen P. Cosby III, *Defendant*
6645 GEORGIA AVENUE, NW #308
WASHINGTON, DC 20012

Cap City Management
641 S Street NW
Washington DC 20001

CAP DISTRICT
MD 207
28 APR '15
PM 4 L

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
PITNEY BOWES
02 1P $ 000.48⁰
0001859594 APR 23 2015
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 20001

Michael Sindram
6645 Georgia Avenue NW
#306
Washington DC 20012

20012254181

Cap City Management
641 S Street NW
Washington DC 20001

UNITED STATES POSTAGE
PITNEY BOWES
02 1P $ 000.48⁰
0001859594 APR 23 2015
MAILED FROM ZIP CODE 20001

Michael Sindram
6645 Georgia Avenue NW
#306
Washington DC 20012

20012254181

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of Human Rights

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement ("Agreement") is entered into this 8th day of August 2008, ("Effective Date") between Michael Sindram ("Complainant") and Jaminson Condominium Association (Respondent).

WHEREAS, Michael Sindram has filed a charge of discrimination against Respondent in the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights ("DCOHR"), case number 08-321-H and HUD# 03-08-0477-8, asserting that he has been a victim of unlawful discrimination;

WHEREAS, Respondents answered the particulars of the Complaint denying that they engage in unlawful conduct; and

WHEREAS, Complainant and Respondents wish to avoid the expense and time of further litigation in this Action;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the under-takings, obligations, and commitments set forth below, Complainant and Respondent (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "Parties") hereby agree as follows in full and final settlement of the charge of discrimination and all related matters:

1. For consideration as enumerated below, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, Complainant does hereby and by these presents for himself and for any one claiming by, through or under his name, fully remise, release, acquit, satisfy and discharge Respondent's employer and their clients, respective past, present, and future employees, agents, servants, heirs, successors, assigns and/or personal or official

representatives of each and all of the above, of and from any and all, and all manner of, action and actions, causes and causes of actions, suits, debts, medical bills, contracts, controversies, agreements, promises, claims and demands whatsoever, in law or in equity, including but not limited to any cause of actions or claim of violation of state or federal constitutional rights, that Complainant , or heirs, successor or assign of Complainant shall or may have against Respondents, which arises out of the incident asserted in DCOHR Docket No. 08-321-H and HUD# 03-08-0477-8.

2. Respondent has entered into an Agreement with the Complainant to demonstrate good faith efforts to resolve this Complaint. Currently Complainant has a "Notice of Foreclosure Sale of condominium Unit for Assessments Due" in the amount of $3,409.00. The Respondent has agreed to forgive $709.00 of $3,409.00.00. Complainant will be responsible for the remaining $2,700.00 and any other fees accumulated after the Notice of Foreclosure Sale of Condominium Unit for Assessment Due that was issued on July 15, 2008. Respondent will notify the applicable parties that of the $3,409.00 owed, the amount of $2,700.00 is due and any other fees accumulated after July 15, 2008.

3. Respondent has agreed to establish within 6 months (on or before February 8, 2009) a functional building office for the Condominium Association's business monthly meeting.

4. This agreement constitutes closure of the complaint filed D. C. Office of Human Rights DCOHR Docket No. 08-321-H.

5. By executing this Agreement, neither party admits to any liability or wrongdoing.

6. The parties each represent that they have either consulted with an

attorney or have been given an opportunity to consult with an attorney before executing this Agreement. The parties each represent that they have carefully read this Agreement, that they have the capacity to understand this Agreement, and that they know and understand the terms of this Agreement. The parties further represent that they execute this Agreement knowingly and voluntarily, that no promise or agreement not expressed in this Agreement has been made, and this Agreement was freely negotiated and executed without fraud, duress or coercion and with full knowledge of effects and consequences.

7. This Agreement is a public document.

8. This Agreement shall be interpreted and enforced in accordance with the laws of the District of Columbia, without reference to its conflict of laws and provisions.

9. This Agreement shall become an Order of the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights upon execution by the Director of the Office of Human Rights.

10. In the event the Director, Office of Human Rights finds that any party to this Agreement is in violation of this Agreement, the Director may request that the Attorney General of the District of Columbia take enforcement action pursuant to D. C. Code § 1403.07 (2002), as amended.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the Parties hereto, intending to be legally bound thereby, have affixed their signatures to this Settlement Agreement.

In God we trust!
Mabel Sadler 8-8-08
Complainant Date

Respondent 8/8/08
Respondent Date

Gustavo Velasquez, Director
D. C. Office of Human Rights

Parable of Widow and [Unjust] Judge

Then Jesus *told his disciples a parable to teach them that they should always* pray *and never become discouraged. "In a certain town there was a* judge *who neither feared* God *nor respected man. And there was a widow in that same town who kept coming to him and pleading for her* rights, *saying, 'Help me against my opponent!' For a long time the* judge *refused to act, but at last he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear* God *or respect man, yet because of all the trouble this widow is giving me, I will see to it that she gets her* rights. *If I don't, she will keep on coming and finally wear me out!'"*

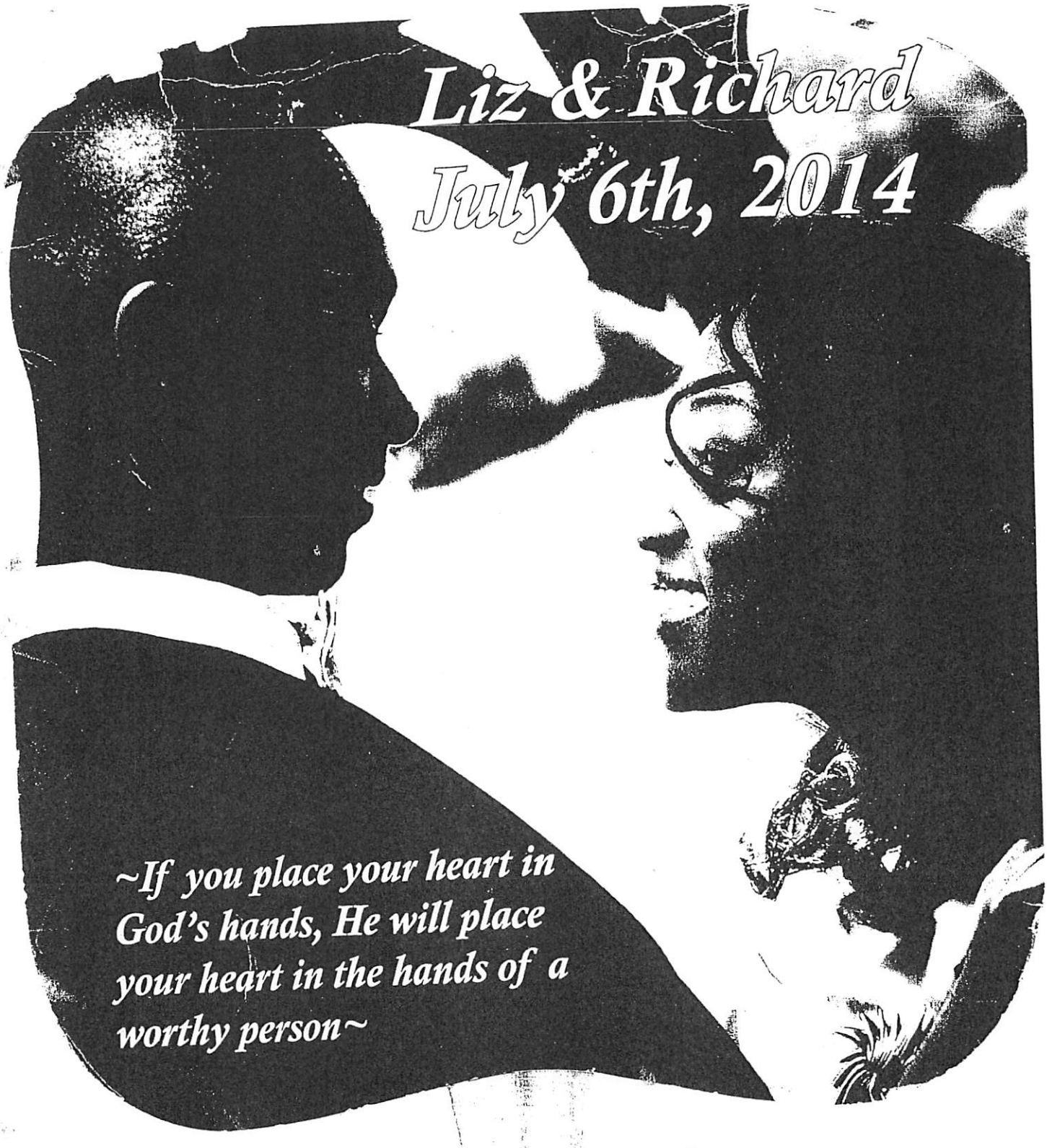
And the LORD *continued, "Listen to what that corrupt* judge *said. Now, will* God *not* judge *in favor of His Own people who cry to Him day and night for help? Will He be slow to help them? I tell you, He will* judge *in their favor and do it quickly. But will the* Son of Man *find* faith *on earth when He comes.*

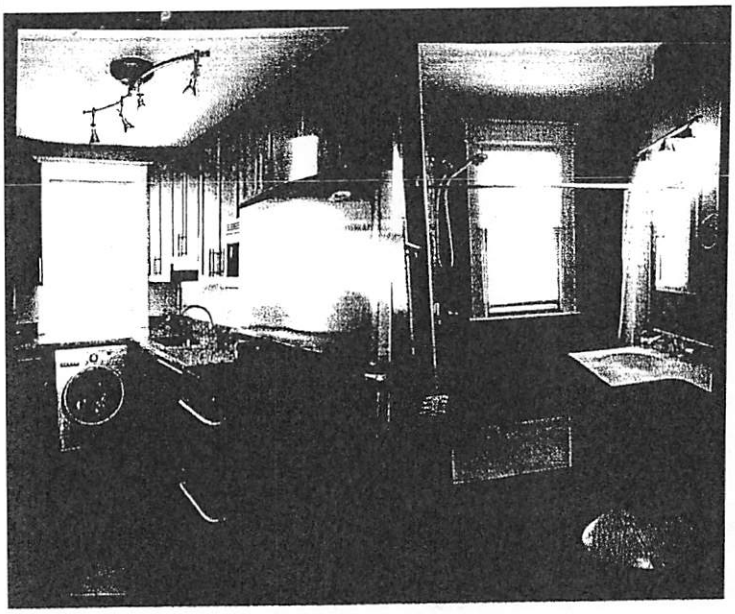
Luke 18:1-8 (TEV)

It Is The Veteran

It is the Veteran, not the preacher, Who has given us freedom of religion.
It is the Veteran, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press.
It is the Veteran, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech.
It is the Veteran, not the campus organizer, Who has given us freedom to assemble.
It is the Veteran, not the lawyer, Who has given us the right to a fair trial.
It is the Veteran, not the politician, Who has given us the right to vote.
It is the Veteran, Who salutes the Flag, Who serves under the Flag!

God Bless America & Our Troops.


Liz & Richard
July 6th, 2014
~If you place your heart in God's hands, He will place your heart in the hands of a worthy person~

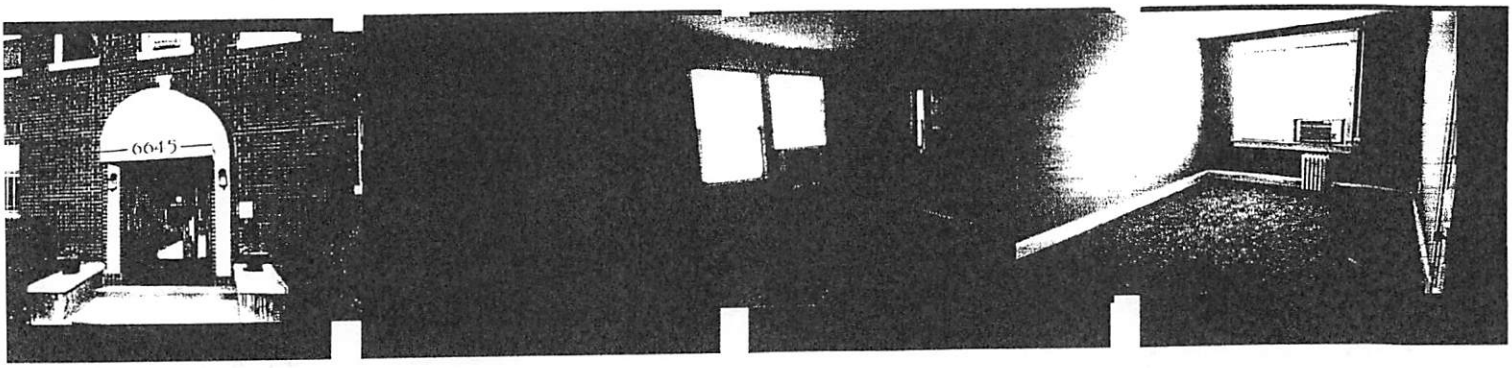


LISTED

6645 Georgia Avenue NW #203,
Washington DC 20012

Condo fee: $348/month

Attractive 1 Bed 1 bath apartment in great Brightwood location convenient to transportation, CVS, Safeway, Starbucks, Walmart.
INVESTORS WELCOME



Allen L. Pierce, Realtor®
(202) 600-5377
1918 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20009
apierce@kw.com

kw
KELLERWILLIAMS

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, May 3, 2-4 pm
call 202.600.5377 for entry to the building

kw | KELLERWILLIAMS
CAPITAL PROPERTIES

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Confirmation Report – Memory Send

Page : 001
Date & Time: 05-05-2015 04:13pm
Line 1 :
Line 2 :
E-mail :
Machine ID :

Job number	:	395
Date	:	05-05 04:05pm
To	:	☎913016567834
Number of pages	:	013
Start time	:	05-05 04:03pm
End time	:	05-05 04:13pm
Pages sent	:	013
Status	:	OK

Job number : 395 *** SEND SUCCESSFUL ***

RECEIVED
MAY 05 2015
OFFICE OF BAR COUNSEL

Kim Sperling
Cap City Property Management
Office – 202-759-6717
ksperling@capcitymgmt.com

Sincerely,

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks.

this behavior.
residents in the building, we hope these fines will result in the stoppage of
($660). For the convenience, cleanliness and well-being of all owners and
The citations highlighted in this violation total one thousand eight hundred dollars

c. Leaving the position of couch on left side and right side of lobby ($20)
b. Unplugging two (2) separate machines in the laundry room at 1:00 PM ($20)
a. Unplugging four (4) separate machines in the laundry room at 1:45 AM ($20)
8. April 20, 2015

f. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 10:00 PM ($20)
e. Altering the position of couch on left and right side of lobby at 11:30 AM ($20)
d. Plyer placed in common areas above mailboxes ($20)
c. No shoes while in common areas ($20)
b. Unplugging two (2) separate machines in the laundry room at 10:00 PM ($20)

Dear Mr. Joseph Trimboli,

I am writing to request additional financial support to the DC Mayor's Office on African Affairs. As an advocate and a member of the African community within the District (Ward 5), I understand the importance of investing in our African community.

As you may know, African immigrants are some of the hardest working people in the nation; data shows that African immigrants are one of the most educated communities in the United States. There has been a great interest in President Obama's administration in engaging the African's diaspora community in investment and development through the U.S. Department of State's Office of Global Partnerships. It is also important that we continue to engage our African community right here in our own District.

A great example of the benefits of investing in DC's African community is Henok Tesfaye, who emigrated from Ethiopia at 16 and went from valet person to a successful businessman. With the help of a loan, Tesfaye established a car dealership and now manages valet parking for several restaurants and clubs in the District, as well as a 1,000-car parking lot (source: http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/10/AR2006121000715.html). By increasing funds for the Office on African Affairs to build capacity (limited staff) and provide vital resources to OUR African community, WE empower our African youth and entrepreneurs, who then give back to OUR District.

The Office on African Affairs has done great work in the past, including its community grants and community engagement events (T.E.A.M. African Health Initiative, DC African Parade, Ebola Awareness, Immigration Affairs, and much more). Unfortunately, the Office on African Affairs has the lowest funding support compared to other immigrant offices within the District, which limits the services they can provide, and it is the only office that has to share space. Please consider providing the Office on African Affairs additional funding to engage and provide adequate technical assistance OUR African community, who then return the favor to the District.

Warm Regards,

Chibu E. Anyanwu

--

Chibu E. Anyanwu, MPH, CHES
Chibu.Anyanwu@gmail.com

CITIWIDE
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"Training Tomorrow's Workforce Today" TM

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April 27, 2015

The Chairperson - Anita Bonds
The Committee on Housing and Community Development
Council of the District of Columbia - Room 412 - Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairperson Anita Bonds:

Testimony On Behalf of The Office On African Affairs – Re: Increased Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

My name is Anthony Chuukwu. I am the Executive Director and founder of CitiWide™ Computer Center, (CitiWide™) on whose behalf I am testifying today regarding a request for increased Budget for the Office on African Affairs headed by Director Mamadou Samba. CitiWide™ supports the additional funding for Office on African Affairs, because of the need for African immigrants in Washington DC to have a place they can relate to, meet and seek help in times of need in our community.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Office of African Affairs and this Committee on Housing and Community Development, and in particular Chairperson Anita Bonds and her office for accepting my request to testify on behalf of African Community. At CitiWide™ we share in the belief that the city is a place that welcomes new residents with open arms, a city that provides resources and supports to the less needy, and a city that provides pathways for economic development and opportunities to all of its residents. I am here today to speak on behalf of the voiceless African residents who are in need of much needed services such as provided by CitiWide™ in: Education; Workforce Training; Employment; Housing; Health; Arts and Culture to mention but a few.

With limited resources at its disposition, Director Mamadou Samba; his staff and predecessors have done excellent job of managing these limited resources by providing our constituency much needed services by bringing unity amongst countries of African origin in the Metro Area; OAA is now a grant making body for community organizations serving the diverse needs of our population. Thanks to the Council.

For the past decade CitiWide™ has partnered with the District Government and the Office on African Affairs to deliver workforce development and support services to one of the largest communities in the Washington DC region – the African population. Who are this community? We are Nigerians, Ethiopians, Kenyans, Somalians, Cape Verdeans, Eritreans and Ghanaians to name a few. We represent over 10% of the city's populations, and have a combined medium household income of $8,000 above the national average. We are your friend, your neighbor and most importantly, we are tax payers. Despite our contribution to the city, many of African immigrants to the city are in need of essential services and support. Many are in need of workforce training; others require English as a Second Language instruction, while others are in need of decent affordable housing. In 2014, with the support of the Office on African Affairs and other funding streams, and other community-based organizations, we were able to provide services to over 400 African immigrants. But this is a far cry from the resources that is needed to address many of the challenges and concerns of the African community.

CitiWide™ as an organization, our leadership and staff are committed to delivering these services, and for this reason CitiWide™ strongly encourages the council to approve additional resources and funding to support the Office of African Affairs, so that it will be equipped with the resources to address the needs of this "silent" community.

At CitiWide™, we applaud the Mayor's new mantra of building pathways to the middle class, but hope that the council will allocate resources to include its African residents. A look at the resources allocated to other immigrant groups, reveal an unfortunate disparity of resources. For examples, the Office of Latino Affairs is staffed with 10 full time staff; while the Office of Asian Affairs is staffed with 6 employees, yet the Office of African Affairs is staffed with only TWO employees.

This startling disparity must be addressed to ensure that the African community is afforded the same opportunities and resources as other immigrant groups.

I would like to thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak at this committee today, and I am eagerly awaiting your questions.

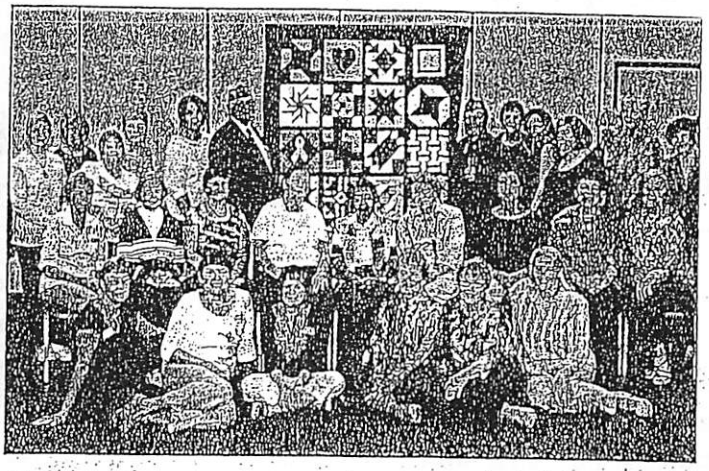
We encourage the Council and its committees to continue to support the services CitiWide™ provides to the community. CitiWide™ serves in Washington, D.C. as a feeder organization to Community College of the District of Columbia by training tomorrow's workforce today.

We are willing to provide answers to any questions you may have.

Yours truly,

Anthony Chuukwu
President and Executive Director

Annual VA Arts Competition...
DAV life member from Chapter 90, Ripley, Ohio, Gerald Holton wins 1st place in the ceramics category in the annual creative arts competition February 4th at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center. Mr. Holton's creation was a buffalo, wolf and grizzly bear featured as a totem pole. The piece took approximately one week to make, which included pouring the mold, chipping away the rough edges, the kiln process and finally painting the artwork. Half of the 1st place prize money goes to the winner and the other half goes to the VA Arts Program.



All Sewn Up...
Ladies of the Fords Colony Craft Club in Williamsburg, Va., donated their time and talent in preparing a beautiful patriotic quilt to be used in a fundraising activity for Patrick Henry Chapter 34. President Annie Sheppard presented the quilt to Commander Gary Farmer and Adjutant John Yakshe.

Share Your News! Send your DAV or Auxiliary news to feedback@dav.org. Please provide a JPEG image (minimum 300 dpi), a description of the photo and the names of those pictured. Submissions are subject to editing for clarity, style, accuracy, space and propriety.

Veterans Courts

(Continued from pg. 22)

country, but they all include a judge who is knowledgeable about the VA and well-versed in veterans' issues, benefits and treatment. In addition, representatives from VBA are often present in the courtrooms to provide medical records and other documentation to assist the judge in determining treatment options.

"In order to make a veterans court successful, partnerships are essential," said Augustine. "Many times, district attorneys and public defenders are involved, as well as the VA and volunteer mentors. Veterans courts illustrate that collaborative efforts help veterans get back on their feet."

The courts revolve around treatment versus incarceration, allowing veterans facing criminal charges to learn life skills and participate in mental health and drug and alcohol treatment. The treatments occur in a group setting with fellow veterans, encouraging them to find the same camaraderie in recovery as they did in the military. To qualify for this option, veterans must have been diagnosed with a mental health illness and have not been charged with violent or sex crimes.

"The veterans court system recognizes that the transition from service member to civilian can be very difficult," said Augustine. "Treatment for mental illness incurred in military service rehabilitates veterans. The programs have proven to be more cost-effective than incarceration and are successful in keeping veterans from becoming repeat offenders."

The nonprofit organization Justice for Vets has created a nationwide network of veterans courts that are transforming the way former service members are handled in the criminal justice system.

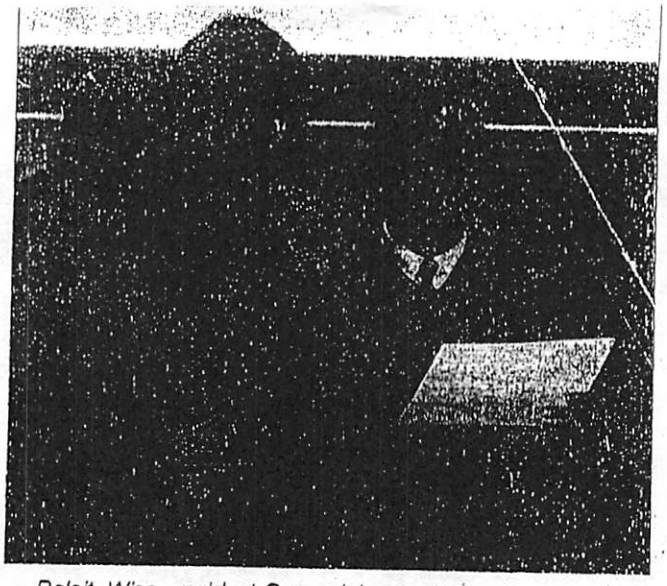
Learn More Online

To learn more about the veterans court system, visit their website at http://justiceforvets.org.

Veterans Courts

The VA and justice system team up to rehabilitate veterans across the nation.

By Charity A. Edgar



*Beloit, Wisc., resident Casey Johnson, 25, is given a certificate by Circuit Court Judge James P. Daley. Johnson is the first graduate of Rock County's Veterans Treatment Court, in Janesville, Wisc. (AP Photo/*Beloit Daily News, *Hilary Dickinson)*

Since the Revolutionary War, brave men and women have raised their right hands and taken an oath to protect and defend their country—often at great personal expense. DAV knows the cost of commitment to one's country and how veterans face great odds as they try to regain a sense of normalcy after injury.

In the past few years, the public has begun to recognize what the veterans' community has known for a while—that physical wounds are not the only injuries from service. Mental and emotional illnesses are invisible scars of battle that also inflict damage. Even with the recent focus on increased understanding of mental health issues, these illnesses are not always identified and diagnosed until much later on.

Veterans courts serve veterans facing judicial action due to substance abuse, mental illness or trauma. These specialized courts strive to keep veterans out of jail and connect them to the benefits and treatment they have earned, all while saving the American public tax dollars.

"DAV fights to help veterans with all illnesses and injuries—visible or not," said Washington Headquarters Executive Director Garry Augustine. "These specialized courts rehabilitate veterans and ensure they receive the services they have earned to help them on their road to recovery."

A study by the RAND Corp. estimates 25 percent to 30 percent of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have reported symptoms of a mental disorder or cognitive condition, but only half seek treatment. The study attributes the increasing numbers to multiple deployments and extended tours during the two conflicts.

The study recognized that post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and traumatic brain injury are some of the most common post-combat illnesses diagnosed in veterans. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration reports 1 in 6 Iraq and Afghanistan veterans suffer from substance abuse, which is often linked to combat-related mental illness.

A Government Accountability Office report concluded that due to stigma, lack of understanding of mental health care, logistical challenges and concerns about the VA, many veterans do not seek treatment for mental health. These are all issues the VA has recognized and works to address. Additionally, some may not realize they require health care. The same report indicated that from fiscal years 2006 through 2010, the number of veterans requiring mental health care increased steadily.

During that period Robert Russell, a judge in Buffalo, N.Y., noticed a steady rise in veterans appearing in his Drug Court and Mental Health Court.

Russell recognized that more could be done to connect veterans to the benefits and services they earned, so he joined forces with the local VA medical center to create a new court docket that would focus exclusively on veterans in the justice system.

In 2008, Russell founded the first veterans court. Now there are more than 100 courts serving veterans across the nation, and countless more are in the planning stages.

The veterans' court models vary throughout the

(Continued on pg. 31)

Budget Testimony before the
Committee that provides oversight for DC Office of Veterans Affairs
Chairwoman Anita Bonds

5/5/2015)

Honorable Chairwoman Bonds and respected Council members of the OVA Oversight Committee:

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you on behalf of veterans and their families in the District of Columbia. My name is Cecil Byrd. I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Concerned Veterans. As I usually state, I have been working in behalf of veterans and their families here in the District since coming to DC in 1978. Our organization has operated in the District since 1972. There are an estimated 32K veterans residing in the District of Columbia. If you add to this number spouses, siblings parents, children and grand children this number would easily approach one third of the District's citizens or 200,000. This may not even include all the active duty military, the Reservists and the Natl Guard personnel. This number definitely does not include veterans with bad paper or individuals who do not meet the definition of veteran but still spent time in the military as reservists. These men and women have served our country but continue to lack the support services necessary to ensure their successful re entry back into our communities. The plight of DC veterans is even more difficult because residents in the District of Columbia lack Congressional voting representation. I respectfully ask that my written testimony be accepted for the record.

Little has changed regarding funding of programs for DC veterans and their families since last year or probably since the office was re established by Mayor Williams and the strong advocacy and support of John Koskinen, his chief of staff during his administration. Again the budget averages out to less than ten dollars per veteran and their family per year. Ten dollars will barely help a veteran travel in DC on metro much less support readjustment and transition back into the community as successful self sufficient and contributing citizens?

What the DC Office of Veterans Affairs needs is a viable budget that would include funding a staff of at least four FTE slots, the fourth slot to focus on employment, outreach, case management and grants and development. The Office needs a realistic operating budget in order properly serve the most needy of our DC vets. The Office needs to develop and execute strategies: to house and employ the estimated 8 thousand veterans in the District who are un or under employed and homeless (or on the verge of homelessness) along with the much needed wrap around services for them and the nearly 1000 veterans who are on parole or probation with CSOSA. We estimate that of that 8,000 a significant number suffer from severe disabilities, mental health and health issues and substance abuse. The VASH and other housing voucher programs are helping but the consistent wrap around and support services and case management are lacking directly impacting program effectiveness. NACV has designed a program that provides the comprehensive readjustment, transition and re entry services our vets need through our Great Expectations program model. We would like to present that program to the Committee sometime in the near future.

The VA Medical Center's Comprehensive Resource and Referral Center on Franklin and Rhode Island has helped tremendously but is not able to meet the needs of vets in our city. In addition it should be noted that the majority of the District's veterans are over the age of 65, 75 and 85 with enormous supportive living, nursing and elderly care needs which are not available and not being met. I would like to make you aware of the OVA and NCVC furniture program for veterans who have received vouchers but need furniture. This program provides vets with hundreds of dollars worth of furniture at a delivery cost of over 100 dollars per vet. This money is not a budget item in the last four years budgets. The cost of that that program has come out of private individuals and some veterans donor groups. We have high hopes for the Veterans license tag program to raise program revenues. The VALOR economic and financial planning program which will provide both education and more effective economic stability for our veterans. To date we have delivered to over 500 veterans 400 plus are first time deliveries. The support from the local Teamsters here have provided almost a 1000 hours and thousands of miles of deliveries, the trucks and drivers to pick up and deliver

the furniture. During more than four years of operating the furniture program we have been accident, incident and injury free.

Until the District steps up to the plate and adequately funds veterans programs we urge the Council and the Mayor to take the steps necessary to allow vets and veteran program providers to help themselves by making sure that Veterans get a piece of Walter Reed BRAC that they can develop and by ensuring that veterans are able to obtain a portion of the development contracts involving WRAMC BRAC to include deconstruction, environmental clean up and remediation, construction, and programming as well as any and all contract and construction and services opportunities in the city.with DHCD, DGS, DOES, DPW, DHS, DCPS, etc. We call on the Council and the Mayor to work with the DC OVA and offer vetted veteran services organizations opportunities to train and employ veterans and secure contract work in the City using disabled, minority and DC residents for a significant portion of the work here. We urge the Council and the Mayor to push for a Veterans Court to assist those vets in need of treatment and interventions due to combat and service related issues judicial intervention and alternative sentencing and divergent opportunities first. We also ask that you take steps to ensure that any programs involving veterans include the participation of those veterans and veterans service organizations that have worked tirelessly in the trenches in behalf of veterans here in the District. Contract with those groups to provide quality services to veterans here in the city based upon our performance and ability to do the same job or better for a lower cost.

I would like to thank you and the committee for your past support of veterans in the District. However, I would like to ask each of you to publicly share with us the specific actions and accomplishments you have made in behalf of DC veterans. As I stated one year ago and a couple months ago, programs for veterans have historically generated revenues many times their costs in almost every area: VA Home Loan, SBA loans to veterans, GI Educational Benefits, to name a few. To this end I would like to suggest several areas that you can stand up and make a difference for DC veterans at a minimal

cost to the City. This statement, I am sad to say is not true for District programs for veterans because there haven't been any of note.

1. Enforce the requirement to hire DC residents to include veterans on all DC contracts period. If the excuse is that we are not qualified allow us to educate and train DC residents in Community Schools, trade, tech and vocational institutions in the City to include establish a comprehensive education and training center at the International Graduate University. With your support we could put literally thousands of unemployed and under employed DC residents (veterans) to work virtually immediately. We would like to meet with the Council and the Mayor's leadership and appropriate agencies to structure and implement this education, training and employment initiative. Since 1978 NACV efforts have been responsible for training and employing over 3500 veterans of the District of Columbia. We can duplicate this number on an annual basis with your support while including non veterans and youth alike and other high risk and high need populations (TANF, ex offenders, disabled, dual diagnosed and severely disabled)

2. Let me suggest a simple effort. Allow the DC Office of Veterans Affairs to lead efforts to set up with DC Courts a Veterans Court that will deal with the over 800 veterans on parole and probation and 135 average number of veterans in DC Jail. The program would include alternative sentencing to include referral to residential treatment facilities through the VA and other providers as well as comprehensive readjustment, transition and re entry programs beginning in the Jail and continuing after release. Again, the International Graduate University is a five minute walk from the DC Jail and have more than enough space to operate the NACVs Great Expectations Re entry Program. Naturally such an effort would include close collaboration with the VA, DMH, DOH, DOES, DDS, Vocational Rehab, Pre Trial, DHCD, DHS, and other appropriate agencies and offices especially CSOSA, APRA, DC higher ed and post secondary educational and training institutions.

3. Ensure that the District takes steps immediately to allow the DC Veteran Community to establish a comprehensive readjustment, transition and re entry program using the NACV Great Expectations Model on part of Walter Reed Army Medical Center Base Realignment and Closure program and in some of the local Colleges and Universities (UDC). The program would serve between 2500 and 5000 veterans and dependents annually as they leave the military and successfully enter civilian life as contributing, responsible productive citizens and focus on helping wounded warriors and veterans suffering from PTSD and other mental health issues. Included in that initiative would be to allow the veteran community through the DC Office of Veterans Affairs to develop a comprehensive contracts, sub contract, and labor initiative which would ensure and guarantee that the deconstruction work, the environmental clean- up, the demolition, the facilities and grounds work, maintenance and a significant

percentage of the construction be operated using veterans and DC residents. Over the past 30 years NACV has worked with Community Services Administration, Department of Labor, Environmental Protection Agency, SBA, HUD, HHS and Dept of Energy in training, employing and executing contracts in construction, recycling, environmental cleanup, energy conservation, green engineering and entrepreneurism for minority veterans. Environmental efforts have included asbestos and lead abatement, underground storage tank removal, hazardous material handling, air, soil and water remediation, solar energy installation, weatherization, housing rehab, and many more 21st century job initiatives.

4. Allow the DC Office of Veterans Affairs to design for Council support and approval a DC Department of Veterans Affairs that will be self sustaining and cost the City nothing but would offer a comprehensive program that will work cooperatively and collaboratively with all DC agencies as well as the private and corporate sectors and faith and community based community to ensure that veterans and their families are never forgotten. The Department will ensure education and training, employment, economic stability, housing, mental health and health, sobriety, life skills, entrepreneur and micro enterprise, small business incubator, veterans credit union, job bank, labor pool, bonding, insurance and financing for businesses, an employee assistance program, case management, housing, and the comprehensive re entry program that would facilitate long term follow up using the TOUCH program.

5. A collaborative effort with the DHCD to allow the DC Office of VA or certified entity to acquire distressed or foreclosure/abandoned properties in the District and a short term loan program which would allow us to train and employ veterans in the construction and rehab trades, renovate houses provide jobs for veterans and allow them to rent of purchase houses or make them available to other DC residents as affordable housing or transitional housing. For years now NACV has acquired property below market, renovated below market and rented or sold below market. Groups like ARCH have a history for similar programs but we would like the program to target veterans, ex offenders and the most needy of our citizens, ie homeless, unemployed, disabled, elderly, and mentally ill.

6. NACV would like the opportunity to make a formal presentation (along with the DC OVA) to the Committee outlining exactly how these initiatives could be implemented quickly and at little or no costs to the City using models such as the one by Goldman Sachs Urban Investment Group and something similar to Social Impact Bonds to fund projects that are humanitarian in nature executed by non profit 501 c's, and that are innovative and proactive and preventative in nature and demonstrate clear measurable results and have a self sufficiency and long term revenue generating component.

7. I would also like to propose a mechanism for providing quality services to veterans and their families in the District using existing revenues at a lower cost through the NACV Great Expectations case management TOUCH program.

8. A request that the Mayor and the Council support a strategy for revitalizing the Old Soldier's and Airmen's Home while providing the District with a phenomenal resource and saving the public millions of dollars annually and providing veterans hundreds of additional housing SROs for aging veterans. The number of veterans housed there now is around 500. At one time it used to serve close to 2000 veterans. What a shameful waste of such a beautiful site. Another example of how poor a steward the DOD is. (As an aside, I would also like to go on record to request that the Congress never again allow one of its members, ie Santorum, to introduce and pass legislation parceling off any of the Old Soldiers and Airmen Home property. We can maintain and renovate and operate the home without an annual loss in the millions.)

   I would like to again urge the committee to support our efforts to help set up a comprehensive training, employment/placement and counseling and readjustment program for DC veterans within the University of the District of Columbia. The University is ideally suited to implement the comprehensive education, training and employment program at both campuses as well as the satellite locations around the city. Such an effort along with Walter Reed BRAC initiative has the ability to serve thousands of veterans and their families each year almost within the first year.

Finally, I would publicly commend Council member McDuffie for verbalizing what we all know and that is that the budget for veterans programs through the DC Office of Veterans Affairs is sorely inadequate. We realize the city is experiencing economic constraints as are all cities and states around the country but that is no excuse to submit a budget of less than 400,000 to serve over 32,000 veterans per year. Give us a small percentage of the general budget based on the pro rata number of vets and dependents in the city and we will provide the services needed to meet the needs of DC vets and their families with what we have. Thank you for promising to support DC veterans. We expect you to fulfill that commitment and we will support you in your endeavors. What many do not realize is that veterans include every single group under your purview: all ethnicities, immigrant and disaspora populations, youth, elderly, females, homeless, unemployed, GLBT, ex offenders, substance abusers, disabled, and elderly and represent close to a third of the city. Veterans contribute many times the amounts invested in their readjustment and re entry. Veterans in this city probably generate a significant tax base to the city despite the disproportionate number of vets in serious need.

I will be happy to respond to any questions or comments formally or informally.

Thank you for your attention.

Cecil Byrd
Executive Director
National Association of Concerned Veterans
www.nacv1.org
nacv09@yahoo.com
202 680-3142
Affordable Housing for vets

Furniture Program for vets

Employment program for vets especially the least skilled

Additional FTE

WRAMC BRAC initiative

Old Soldiers and Airmen Home

Veterans Court

Social Impact Bond program

Budget Testimony before the
Committee that provides oversight for DC Office of Veterans Affairs
Chairwoman Anita Bonds

5/5/2015)

Honorable Chairwoman Bonds and respected Council members of the OVA Oversight Committee:

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify before you on behalf of veterans and their families in the District of Columbia. My name is Cecil Byrd. I am the Executive Director of the National Association of Concerned Veterans. As I usually state, I have been working in behalf of veterans and their families here in the District since coming to DC in 1978. Our organization has operated in the District since 1972. There are an estimated 32K veterans residing in the District of Columbia. If you add to this number spouses, siblings parents, children and grand children this number would easily approach one third of the District's citizens or 200,000. This may not even include all the active duty military, the Reservists and the Natl Guard personnel. This number definitely does not include veterans with bad paper or individuals who do not meet the definition of veteran but still spent time in the military as reservists. These men and women have served our country but continue to lack the support services necessary to ensure their successful re entry back into our communities. The plight of DC veterans is even more difficult because residents in the District of Columbia lack Congressional voting representation. I respectfully ask that my written testimony be accepted for the record.

Little has changed regarding funding of programs for DC veterans and their families since last year or probably since the office was re established by Mayor Williams and the strong advocacy and support of John Koskinen, his chief of staff during his administration. Again the budget averages out to less than ten dollars per veteran and their family per year. Ten dollars will barely help a veteran travel in DC on metro much less support readjustment and transition back into the community as successful self sufficient and contributing citizens?

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Chairwoman Mendelson

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Until the District steps up to the plate and adequately funds veterans programs we urge the Council and the Mayor to take the steps necessary to allow vets and veteran program providers to help themselves by making sure that Veterans get a piece of Walter Reed BRAC that they can develop and by ensuring that veterans are able to obtain a portion of the development contracts involving WRAMC BRAC to include deconstruction, environmental clean up and remediation, construction, and programming as well as any and all contract and construction and services opportunities in the city.with DHCD, DGS, DOES, DPW, DHS, DCPS, etc. We call on the Council and the Mayor to work with the DC OVA and offer vetted veteran services organizations opportunities to train and employ veterans and secure contract work in the City using disabled, minority and DC residents for a significant portion of the work here. We urge the Council and the Mayor to push for a Veterans Court to assist those vets in need of treatment and interventions due to combat and service related issues judicial intervention and alternative sentencing and divergent opportunities first. We also ask that you take steps to ensure that any programs involving veterans include the participation of those veterans and veterans service organizations that have worked tirelessly in the trenches in behalf of veterans here in the District. Contract with those groups to provide quality services to veterans here in the city based upon our performance and ability to do the same job or better for a lower cost.

I would like to thank you and the committee for your past support of veterans in the District. However, I would like to ask each of you to publicly share with us the specific actions and accomplishments you have made in behalf of DC veterans. As I stated one year ago and a couple months ago, programs for veterans have historically generated revenues many times their costs in almost every area: VA Home Loan, SBA loans to veterans, GI Educational Benefits, to name a few. To this end I would like to suggest several areas that you can stand up and make a difference for DC veterans at a minimal

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cost to the City. This statement, I am sad to say is not true for District programs for veterans because there haven't been any of note.

1. Enforce the requirement to hire DC residents to include veterans on all DC contracts period. If the excuse is that we are not qualified allow us to educate and train DC residents in Community Schools, trade, tech and vocational institutions in the City to include establish a comprehensive education and training center at the International Graduate University. With your support we could put literally thousands of unemployed and under employed DC residents (veterans) to work virtually immediately. We would like to meet with the Council and the Mayor's leadership and appropriate agencies to structure and implement this education, training and employment initiative. Since 1978 NACV efforts have been responsible for training and employing over 3500 veterans of the District of Columbia. We can duplicate this number on an annual basis with your support while including non veterans and youth alike and other high risk and high need populations (TANF, ex offenders, disabled, dual diagnosed and severely disabled)

2. Let me suggest a simple effort. Allow the DC Office of Veterans Affairs to lead efforts to set up with DC Courts a Veterans Court that will deal with the over 800 veterans on parole and probation and 135 average number of veterans in DC Jail. The program would include alternative sentencing to include referral to residential treatment facilities through the VA and other providers as well as comprehensive readjustment, transition and re entry programs beginning in the Jail and continuing after release. Again, the International Graduate University is a five minute walk from the DC Jail and have more than enough space to operate the NACVs Great Expectations Re entry Program. Naturally such an effort would include close collaboration with the VA, DMH, DOH, DOES, DDS, Vocational Rehab, Pre Trial, DHCD, DHS, and other appropriate agencies and offices especially CSOSA, APRA, DC higher ed and post secondary educational and training institutions.

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8. A request that the Mayor and the Council support a strategy for revitalizing the Old Soldier's and Airmen's Home while providing the District with a phenomenal resource and saving the public millions of dollars annually and providing veterans hundreds of additional housing SROs for aging veterans. The number of veterans housed there now is around 500. At one time it used to serve close to 2000 veterans. What a shameful waste of such a beautiful site. Another example of how poor a steward the DOD is. (As an aside, I would also like to go on record to request that the Congress never again allow one of its members, ie Santorum, to introduce and pass legislation parceling off any of the Old Soldiers and Airmen Home property. We can maintain and renovate and operate the home without an annual loss in the millions.)

   I would like to again urge the committee to support our efforts to help set up a comprehensive training, employment/placement and counseling and readjustment program for DC veterans within the University of the District of Columbia. The University is ideally suited to implement the comprehensive education, training and employment program at both campuses as well as the satellite locations around the city. Such an effort along with Walter Reed BRAC initiative has the ability to serve thousands of veterans and their families each year almost within the first year.

Finally, I would publicly commend Council member McDuffie for verbalizing what we all know and that is that the budget for veterans programs through the DC Office of Veterans Affairs is sorely inadequate. We realize the city is experiencing economic constraints as are all cities and states around the country but that is no excuse to submit a budget of less than 400,000 to serve over 32,000 veterans per year. Give us a small percentage of the general budget based on the pro rata number of vets and dependents in the city and we will provide the services needed to meet the needs of DC vets and their families with what we have. Thank you for promising to support DC veterans. We expect you to fulfill that commitment and we will support you in your endeavors. What many do not realize is that veterans include every single group under your purview: all ethnicities, immigrant and disaspora populations, youth, elderly, females, homeless, unemployed, GLBT, ex offenders, substance abusers, disabled, and elderly and represent close to a third of the city. Veterans contribute many times the amounts invested in their readjustment and re entry. Veterans in this city probably generate a significant tax base to the city despite the disproportionate number of vets in serious need.

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I will be happy to respond to any questions or comments formally or informally.

Thank you for your attention.

Cecil Byrd
Executive Director
National Association of Concerned Veterans
www.nacv1.org
nacv09@yahoo.com
202 680-3142
Affordable Housing for vets

Furniture Program for vets

Employment program for vets especially the least skilled

Additional FTE

WRAMC BRAC initiative

Old Soldiers and Airmen Home

Veterans Court

Social Impact Bond program

Statement by

Joe Wynn, Legislative Liaison
National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS)

Presented to the

Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing & Community Development
Chairwoman, Anita Bonds

Budget & Oversight Hearings
FY2016
Office of Veterans Affairs

Wednesday, May 6, 2015
Room 500 – 10 am
Council Chamber of the District of Columbia

INTRO:

Good Morning, Chairman Bonds, other distinguished members of this Committee, and fellow veterans.

My name is Joe Wynn, a US Air Force veteran who served with the 66th Strategic Missile Squadron during the Vietnam Era. I'm a longtime resident of Ward 1 in the District of Columbia. I serve as the Legislative Liaison for the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS) and its Director for the National Capital Area. As Senior Advisor to the Director of Government Relations for the Vietnam Veterans of America, I advise him on matters pertaining to veteran's employment and entrepreneurship. In addition, I'm President/CEO of the Veterans Enterprise Training & Services Group headquartered in downtown D.C. I was formerly appointed to serve on the Advisory Committee for Minority Veterans; the Veterans Disability Benefits Commission; the NAACP Veterans Affairs Task Force; and the Veterans Advisory Board for the District of Columbia.

I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you today to voice my concerns regarding the continuing operations of the D.C. Office of Veterans Affairs (DC OVA) with regard to the proposed budget for FY2016.

The DC OVA is still underfunded and understaffed. With funding for only a Director and 3 or 4 FTEs over the past 2 years, there has been little or no improvement in the delivery of services to veterans of the District of Columbia. Under the proposed budget for FY2016, there will be little chance for change.

But today, I'm concerned about the fact that the DC OVA is still without a permanent Director after 4 months into Mayor Bowser's Administration. And due to recent and sudden personnel changes, the DC OVA is also without an experienced Executive Assistant. With only 2 non-veterans and a temporary Administrative Clerk staffing the office, it appears as if this Administration has chosen to dismantle the Office rather than strengthen this vital resource for veterans.

I would really like to know what the Mayor's plan is for addressing the needs of the more than 32 thousand citizens of the District of Columbia who are veterans; and when you include their spouses and children, members of the Guard and Reserves, the total veterans community includes thousands more. I'd also like to know what this Committee, and other members of the DC City Council, are prepared to do to secure adequate funding and sufficient staff for the DC OVA.

Some of the major issues confronting veterans today include: (1) Healthcare (mental, physical, severe disabilities, sexual trauma, long-term); (2) Homelessness, Housing, Single parents with children; (3) Employment, Training, Vocational Rehabilitation; (4) Entrepreneurship, Small Business Development; (5) Formerly incarcerated, Veterans Court, Discharge Upgrades; (6) Services for women veterans and veterans senior in age; and (7) Assistance with filing claims and appeals for veterans benefits.

As a longtime resident of Ward 1 and Commander/CEO of veterans organizations in the District of Columbia, I offer what I believe is needed to get this office back on track, to better assist those veterans, their survivors and dependents who live, work, or transition through this City, and to elevate this Office to be equivalent or better than any of the State Departments of Veterans Affairs.

First, the DC Office of Veterans Affairs should develop a structured program of service delivery to veterans, their dependents, and survivors to accomplish the duties of the Office as detailed in the ACT (14-124) that established the Office to include:

1. Assisting veterans, their dependents and survivors to receive all benefits to which they are entitled from the District and Federal Governments;

2. Researching the demographics of veterans, their needs and priorities and storing them in a relational database with other documents that is maintained and updated regularly;

3. Partnering with Federal and State agencies, Veteran Service Organizations, Community Based Organizations, Corporations, and businesses to maximize its limited budget to design and implement programs and services to better meet the needs of veterans and their families;

4. Assisting unemployed and under-employed veterans in finding suitable employment with a living wage and promoting the development of employer sponsored paid registered apprenticeships; and

5. Serving as Chief Advocate in educating the public, federal, state and local agencies about the rights and needs of DC veterans.

Second, in keeping par with other State Departments of Veterans Affairs, the DC Office should develop a policy and capability of providing complete claims service for DC veterans requesting representation; and including:

1. A person on staff who is accredited by the US Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure proper handling of claims;

2. Overseeing the implementation of the DC License Plate Program for Veterans and call for an amendment to the Act which would allow all citizens of DC to purchase license plates labeled 'In Support of Veterans' and have the proceeds of such purchases added to the Veterans Fund that will be administered by the DC Veterans Office; and

3. Inquiring as to the reasons why DC does not have a State Veterans Home for senior veterans, and re-evaluate its relationship with the Armed Forces Retirement Commission's DC Based Soldiers and Airman's Home;

Finally, the DC OVA should initiate, review, and support legislation beneficial to veterans of the District of Columbia and to always represent the Mayor and this City on behalf of its veterans, with integrity, honor, and truthfulness.

I call upon the Mayor and this Committee and other DC Council members to:

1. Appoint permanent Director to the Office sooner rather than later, using a transparent process, and such Director should be an honorably discharged veteran of the District of Columbia with strong leadership and management skills and experience in providing services to veterans;

2. Allocate a budget to the Office that is sufficient to hire and train capable, qualified and accredited staff to develop and implement the services, programs, and actions for DC Veterans as referenced herein; and

3. Utilize the Mayor's Veteran's Advisory Board; that is comprised of a diverse group of experienced veterans from each Ward of the City.

Thank you, Chairman Bond, for your time and attention to these matters. This concludes my statement and I urge you, the Mayor, and this Administration, to Leave No Veteran Behind.

Joe Wynn,
Nabvets Legislative Liaison
(202) 822-0011

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Mayor's Office of Community Affairs on behalf of Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
Director Charon Hines

Before the

Committee on *Housing and Community Development*

Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015
Room *500*
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Good morning Chairwoman Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. My name is Charon Hines and I am honored to be testifying before you today as the Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs on behalf of the Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs (MOVA or the Office). Joining me today are Mr. Delano Hunter, Special Assistant and Ms. Brenda Hall, Veterans Benefits Specialist. The new Director will join the Bowser Administration very soon and I look forward to scheduling a follow up meeting with you. Mayor Bowser has proclaimed May as "DC Military Appreciation Month" and she calls upon all the residents of this great city to join her in honoring these men and women for their dedication and commitment to our city and nation. As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council on her Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class", each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents that described how they would allocate an imaginary $100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

★ ★ ★

During the coming fiscal year MOVA will strive to enhance our ability to serve our DC veterans by:

1) Revamping outreach efforts to increase participation in MOVA and partner sponsored events and initiatives to better connect our veterans with services
2) Reestablishing the Furniture Donation Program
3) Continue the development of a *New Claims Division* by partnering with local veteran service organizations to provide in-office assistance
4) Expanding outreach to homeless, at-risk, and transitioning veterans and their families
5) Increasing the profile and name recognition of MOVA through the use of social-media and by better branding and marketing our efforts

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

1. Furniture Program

- In March, MOVA staff completed an assessment of the facilities and inventory at the Oak Hill warehouse. As much as 75% of the items were deemed unfit for distribution. MOVA is partnering with the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services and the Office of Contracting and Procurement to discard unusable items, organize the facility to receive donations, and coordinate a furniture delivery process. We also intend to work with the Department of General Services for rodent abatement assistance and will create quality assurance measures to govern future donation inquiries.

2. Efforts to End Chronic Homelessness

- Mayor Bowser is committed to ending homelessness in the District of Columbia by 2025 and ending veterans' homelessness in 2015. We are supporting that commitment by connecting homeless veterans with housing coordinators at the Department of Human Services, DC Housing Authority, and the VA Community Resource and Referral Center. Additionally, we partner with transitional housing providers such as Access Housing Inc.

3. Partnership with the DC Department Behavioral Health

- When veterans have anything other than an "honorable discharge", they will not qualify for treatment at the VA Medical Center. MOVA will then refer them to the Department of Behavioral Health. Also, personnel from the Rehabilitative Services Administration hold office hours every Thursday to

provide employment placement, coaching, and training to veterans with physical and mental disabilities.

4. **Initial Contacts Database Linkage with other Agencies**

   - MOVA has joined other agencies within the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs in completing SalesForce training, which will provide one centralized constituent contact management system.

5. **Sharing of Information with other Federal and Local Entities**

   - MOVA partners with the VA for benefits entitlement coordination. We also serve as the "certifying agency" for military service for the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Child Support Services Division, and DCHR by providing the necessary documentation to support their functions.

6. **Outreach to Veterans with a "Less than Honorable Discharge"**

   - MOVA assist our veterans in the completion and submission of appeals to upgrade their military discharge status. Twice per month, we have volunteers assist in the review process.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairwoman Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

★ ★ ★

Budget Hearing - Mayor's Office On African Affairs

Good Morning Council Member Anita Bonds.

My name is Ify Anne Nwabukwu and I am the Executive Director of the African Women's Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA), located in Ward 5 at 1818 New York Ave, NE Washington, DC 2002

Our organization has been working with African immigrants who are: uninsured, underinsured and under privileged for the past 11 years.

As you know, the Washington Metropolitan Area has the second largest number of foreign-born population from Africa and Washington DC, has approximately 16,000 – 18,000 African immigrants who live in the District; representing 15.1% of the total foreign-born population. African immigrants mostly live in Ward 4, Ward 2, Ward 1, Ward 6, Ward 8, Ward 7 & Ward 5 respectively. Top countries of origin are: Ethiopia 17%, Nigeria 12%, Ghana 10%, Egypt 4%, Cameroon 9%, Liberia 4%, Somalia 3%, Guinea 3%, Sudan 2% and Eritrea 2%. **26.2% of these African Immigrants lack health insurance coverage.** Now, this is where our organization AWCAA comes in – we bridge the gap.

Despite the rich health care system and availability of breast cancer screening programs targeting low income, uninsured

and underinsured populations in the District, African immigrant women, remain chronically underserved. Through grants like the one we received from the Mayor's Office on African Affairs in FY 2014 & FY 2015, we were able to outreach to 800 women and referred 40 African Immigrant women for breast cancer screening in 2014 and hope to double that number in 2015. We were able to navigate these women through the continuum of care from outreach to survivorship.

Now, just imagine how much more we can achieve given more funding? For this reason, I advocate that more funding be allocated to the Mayor's Office on African Affairs.

Debbie, a thirty year old young African breast cancer survivor, tells our story: A story of struggle and survivorship!

How many more Debbie's are out there?

In conclusion, I would have Debbie briefly tell her story.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify this morning.

Submitted by:

Ify Anne Nwabukwu
Executive Director
African Women's Cancer Awareness Association
May 6, 2015

BUDGET HEARING – Mayor's Office On African Affairs

Good Morning Council Member Anita Bonds

My name is Debbie Osarere Idiagbonya. A 30 year old Nigerian immigrant who lives in Ward 4 : 823 Longfellow Street, NW, Washington, DC 20011

I am a stage 4 Metastatic Breast Cancer fighter and survivor

Dr. Babafemi Adenuga, the President for Community and Family Medicine at Howard University Hospital, introduced me to this wonderful organization called the African Women's Cancer Awareness Association. He told me he knew the perfect organization to work with me through my breast cancer journey.

Thus in March 2013, I was introduced to Ms. Ify Nwabukwu and her organization - AWCAA. At the time, I had no health insurance and was also having accommodation problems – didn't know how to get health insurance to cover my cancer treatment.

Dr. Adenuga is my Primary Care Physician and also serves on the Board of Directors as the Vice Chair for the African Women's Cancer Awareness Association.

The organization with the help of a trained Patient Navigator, has helped me with:

- Registering and working with me to obtain a DC Alliance Health Insurance for my cancer treatment.
- Partial and sometimes full payment of my monthly rent
- Help provide transportation for my Doctors visits; hospital trips for chemo; lab work; radiation treatment and medication pick ups at the pharmacy.
- Assist and provide me with groceries and ethnic food
- Make home visits occasionally
- **Imagine what this organization will do with more funding???**
- **I am here to ask for more funding for the Mayor's Office on African Affairs.**
- With increase in funding, they can better support our community based organizations who help African immigrants that live in the District and people like me battling this deadly disease – Breast Cancer.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak before you.

Debbie Osarere Idiagbonya
May 6th, 2015

CITIWIDE
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pre-vocational center
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Web Site: http://www.myCitiWide™.com~**Tel: 202-667-3719~Fax: 202-526-1690 ~Email:** info@myCitiWide™.com

April 27, 2015

The Chairperson - Anita Bonds
The Committee on Housing and Community Development
Council of the District of Columbia - Room 412 - Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Chairperson Anita Bonds:

Testimony On Behalf of The Office On African Affairs – Re: Increased Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

My name is Anthony Chuukwu. I am the Executive Director and founder of CitiWide™ Computer Center, (CitiWide™) on whose behalf I am testifying today regarding a request for increased Budget for the Office on African Affairs headed by Director Mamadou Samba. CitiWide™ supports the additional funding for Office on African Affairs, because of the need for African immigrants in Washington DC to have a place they can relate to, meet and seek help in times of need in our community.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Office of African Affairs and this Committee on Housing and Community Development, and in particular Chairperson Anita Bonds and her office for accepting my request to testify on behalf of African Community. At CitiWide™ we share in the belief that the city is a place that welcomes new residents with open arms, a city that provides resources and supports to the less needy, and a city that provides pathways for economic development and opportunities to all of its residents. I am here today to speak on behalf of the voiceless African residents who are in need of much needed services such as provided by CitiWide™ in: Education; Workforce Training; Employment; Housing; Health; Arts and Culture to mention but a few.

With limited resources at its disposition, Director Mamadou Samba; his staff and predecessors have done excellent job of managing these limited resources by providing our constituency much needed services by bringing unity amongst countries of African origin in the Metro Area; OAA is now a grant making body for community organizations serving the diverse needs of our population. Thanks to the Council.

For the past decade CitiWide™ has partnered with the District Government and the Office on African Affairs to deliver workforce development and support services to one of the largest communities in the Washington DC region - the African population. Who are this community? We are Nigerians, Ethiopians, Kenyans, Somalians, Cape Verdeans, Eritreans and Ghanaians to name a few. We represent over 10% of the city's populations, and have a combined medium household income of $8,000 above the national average. We are your friend, your neighbor and most importantly, we are tax payers. Despite our contribution to the city, many of African immigrants to the city are in need of essential services and support. Many are in need of workforce training; others require English as a Second Language instruction, while others are in need of decent affordable housing. In 2014, with the support of the Office on African Affairs and other funding streams, and other community-based organizations, we were able to provide services to over 400 African immigrants. But this is a far cry from the resources that is needed to address many of the challenges and concerns of the African community.

CitiWide™ as an organization, our leadership and staff are committed to delivering these services, and for this reason CitiWide™ strongly encourages the council to approve additional resources and funding to support the Office of African Affairs, so that it will be equipped with the resources to address the needs of this "silent" community.

At CitiWide™, we applaud the Mayor's new mantra of building pathways to the middle class, but hope that the council will allocate resources to include its African residents. A look at the resources allocated to other immigrant groups, reveal an unfortunate disparity of resources. For examples, the Office of Latino Affairs is staffed with 10 full time staff; while the Office of Asian Affairs is staffed with 6 employees, yet the Office of African Affairs is staffed with only TWO employees.

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This startling disparity must be addressed to ensure that the African community is afforded the same opportunities and resources as other immigrant groups.

I would like to thank you for affording me the opportunity to speak at this committee today, and I am eagerly awaiting your questions.

We encourage the Council and its committees to continue to support the services CitiWide™ provides to the community. CitiWide™ serves in Washington, D.C. as a feeder organization to Community College of the District of Columbia by training tomorrow's workforce today.

We are willing to provide answers to any questions you may have.

Yours truly,

Anthony Chuukwu
President and Executive Director

THE PERSON CENTER

Mayor's office on African Affairs Budget Hearing

Testimony of Executive Director Amelia Missieledies, LICSW

May 6, 2015

The executive Director of The Person Center testifies on the need of African Immigrant Survivors of Domestic violence and war trauma

Mayor's office on African Affairs Budget Hearing
TESTIMONY OF Amelia Missieledies, LICSW

Executive Director, The Person Center Inc.
TPC is a member of the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

My name is Amelia Missieledies, MSW, LICSW, the executive director of The Person Center Inc. An organization serving African Immigrant survivors of Domestic Violence and War Trauma in Washington, DC.

The Person Centers mission is **to end the cycle of Domestic violence and war trauma among African Immigrant communities by providing survivors with unique and relevant tools to rebuild their lives. TPC has 3 primary goals:**

1) Education and outreach– we partner with and educate existing community organizations on the issues of war trauma and domestic violence
2) Direct Services– we provide direct services of therapy to individuals and families in need of help as well as providing access to resources for assistance with social services
3) Legislative and advocacy– we raise awareness for law makers of the unique needs of African immigrants and collaborate with existing domestic violence advocacy groups

This morning I will testify to:

Why we need these services for the African immigrant community

1. Demographics, The growing number of African immigrants in the US.
2. Domestic Abuse is not accounted for in the African Immigrant
3. Community for what it is
4. We have not recognized the unique cultural factors influencing Domestic Violence
5. To break the silence and give voice to those suffering in silence.

What TPC brings to this community?

An opportunity to remove the barriers individuals experience and provide or direct individuals and families to appropriate resources. We do this by

1. Providing culturally sensitive, education, training, services or referrals
2. Helping service seekers overcoming cultural beliefs and norms
3. Providing information about services
4. Creating a community based support systems

Why we need these services for this targeted community:

1. Demographics

Between 1980 and 2009 the foreign-born African population in the United States increased seven fold. One of every ten African-born immigrants in the US lives in DC, and nearly one in five immigrants in the city are from Africa., Within some DC neighborhoods, such as Kalorama Heights, Adams Morgana and Lanier Heights, African immigrants make up more than 25% of the foreign-born population (Brookings Institute, 2003).

2. Domestic Abuse is not accounted for in the African Community for what it is

- Census data does not distinguish between African Americans / Blacks and Africans.
- Little or no research focused on specific African populations as they immigrate to our region.
- Existing service providers do not track immigrants in discreet groups that would provide a picture of the experience of Africans versus other immigrants.
- Many victims do not report abuse, and many are pressured by friends, family, and their respective community to remain in their marriages if they do disclose the abuse.[1]

3. We have not recognized the unique cultural factors influencing Domestic Violence such as :

Research points to multiple cultural factors among immigrants[2]

a) Female Gender Roles –women are socialized to put familial harmony before their own well-being.
b) Male Gender Roles – dominance, power, and economic control rest largely with male family members. There is a strong sense of sexual entitlement and the demonstration of sexual powerlessness...
c) Justification of Abuse. We grew up being told that a man showed his love for a woman by how much he beat her.

- We were told such things as: If he is not jealous enough to beat you, then he must not love you.

---

[1] Shetty and Kaguyutan, Immigrant Victims of Domestic Violence: Cultural Challenges and Available Legal Protections, VAWnet, www.vawnet.org

[2] Raj, A., & Silverman, J. (2002). *Violence against immigrant women: The roles of culture, context, and legal immigrant status on intimate partner violence.* Violence against women, 8(3), 367-398.

- Sometimes a husband is annoyed or angered by things his wife does. A husband justified in hitting or beating his wife in the following situations:
    - If she goes out without telling him?
    - If she neglects the children?
    - If she argues with him?
    - If she refuses sex with him?
    - If she burns the food?

d) Cultural Acceptability of Violence – Batterers and/or victims do not know it is illegal, women view abuse as their fate, as is culturally acceptable within their sub-culture.
e) Isolation – women often lack independent friends or family to provide support to wives are often isolated, and the man's family may be supportive of his behavior, or even abusive themselves.
f) Legal Vulnerability – women are not aware of, or unwilling to seek protections available to them under federal and state laws, in part due to a fear of deportation.

4. To break the silence and give voice those living in shame

True Stories

- A 56-year-old medical practitioner –
    - She suffered 14 years of rape by father, uncle, and priests, and 1 year of torture, hunger, and abuse during her process to immigrate to the U.S.
    - She sponsors her father who has come to live with her.
    - Currently, she endures symptoms of flashbacks, anxiety attacks, and depression, to name a few.
    - As well informed and reasonably settled as she is, she still struggles with the horror of her violent, abusive experiences. And she lives her struggles in silence.
- A woman in her fifties –
    - Married, but now divorced, she watched her father rape her 2 sisters and a host of other relatives who lived in the home.
    - She married an emotionally and financially abusive man who, throughout her 20+ years of marriage, carried on multiple inappropriate relationships with women.
    - She, too, lives with anxiety and depression, and has suicidal tendencies, having attempted one suicide and threatened multiple others.
- A 20-some-year-old woman –
    - She married a man in his fifties, the one who brought her to the U.S.
    - Within 3 months of arriving, he started to beat her, claiming she was flirting with other men.
    - He left her at home when he went to work, but without keys to the apartment. In one incident she endured occurred when she left the apartment to throw out the garbage and accidentally locked herself out. She had the rental office attendant open the door to let her back in. Her husband claimed the man had come into the apartment with her, for

which the husband punished her by leaving her locked out in the middle of winter with nothing on but slippers and a tee shirt for several hours.

What TPC brings to this community?

An opportunity to remove the barriers individuals experience and provide or direct seekers to appropriate services. We do this by:

1. Providing culturally sensitive, education, training, services or referrals

Our service providers come out of the communities they serve and have the necessary language and cultural sensitivity – Language is a major barrier to communication. Students in DC speak over 30 African languages at home. But relatively few organizations have staff speaking even one of these languages. Others 'lump' all Africans together.

2. Helping service seekers overcoming limiting cultural beliefs and norms

We provide service providers that can bridge the cultural beliefs and norms. African immigrant women come from a range of sub-cultures that accept/support domestic violence to varying degrees. Additionally, immigrant batterers and victims alike may believe that the penalties and protections of the U.S. legal system do not apply to them (Orloff et al., 1995). By building trust with our service seekers we will work with them to understand the legal systems available to them and how they can use it without perceived consequence.

3. Providing information about services

Members of the target sub-groups may have little to no information about the services available to them. TPC will take the information, services and referrals right to the communities by working with trusted community based organizations.

As reported by an employee of a local organization working with Ethiopian immigrants, they frequently encounter immigrants who go to them for other social services discuss issues of DV. However, because the mission or the organization is other than such work, the case managers are usually at a loss of a place to refer such individuals. They do their best by linking them with resources, but highly doubt there is any follow through....

4. Creating a community based support system

Additionally, leaving the marriage, the relationship or the family is not always an option for Immigrant victims of violence. For most the only support system they have is limited to the source of abuse.

We do this by:

- Developing awareness among the service providing community based on the cultural needs of the African Immigrant population

with the husband punished by locking her locked out in the middle of winter with nothing on but slip-ons and a tee shirt for several hours.

What EPC brings to this community

An opportunity to remove the barriers individuals experience and provide or direct seekers to appropriate services. We do this by:

1. Providing culturally sensitive, education, training, services or referrals.

Our service providers come out of the communities they serve and have the necessary language and cultural sensitivity – language is a major barrier to communication. Students in DC speak over 30 African languages at home. But relatively few organizations have staff speaking even one of those languages. Others lump all Africans together

2. Helping seekers overcoming limiting cultural beliefs and norms.
We provide service providers that can bridge the cultural beliefs and norms. African immigrant women come from a range of sub-cultures that accept/support domestic violence to varying degrees. Additionally, immigrant batterers and victims alike may believe that the penalties and protections of the U.S. legal system do not apply to them (Orloff et al., 1995). By building trust with our service seekers we will work with them to understand the legal systems available to them and how they can use it without perceived consequence.

3. Providing information about services
Members of the target sub-groups may have little to no information about the services available to them. EPC will take the information, services and referrals *right* to the communities by working with trusted community based organizations.

As reported by an employee of a local organization working with Ethiopian immigrants: they frequently encounter immigrants who go to them for other social services discuss issues of DV. However, because the mission or the organization is other than such work, the case managers are usually at a loss of a place to refer such individuals. They do their best by lending them with resources, but rightly wonder there is any follow through ...

4. Creating a community based support system

Additionally, leaving the marriage, the relationship or the family is not always an option for immigrant victims of violence. For most the only support system they have is limited to the source of abuse.

We do this by:

- Developing mentors among the service providing community based on the cultural needs of the African immigrant population

- Identifying best practices for serving The African immigrant population

Training members of grass roots organizations on the legal rights of immigrant women and general advocacy.

I want to encourage the City Council to provide additional funding to the Mayors' Office on African Affairs to ensure that this essential and timely service to the African immigrant community continues.

Thank you!

Testimony of Desta Yebassa
OCO Board President of Washington DC Mero Politian Area

Before the
Committee on Housing & Community Development
Anita Bonds, Chairperson Council of the District of Columbia
May 6, 2015
John A. Wilson Building, Chamber Room 500
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning, Chair woman Bonds, members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, and members of the Committee. My name is Desta Yebassa and I'm honoured to testify before your Committee today as the OCO Board President of Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak in front of you today.

The Oromo people constitute well over 40% of Ethiopia's total population of 96 Million and are the largest majority ethnic group in Ethiopia and the second largest single nationality group in Africa. They have their own unique language Afaan Oromo, which is the fourth most spoken language in Africa. There is an estimated of more than ten thousands Oromos live in the Washington metropolitan area. Though this community is so large in its homeland, mainly due to political repression and persisting persecution, it has been fleeing its country to USA and different part of the world.
Oromo Community Organization (OCO) was founded in July 1988 as a non-profit legal entity, under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code with main objective of provide a multifaceted social and community services to Oromo immigrants that have settled in and around the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. Our office is located at 6212 3rd St NW Washington DC 20011.

The primary mission of OCO is to play a central role in building cohesiveness and harmony among the Oromo Community members and other communities; to help its members to smoothly transition, integrate, and become productive citizens in America; and to promote the development of the Oromo language and culture through education.

The specific objectives and purposes of Oromo Community Organization are to provide:
Oromo cultures, historical heritages, and Oromo language (Afaan Oromo);
health awareness training; English language training; basic computer training; job networking services; immigration support; promote self-help and social assistance among Oromos and to foster and maintain good relations with other communities and humanitarian organizations with common goals and aspirations and as well as other related social services through our OCO website, various seminars and workshops.
The organization is run by 9 volunteer members of Board of Directors (BOD) and 5 members serve in Executive Committee among its member

OCO completed the first round health Awareness training program by using grant obtained from Office of African Affairs (OAA) in 2014. With the help of this grant the Oromo Community

Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington DC
1725 I Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20006
www.hepbinitiative.org

May 6, 2015

TO: COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING

Fiscal Year 2016 Proposed Budget and Financial Plan, Fiscal Year 2016

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
for

Office of African Affairs

From : Jane Pan, Executive Director for Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C.

Good morning, Chairperson and other distinguished members of the committee.

[I am Jane Pan, Executive Director for Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C., I am honored to be here today to discuss the silent epidemic of viral hepatitis and the support of the office of OAPIA's community grant]

The Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, D.C. (HBI-DC) was organized exclusively for charitable purposes. Our founder lost her brother and mother within 3 years of each other while she was going to School of Public Health at Harvard. Specifically, HBI-DC's mission is to mobilize communities to prevent liver disease caused by hepatitis B among at-risk groups, particularly Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders and African Immigrants in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Through collaborative partnerships, HBI-DC provides culturally and linguistically appropriate hepatitis B outreach, education, screening, vaccination, linkages to care, and patient navigation services for impacted communities. In 2013, we started screening for hepatitis C as well.

What is viral hepatitis? The word "hepatitis" means inflammation of the liver. The most common types are hepatitis A, hepatitis B, and hepatitis C. Today our discussion is on hepatitis B and hepatitis C.

Hepatitis B (HBV)

-There are almost one million people in the U.S. chronically infected with hepatitis B. About 54,000 persons with chronic hepatitis B infections immigrate to the U.S. annually.
-One in twelve African born is living with chronic hepatitis B. In D.C. the African community counts to approximately 16,000 (17% of the District's entire immigrant population)
-Hepatitis B can cause liver damage, failure and cancer, as well as the need for a liver transplant.
-Vaccination is the most important way to prevent hepatitis B.

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Hepatitis C (HCV)
-Individuals born form 1945 – 1965 are five times more likely to have hepatitis C.
-African Americans, Latinos, and Veterans are among those disproportionately impacted by hepatitis C. According to U.S. 2012 census statistics, in the district there are 307,150 Black and 62,726 Hispanic.
-Hepatitis C can cause liver damage, failure and cancer, as well as the need for a liver transplant.
-Most individuals can be cured.

Who should be screened? Over 5 million Americans have chronic viral hepatitis; most of them do not know they are infected.
Hepatitis B (HBV)

- Individuals not vaccinated as infants whose parents were born in regions with a high prevalence of HBV infection.
- Individuals born in countries and regions with high prevalence of HBV infection.
- Patients who have a weakened immune system or undergo treatment for kidney failure (Hemodialysis).
- Individuals who are HIV-positive, inject drugs or men who have sex with men.

Hepatitis C (HCV)

- CDC recommends that everyone born between the years of 1945 and 1065 get a one-time blood test for hepatitis C.
- Routine screening for HCV is recommended for individuals based on recognized exposure and factors such as injection drug use, certain medical conditions, or were prior recipients of transfusions or organ transplants.

Viral hepatitis is a major public health problem in Washington DC. The most recent epidemiological update for the District of Columbia includes the first ever viral hepatitis surveillance data. The data shows that from 2004 to 2008, 11,624 cases of chronic hepatitis C infection and 3530 cases of chronic hepatitis B were reported

HBI-DC is one of the grantee for the FY 2015 OAA community grant with this funding we are able to **Educate** at many hard to reach at risk communities for viral hepatitis awareness to DC residents, small business owners. Provide **free screenings** and protect those vulnerable individuals with 3 doses of **vaccinations.** Those individuals tested positive, we link them to care provide a chance so they can live a normal healthy lives.
We are able to accomplish all of the above because of the Community grant. We believe that these intervention programs will benefit African Immigrants communities who are disproportionately underserved that can help reduce liver cancer mortality and morbidity. Early detection is crucial, to save a few people from HBV and HCV the medical cost in the long run will well justify the budget. Thank You.

Hygiene, Drug and Safety, HIV/AIDS and Nutrition. OCO also reapplied and won OAA grant FY2015 to expand Health awareness. We are currently providing another round of health Awareness training until September 30, 2015. The topics we have selected for this round are Ebola Outbreaks, Cancer, Heart Disease, Nutrition and Obesity, Tuberculosis and other upper Respiratory disease, IT in Healthcare, stress, depression and anxiety and Adult and Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). OCO has achieved its health awareness training program due to grant support obtained from OAA. Most of our community members witnessed that they have obtained important health education through this program.

Most Oromo have lived through experiences of imprisonment or torture in their homeland or in refugee camps and luckily arrived in USA and chosen Washington DC and Metropolitan area as their primary residence. Majority of them desperately need appropriate social support and services. Without helps/supports from OAA and others, it is very difficult to provide such services to Oromo immigrants and refugees in DC.

In addition to Health Awareness, OCO has plan to implement other programs, such as immigration support, Language training (English and Afaan Oromo), computer training, job networking services etc. However, financial problem and lack of permanent staff is our main constraints to effectively implement the programs.
OCO is looking for more grants and donation from OAA and others to sustain its future function and activities.
Therefor we look forward to hearing from DC council member for more grants for African community in general and OCO in particular .OCO needs further assistance in coming years so that we can continue our ground-breaking work in addressing Oromo community issues.

Thank you,

Desta Yebassa, PhD
OCO Board president and project manager
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(Mobile): 202-422-8971

ECC **THE ETHIOPIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.**

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A Non-Profit Organization

May 6, 2015

Testimony of Hermela Kebede
Executive Director
Ethiopian Community Center, Inc.

Before the Committee on Housing & Community Development
Council of the District of Columbia

Wednesday, May 06, 2015

Good morning Councilmember Anita Bonds and members of the D.C. City Council. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Ethiopian Community Center, Inc. supporting the DC Office on African Affairs.

I am giving this testimony in my capacity as Executive Director of the Ethiopian Community Center, Inc., the oldest community organization serving the interest of the African community. I have served as Executive Director of the Center since 1992 and have served the African immigrant community in various capacities for over 30 years.

Please allow me to give you a brief background of the Community Center. The mission of the Ethiopian Community Center, Inc. (ECC) is to meet the needs of immigrants and refugees from Africa through a wide range of services designed to assist families and individuals to become self-sufficient contributing members of the society. The Center was established in November of 1980 in the District of Columbia and provides various educational and social services to refugees and immigrants in the Washington metropolitan area. Services include English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) classes, computer instruction, acculturation, translation and interpretation, job counseling, immigration and citizenship assistance and crisis counseling among others. Our clients include newcomers, unemployed, under-employed, low-income people who need to acquire the necessary skills to achieve economic self-sufficiency and social integration.

As all of you know, the District of Columbia has become home for a large number of African immigrants and refugees. African immigrants account for 17% of the foreign born population in the District of Columbia. Over 30 African countries and languages are represented in the DC Public Schools. A large number of African businesses have flourished in the District over the past decade. The Office of African Affairs serves as a community liaison between the growing numbers of Africans, African businesses, community based organizations and government agencies in the District of Columbia.

I have witnessed the important role the DC Office of African Affairs plays in ensuring that the needs and interests of DCs African communities are known and represented in the halls of the various DC Government agencies. Through its Outreach and Engagement activities the Office has played an important role in informing African communities in the District about District government services, programs and resources. Through its

The OAA has organized various cultural events, dialogues, workshops and group discussions in its effort to create multicultural awareness, introduce African cultures and to promote understanding among the various African communities. OAA has taken a lead in assisting African Businesses in the District to engage with each other, learn about business regulations and policies in the District and how to access available resources through its Business Engagement and Development Support program.
OAA has played an important role in engaging African youth in the District through its internship programs, youth focus group and mixer discussions and connecting them to the Mayor through African Youth Town Hall. OAA also provides important information regarding employment opportunities, community events, services and available resources via its bi-weekly newsletter and its website to the African and the overall community.

In the past two years, OAA has awarded grants to African serving organizations in various areas. As a grantee serving the needs of the African youth, I cannot emphasize the importance of this grant award to our community.

In summary, the DC Office of African Affairs has been instrumental in connecting the African immigrant community to the various DC government agencies and other community resources with limited budget and staff. The African community appreciates the support provided to the OAA and request the Council to increase OAA's budget to continue to provide its services as well as give technical and financial support to small African community based organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE ON AFRICAN AFFAIRS (OAA)

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
MAMADOU M. SAMBA
Director

Before the

Committee on *Housing and Community Development*

Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015
Room *500*
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Good morning Chairperson Anita Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am Mamadou Samba, the Director of the Mayor's Office on African Affairs. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

As you know, this budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach resulting in a better budget and the Office on African Affairs will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year.

Our first our goal is to increase engagement with the African community, develop, and implement targeted programs focused on outreach, capacity building, multicultural awareness, and youth leadership development. During FY 2016, we look forward to implementing programs

currently being planned and discussed, including a health and wellness summit specific to barriers to treatment and access to care. An African Diaspora Youth Leadership program to provide young Africans living in the District and opportunity to also join the middle class, and finally, our upcoming annual African festival planned for September, that many in the District and in surrounding jurisdictions look forward to attending.

Our second goal is to strengthen our collaboration with DC Government agencies and their existing programs. For example, we are currently collaborating with Metropolitan Police Department, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and Fire and Medical Services to launch an inter-agency African Community Public Safety Taskforce. The taskforce will work closely with public safety agencies to promote and facilitate better partnerships with the diverse African communities. Emphasis will be placed on increased outreach and trainings for both the community and public safety officers, with special consideration of language access, cultural barriers, lack of trust, fear of retribution, stigma and stereotypes. Most importantly, the taskforce will promote safer communities by addressing, among other things, domestic violence and identifying community specific response needs.

Our third goal for the next fiscal year is to increase support for 30% of African small businesses and entrepreneurs to better understand the complex business regulations and take full advantage of available resources. So far, we have partnered with the Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) and the Alcoholic Beverage Regulatory Administration (ABRA) to engage African business owners in the District. Our goal is to ensure that African

businesses can continue to contribute to economic development of the city and have a competitive advantage in their respective business industries.

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

During the last oversight hearing, you took great interest in learning more about the African community grant program and our grantees. As you know, the FY 14 Budget Support Act extending the Office on African Affairs grant making authority of $100,000. The grant is intended to fund community-based organizations that provide services to the African community. Grant funding is largely determined by the strength of each program and their alignments with the Mayor's priorities. In FY 15, the Office on African Affairs funded eight (8) organizations – the are: The African Women Cancer Awareness Association (AWCAA), CitiWide Computer Training Center, the Ethiopian Community Center, the Hepatitis B Initiative of Washington, DC, the Kankouran West African Dance Company, Many Languages One Voice (MLOV), the Oromo Community Organization, and the Person Center. These organizations provide a wide range of valuable services to the diverse African communities, notably, computer training and workforce development, free cancer and hepatitis awareness and screenings, language access services, technical assistance and capacity building for the underserved communities.

In FY 14 alone, our African community grantees have collectively provided service to a total of 3,909 Africans through our grant program, and we expect an even greater number by the end of the current fiscal year.

I am most excited about our grantees recent efforts to partner with one another in areas where resources, ideas, and efforts can be maximized. These efforts come after series of group and one-on-one meetings I've held with each grantee, where I strongly suggested the need to join our efforts for efficient use of our tax dollars and for more collaborative approaches to creating a more unified and stronger African diaspora community in the District of Columbia.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving my office's mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairwoman Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Mayor's Office on African American Affairs

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
Rahman Branch
Director

Before the

Committee on *Housing and Community Development*

Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015
Room *500*
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Good morning Chairwoman Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am *Rahman Branch* the Director of *The Mayor's Office of African American Affairs*. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Browser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year.

The Mayor's Office on African American Affairs (OAAA) seeks to engage the extraordinarily diverse culture of the African American community in the District of Columbia. OAAA works to empower these residents through equipping them with the government resources and services that they need while also providing programmatic support to each facet of

the community. Our office is working to develop pathways to the middle class by focusing on the needs of the city's largest constituency. The key issues that the Office of African American Affairs seeks to address are adequate and affordable housing, equitable education, and economic development. We have seen the African American population dwindle in the wake of the "boom" Washington, DC has been experiencing over the past 20 years. Fewer African American homeowners and business owners exist today. I am sure you can remember a time, Madam Chairperson, when students from every corner of the city would have to sit for a test to attend the very prestigious and very competitive Math/Science program that existed at Ballou High School. Well now, it seems that highly successful education programs have become as exclusive as the neighborhoods that host them. The fact of the matter is, the change that's been occurring in Washington, DC has not INTENTIONALLY included the African American. My office looks to change that reality.

Our first charge is to write the "State of Black DC: Pathways to the Middle Class". This will be a data driven document outlining the current condition of African Americans and the opportunities the District has in engaging this population in a more strategic and collaborative way. What will make this document truly informative is the collection of policy recommendations and program concepts that will be presented as a result of the data. So as you see Madam Chairwoman, this will be a real aid for agencies, as well as for council in their work to serve the District's African American population. Additionally, the Mayor's Office on African American Affairs will partner with other District agencies to develop fresh ideas and strategies for engaging and serving the District's African American residents.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving my office's mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairwoman Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF LATINO AFFAIRS

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

FINAL

Testimony of
Ms. Jackie Reyes
Director

Before the

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015

Room 500

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Buenos Dias! Chairwoman Bonds, At-Large Councilmember Orange, At-Large Councilmember Silverman, Ward One Councilmember Nadeau and staff of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. I am Jackie Reyes the Director of the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, stable neighborhoods, healthy environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents, including representation from the

Latino Community such as Casa Ruby, DC Doors, local small businesses, and OLA cultura. These residents were asked to describe how they would allocate an imaginary $100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups to craft this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue this kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for OLA in the coming fiscal year.

The mission of the Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) is to improve the quality of life of the District's Latino residents by addressing a broad range of social and economic needs through strategic management of public and private partnerships, expertise on policy, community relations, civic engagement and community-based grants. During the fiscal year, OLA funds a total of 80 programs and 59 grantees totaling

over 2 million dollars in grant funds to improve Latino's achievements, education, labor market and a better quality of life.

Thus far, OLA has held numerous public engagement activities with the goal of promoting and executing the Mayor Bowser's priorities in Education, Workforce Development, Small Business and Economic Development and immigration. In the first 100 days of the administration, OLA coordinated 25 activities/events where we engaged over 3,000 constituents. The OLA open house itself was attended by over 300 individuals. OLA hosted an education fair; an International Women's Day; numerous food distribution events with the Capital Area Food Bank reaching out to hundreds of families on a monthly basis; the dedication of the Monsenor Romero Apartment building, which you Chairwoman participated in; Other events include outreach and economic development; OLA co-sponsored the Greater Hispanic Chambers Business Expo that took place at the Convention Center; the DPR Job Fair; the DC Health Exchange registration and promotional activities; Latino small business conferences; donations such as clothing drives with local churches and soccer equipment with DC United; OLA

is working closely with DC Government agencies such as the DMV, the DC Fire Department & EMS, MPD and DCPS, to address issues affecting the Latino Community; and Partnership meetings with grantees to enhance services for our constituents. We plan to keep building up our services and support in the Latino Community.

OLA will also execute the following goals, in addition to our FY 15 Performance Plan:

- Host the Freshstart Latino Community Summit
- Expand Youth Employment Opportunities and Soccer Clubs
- Create new information management systems to track and measure performance with constituent services and public engagement activities.
- Plan and execute two additional industry's specific job fairs to better match job applicants with employers.

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

Chairwoman Bonds one of the primary issues you asked about is - what is OLA doing to support small and local businesses? I am happy to share with you that OLA partnered in the month of April with "the Construction Alliance" to host an event called "Built in DC by DC". The Construction Alliance is a coalition of three different entities: the DC Hispanic Contractors Association; the Anacostia Development Corporation; and C.H.O.I.C.E. The purpose of the event was to introduce Mayor Bowser and her Economic Development Team to the Latino network of CBE/MBE, primarily DC based small businesses, created around the coalition of the Construction Alliance. This event highlighted the importance to increasing participation of local minority, immigrant, and Latino owned enterprises in public and private development projects across the region. By supporting networking opportunities like "Built in DC by DC", OLA is supporting the creation of better business opportunities for our Latino businesses and this in turn supports the continued growth of the middle class. I also met with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber's Angela Franco and we are

going to create a video that will teach Latinos how to start a small business.

In addition, OLA is working with WMATA and Trabajadores Unidos to create employment opportunities for Latino's in the near future. OLA is also getting 50 volunteer mentors trained to work with Latino Youth addressing the issues that affect their daily life. Latino's are the fastest and largest growing minority population in the District of Columbia. OLA also represented the Mayor at the Coalition of Mayor's in support of President Obama's Executive Order on Immigration. Latino's are hard working and contribute to the economy and the cultural diversity of our fine city. OLA has launched the Ambassador Program to reach out to the Latino's who live in all 8 wards of the District of Columbia. When Latinos prosper, our communities prosper and we all prosper. OLA has also launched La Voz de OLA monthly newsletter to share our progress and activities with our constituency. OLA is also active via social media so that Latino's can feel involved and represented in the life of the community.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget are critical in achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairwoman Bonds have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Stable Housing. Thriving Businesses. Strong Communities.

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May 6, 2015

Marla Bilonick, *Executive Director*
Latino Economic Development Center-LEDC
641 S St NW
Washington, DC 20001

Re: OLA Oversight Hearing

Chairperson Anita Bonds

Good day, Chairperson Bonds and members of the Council. My name is Marla Bilonick and I am the Executive Director of the Latino Economic Development Center. At LEDC, we have worked for 24 years to help Latinos and other DC residents buy and stay in their homes, join with neighbors to keep their rental housing affordable, and start or expand small businesses. I am grateful for this opportunity to testify and urge that the Council to continue providing solid support for the Office of Latino Affairs (OLA) in the FY16 budget.

While Latinos accounted for 31% of the population growth in the District between 2000 and 2013, they still lag behind the general population along a number of indicators. While White, non-Hispanic District residents' median income is $111,420; the median income for Latino households is $57,068 (or only 51% of White household income). The U.S. Census 2013 American Community Survey states the poverty rate among DC Latinos is 16.2% vs. 7.7% poverty for White, non-Hispanic residents. Almost a third of Latinos in the District have less than a high school education.

Despite these discouraging statistics, the Latino community offers great potential to contribute in a real way to the region's economic engine. According to the September 2010 U.S. Census figures, between 2002-2007, Hispanic businesses in the Washington area were growing three times as fast as local businesses overall. The number of majority Hispanic-owned businesses in the Washington area increased 53.5 percent between 2002-2007. According to the Small Business Administration-*SBA* from mid-2009 to 2011, small firms accounted for 67 percent of the net new jobs in the nation. So, the power of these small businesses as a critical component to successful economic development and job creation is not to be overlooked.

LEDC believes in the power that knowledge and capital have to transform the lives of DC entrepreneurs, their families, and their communities. That is why we are grateful to partners such as the Office of Latino Affairs who support our work providing bilingual small business technical assistance and training. With OLA's support, we have rolled out important bilingual training curricula on topics such as business planning, marketing, technology integration, access to finance, social media marketing, accounting, and financial literacy.

In 2014, we conducted 29 small business training workshops with 226 entrepreneurs trained. We also provided 170 entrepreneurs with over 600 hours of individual technical assistance. This work is complementary to our microlending program that provides financing from $5,000-$50,000 to un-bankable DC area entrepreneurs.

LATINO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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Your continued backing of OLA's small business provider support will empower LEDC to continue to generate meaningful results in the communities we serve.

We value OLA as a trusted and longstanding partner and welcome Jackie Reyes as their new Director. Ms. Reyes has worked alongside LEDC in her previous professional capacities and we were pleased she was chosen for this important role. We are very confident in her leadership and ability to drive OLA operations in alignment with the Administration's core goals.

We want DC small businesses to succeed. With consistent support of OLA's small business activities as outlined in my testimony; LEDC will be able to continue helping DC entrepreneurs to launch and expand their businesses and create economic opportunity for themselves, their families, and their communities.

DC: 641 S Street NW Washington, DC 20001 | (202) 588-5102
MD: 11002 Viers Mill Road, Suite 503 Wheaton, MD 20902 | 1-866-977-LEDC
3323 Eastern Avenue, Suite 200. Baltimore, Maryland 21224

Testimony
Committee on Housing & Community Development
May 6, 2015

Good morning Councilwomen Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development.

My name is Rosa E. Pizzi and I am the Executive Director of Vida Senior Centers. I want to thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony today.

Vida operates three sites in the District. The site at 1842 Calvert Street NW serves all 8 wards. There are two sites in Ward 4, 1330 Missouri Avenue NW located in an affordable housing facility: Vida Brightwood Residences and Vida manages the programs at Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kenney Street NW.

For over 46 years Vida has served the Latino community starting in a small basement on Columbia Road and cemented its value in the community in its focus on meeting the needs of the rising number of Latino seniors.

Many of the seniors served at Vida have told me, "We came to DC to work and we didn't have time to learn English. But now we have time and we have this Center and we want to learn English." It is very important that our seniors can function in their community, navigate the health and social service systems and especially to be able to communicate about their health and their health care. With computer skills, we have the confidence that they will not fall easy prey to fraud and Internet scams because they are a vulnerable population. Through the Office on Latino Affairs, Vida provides classes in English, computer skills and has support for its health and wellness programs at Calvert Street and Brightwood. Yes, there may be other wonderful providers in the community that teach English and computer skills, but when you are a senior, nutrition and wellness is vital and may be the hook that brings one to a senior Center. A Center where you can learn English, gain computer skills, have lunch with friends, exercise, have a wonderful health professional take your blood pressure or check your glucose level, participate in arts and crafts or engage in an intense game of dominoes.

Several reports have crossed my desk that all emphasize the benefits of health and wellness programs and activities for seniors. With the help of the Office of Latino Affairs, Vida is able to support these activities that improve the well-being and quality of life so that our seniors can age in place. Wellness and fitness work together in providing physical strength and balance to prevent falls, human interaction that address the prevention of depression and isolation, knowledge on managing and controlling chronic illness and a sense of belonging and community. We know, as reported in the Office on Aging's Long-Term Care Planning Guide that the cost of keeping a senior in their home cost a community about $36,000 per year as opposed to the $107,000 for the cost of long-term care.

Our goal is to help our seniors age in place which is a great benefit to the community and ask that you make available to the Office of Latino Affairs the funding necessary to assist with program expansion to meet the needs of the fast growing Latino senior population. Three months into our program year, we have already exceeded the number of unduplicated seniors projected to enroll for the programs supported by the Office of Latino Affairs.

The number of seniors 60+ years is growing at a rapid pace and I ask that you continue to provide OLA with additional funding that can help support the development and implementation of full services at the Vida Brightwood site in Ward 4 so that the seniors in that Ward have access to a full array of services offered by a bi-lingual staff. This would require an $80,000 level of funding to staff full time hours and cover the overhead.

I want to commend the Committee on Housing and Community Development and the Office of Latino Affairs for their attention and dedication to the abuelitos or seniors in the District

I want to also recognize Jackie Reyes and the staff of OLA for their tireless service to the community. They keep the grantees aware of the activities in the Latino community and make time for face-to-face contact with participants and grantees to learn about their needs and wants. They are readily available to answer questions and provide technical assistance and do so with boundless energy.

Thank you for your interest in addressing the needs of the Latino community, especially the seniors who have given years of labor to help make the District the great city that it is today. Thank you for your time and hard work on behalf of all of the seniors and citizens of the District.

DC SCORES

Testimony on Behalf of the Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs
Given By Bethany Rubin Henderson, Executive Director, DC SCORES
May 6, 2015

My name is Bethany Rubin Henderson. I am the Executive Director of DC SCORES, one of the largest nonprofit youth development organizations in the District. I thank each of you on the City Council for allowing me to testify on behalf of the DC Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs (OLA) today.

DC SCORES remediates, in a school-based setting, the many very real impacts of a life of poverty on a child: a lack of extracurricular enrichment, a lack of adult mentors, and a lack of fitness opportunities. DC SCORES' team-based approach provides DC's most vulnerable 3rd-8th graders with the key elements of a well-rounded childhood: arts, athletics, and academics. Our whole-child approach is unique in the DC youth development space and has been adopted by the DCPS Out-of-School-Time Office as the model for optimal student programming. DC SCORES provides after school programs and summer camps free of charge to over 1,500 students at 40-50 public and public charters schools in neighborhoods characterized by entrenched poverty. Our diverse participants are 56% African-American, 40% Hispanic, 2% Asian, and 2% white or other ethnicities. Approximately 80% receive free or reduced lunch. We have worked with over 8,000 students since our founding in 1994.

I am here today to testify on behalf of the important work done by DC Mayor's Office of Latino Affairs.

Low income DC children of color--the majority of our participants--are more likely to be obese and to lack opportunities for physical fitness, which studies prove negatively impacts not only health but also academic achievement. DC has the highest percentage of overweight children in the nation and the biggest disparity between races in terms of obesity. In fact, the share of overweight or obese Hispanic children has increased from 12% to 24% over the last two decades. The children we serve also have few enrichment options -- in addition to attending schools with low academic achievement and low graduation rates, close to half (48%) of their parents tell us that no other organized sports teams options are available.

The sport at the core of our programming – soccer – is rich with history and cultural resonance, especially for many of the Latino families we serve. Consequently, many parents who might be reluctant to attend school events due to limited English skills or immigration status come to their child's school to cheer them on during our weekly soccer games, annual Poetry Slam!, spring/fall festivals, and our end-of-camp barbecues. This gives our coaches – the vast majority of whom are schoolteachers by day – a chance to interact with their students' parents in a non-threatening environment, build bridges to support individual student's education, and open doors for families in the community.

In addition to creating an avenue for parent engagement with teachers and schools, DC SCORES builds literacy skills for language minority student participants through our poetry curriculum. We teach kids the structures and tools of poetry so they can leverage them to find their own voice and express their feelings and thoughts safely and constructively. OLA recognizes the powerful role our holistic programming can play by providing a safe place to experiment not only with English language literacy, but also to develop a strong bilingual voice.

To give just one example of how this works, let me quote a poem written this past fall by the Bancroft Elementary School DC SCORES team (pictured mid-performance at the top of this testimony):

> Bancroft Bengals yellow and blue.
> We are a multicultural school.
> Hablamos dos idiomas Español and English.
> Through our dedication we will achieve our wish.
> Somos triunfadores, somos campeones.
> We make goals not only on the field,
> Our life goals are a pretty big deal.
> Be Respectful, Se responsable, and Learn every day!
> Bancroft!

The DC Office of Latino Affairs (OLA) has been a strong supporter of DC SCORES' holistic program since 2007. During that time, we have been grateful for OLA's financial support as well as their ongoing community outreach efforts, which often directly benefit our low-income participants. We recognize that our own reduced grant amounts from OLA in recent years reflect the reduced funding OLA itself has received in its budget over the past five years, which we find regrettable. OLA program officers consistently serve as judges for our citywide Poetry Slam! and visit our summer camps. OLA provides strong programmatic supports for our participants, particularly our alumni who are in high school or beyond, soliciting strong youth leaders from DC SCORES to serve in OLA internships or participate in professional development opportunities. Furthermore, OLA provides supports for DC SCORES itself by regularly assisting our organization with outreach for board members and new hires. Furthermore, OLA is inclusive with its nonprofit partners, and excels at building a network of its grantees. In sum, OLA's provision of programmatic supports and informal networking services provides a critical conduit for DC SCORES to support DC's Latino community.

Chairperson Anita Bonds
Committee on Housing and Community Development
1350 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20004

Good afternoon. My name is Sonia Alvarenga. I am a resident of Ward 4 for 15 years. I am the proud owner of Sonia Sweet Cleaning LLC. **I am here to ask the Council to fully support the Mayor' Office on Latino Affairs (OLA) again in fiscal year 2016 so it can continue its important work here in the District.**

Back in El Salvador, I loved cleaning because I liked seeing the look of satisfaction on my clients' face when they saw my work. I moved to DC looking for more opportunities for my young daughter and me. Shortly after, I decided to start my own business and turned to LEDC to help me with the process. Since 2010, Sonia Sweet DC Cleaning LLC seeks to provide the best cleaning service in the area. Currently, I employ three women who are also residents of DC.

Since my first visit, I always had LEDC as a source of support for my business. The advice and trainings always help me, especially because they are in my language and do not increase costs to my company.

This year, LEDC helped me renew my LLC. I also received technical assistance that helped me improve my business marketing skills, specifically improving my presence online. Over the years, I learned to present my business more formally and professionally– by wearing uniforms, having business cards, and flyers. My goal now is to apply to become a Certified Business Enterprise (CBE) in the District. Thanks to the technical assistance and trainings, I could improve and grow my business.

Thanks to my business, I have a steady income that helps me provide the best for my daughter. Being a business owner gives me the flexibility to be present and active in my daughter's day-to-day activities which is very important to me. My work and dedication has led to an improvement in my lifestyle allowing me to offer something better for my family. Currently, I am saving part of my earnings for my daughter's college career.

Most of all, LEDC is a connection that I am certain will continue to provide me the opportunity to receive help for my business. For me it is very important to have access to a place that understands my concerns and needs with sensitivity and professionalism.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my story. Please continue to support the Office on Latino Affairs in the District so that all entrepreneurs can succeed.

Thank you.

Committee on Housing & Community Development

Budget Oversight Hearing

Office of Latino Affairs

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Testimony by Collaborative Solutions for Communities

Chairperson Bonds, Committee Members, and Staff, my name is Penolope Griffith, Executive Director of the Collaborative Solutions for Communities, an organization created in 1996. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Mayor Muriel Bowser's proposed budget for the Office of Latino Affairs. The Collaborative has worked closely with OLA since 2002 when Mayor Williams established the PROUrbanYouth summer employment program. The summer employment program was designed to complement the existing summer youth employment program. It focuses on young people involving gangs and missed the deadline to register. Another program that is funded OLA as a Gang Diversion Program is the soccer program. Every year OLA has funded soccer programs in partnership with CSC. Soccer has proven to be an effective tool to meet young people where they are and to help them see a future different from the past. For youth involved in gangs, soccer is an opportunity to stop "the beefing" for the sake of the match. And from that momentary truce on the field possibilities for a different future are born. With support and ongoing encouragement, opposing gang members begin to experience an alternative to the violence between the two groups. Respect for the game and the skills to play the game can gradually evolve into respect for each other. The program continues to support approximately 150 young people that could fall through the cracks. Our partnership with OLA has evolved and grown over the last 13 years. Furthermore, we have known Ms. Reyes for many years. We are excited about our continued partnership.

Through our signature practice models - - Solution Focus Brief Therapy and Family Group Conferencing - - we approach each family, each neighborhood, each gang member or returning citizen - - as a unique being with the strengths, abilities, and will to change. We know that our approach help the client to identify his/her solutions and in so doing the client is better able to solve his/her problems. Sometimes the enormity of a situation freezes us in self-doubt and despair. That self-doubt keeps us from remembering the times when we have fought through

adversity - - and keeps us from the confidence that small accomplishments can lead to big things. Moreover, CSC staff go through rigorous training to help youth and families build upon their own internal strengths and accomplishments. Our work is done through a combination of one-on-one direct work, support and affinity groups, healing circles, classes, and other forums.

Over the years, OLA, CFSA, DCPS, and DYRS have referred specific family cases to the Collaborative. The Collaborative has trained hundreds of agency employees and have helped CFSA incorporate Family Team Meeting into their standard practice.

We support the Mayor's proposed budget for OLA. We look forward to continuing our partnership with OLA on creating a robust network of service and advocacy organizations to strengthen the safety net in DC's Latino community. We also support OLA's efforts to revitalize the business corridors and expand entrepreneurial opportunities for young Latinos and Latinas.

Over the last year, the Collaborative has worked with OLA and four northwest schools on implementing a strategy to keep young Latinos in school - - especially the approximately 300 students that arrived in DC over the last year without a parent or guardian. "New arrivals" or "unaccompanied youth" have lived lives much beyond their years. Many students share stories about the horrors of their home countries, threats made against their families, and the brutal and dangerous trip across the border. A majority of the students keep their stories a secret out of fear. OLA and the Collaborative share the commitment to help these young people tell their stories in their own way on their own time.

Many of these young people, also bring with them the scars of active gang involvement in their home countries. And when they arrive here in the US and later in DC, their gang and rival gang knows who they are--but so do we. In many cases, it's a rush to see who can "recruit" them first. The gang, the rival gang, or a supportive community and school.

We look forward to working with all entities on creating positive activities and entrepreneurial opportunities for "new arrivals" and "unaccompanied youth." In closing, The Collaborative is pleased to have the opportunity to work with OLA and the Committee in inspiring young people and their families.

Anne Garcia
Chair
Commission on Latino Community Development
5/6/15

My name is Anne Garcia, LICSW and I am the current Chairwoman for the Commission for Latino Community Development. Chairwoman Bonds it is a pleasure to be here today. I am a proud resident of Ward 1 and proudly serve the DC community through working as a licensed social worker.

The District of Columbia's Commission on Latino Community Development was created by the Mayor of the District of Columbia to serve as an advisory board to the Mayor and advocate for the interests of the Latino communities. The Commission consists of at least 15 members appointed by the Mayor, all of whom are residents of the District of Columbia. The members reflect the demographic, geographic, and ethnic diversity of the different Latino communities within the District. We currently have commissioners that represent the LGBTQ communities and from countries such as Mexico, Ecuador, Colombia and the United States.

The DC Commission on Latino Community Development:

- Advises on government policies and programs affecting the Latino communities in the District and serves as an advocate for their needs.
- Advises and assists the District of Columbia in developing mechanisms and structures within the government to respond to the needs of their communities.
- Conducts meetings with the Director of OLA to ensure the proper development of programs and services and to advise on effective strategies that may be undertaken by the Office on Latino Affairs.
- Promotes public awareness of government programs and advises the Mayor and the directors of government departments and agencies on public concerns relating to those programs.
- Prepares an annual report for the Mayor.
- Undertakes other duties as assigned.

Our top five priorities for this year are:

1. Economic growth and development
2. Human rights
3. Improving the Driver License process
4. Education
5. Health

As a commission, we strive to work with OLA to ensure that Latinos are being advocated for in city issues. We have met with Director Reyes every month so far to discuss how we can be involved in helping the Mayor reach her goals within the Latino community.

Anne Garcia
Chair
Commission on Latino Community Development
5/6/15

With only a little over 2 million dollars in grant, OLA funds a total of 80 programs and 59 grantees to improve Latino's achievements, education, labor market and a better quality of life. With this funding OLA serves over 64,000 clients.

OLA recently began the Ambassador program which will educate Latinos in all 8 wards how to become the eyes and ears in their prospective communities. OLA has made it a priority in educating Latinos how to become leaders and learn how to be the voice for themselves and helps others find their own.

OLA has held numerous public engagement activities with the goal of promoting and executing the Mayor's priorities in education, workforce development, economic development and small businesses and immigration. In the first 100 days of the administration, OLA engaged over 3,000 constituents through 25 activities. The OLA open house itself was attended by over 300 individuals. OLA plans to keep building up our services and support in the Latino Community.

Lastly, as Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that OLA and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals. As Chairwoman for the Commission on Latino Community Development, I am pleased and excited to continue to see the strong collaboration with Office on Latino Affairs. I confidently believe that Director Reyes and her staff will continue to reach more underserved Latinos living in the District of Columbia

TESTIMONY PRESENTED TO THE

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council Member Anita Bonds, Chair

By

Lori Kaplan, President & CEO, Latin American Youth Center

May 6, 2015

Good afternoon committee Chairwoman Bonds, Council Members and members of your staff. My name is Lori Kaplan and I am President & CEO of the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC). I have served in this role since 1987 and have worked at the LAYC since 1979. The LAYC's rich history of service to the Latino community, and the community at large, is tied to the history and development of the Latino community in the District of Columbia, and the importance of, and role of, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs.

I am very proud to be here today in support of the Office on Latino Affairs FY16 budget. The LAYC supports the hopes and dreams of over 4000 Latino, African American and multicultural youth annually in the District of Columbia and Maryland. The LAYC seeks to insure that every young person pursues an educational and career pathway as they prepare for the many opportunities that our city and region has to offer.

I am proud that Ms. Jackie Reyes is serving in the role of Executive Director. Ms. Reyes is an LAYC alum. I have known Ms. Reyes as a young person beginning her life in the District of Columbia. Todays she stands as an example of all that we hope for in our Latino community. Having come to Washington, DC as a young immigrant, having been educated in DC Public Schools, having been a youth at the LAYC, today she is a leader giving back to the community she loves. In her role at OLA everyday she serves as an advocate for, and the voice o,f a community that too often remains underserved, in the shadows and voiceless.

Unfortunately, despite the social, economic and political growth and importance of the Latino community in the District of Columbia over the last forty years, there continues to be a lack of equitable city resources flowing into the Latino community. OLA plays a critical role in addressing the many complicated, systemic issues that serve as barriers to, and deny access to, city and federal resources that our children, youth and families need. Daily, OLA serves as a resource and connector for hundreds of people who walk through their doors every year.

I am very proud that funds have been integrated into OLA's budget for Latino youth to participate in a summer youth internship program. Many Latino youth, despite eligibility, are not served by DOES's summer program. The numbers are disproportionately low. Just this morning I read in the paper that over millions of additional dollars have been put into the

summer youth employment program to support 22-24 year old young people in our city. My fear is that few of these resources will be utilized by Latino young adults. So the good news is that these additional funds in the OLA budget will support summer activities for Latino youth, but the challenging news is that few Latino youth and young adults get access to the year round federal WOIA and city appropriated job training dollars. With your help, it is my hope that DOES, the WIC and OLA will seriously address this inequality over the next few months.

It is also my hope that as the committee chair, you will work with Director Reyes in strengthening her budget. I remember the days when the OLA budget was twice as big as it is today. Cuts have been made year after year despite the growth of the Latino community and the educational, employment and social needs of our diverse community members. The OLA grants program serves as a critically important resource for the many community organizations touching the lives of our Latino residents. As the income disparity grows and as housing and residential units prices have skyrocketed the only way to truly move people out of poverty to middle class is through the work of our community based organizations. The grants program helps to make this possible but honestly, it is way too small.

I want to thank Ms. Reyes for staving off more cuts, I want to implore you to keep the OLA budget strong and vibrant and look for ways to address the systemic inequality of resource distribution to the Latino community. Our former Mayor and Councilmember Marion Barry always fought for the Latino community, and it is my hope, Councilmember Bonds that you will too – that you will not only protect the OLA budget, but fight to strengthen it. In many ways your commitment to OLA serves as true reflection of your treatment of the DC Latino community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify today.

May 6, 2015

Good morning Madam Chairwoman Bonds, and distinguished guests,

My name is Olga Noriega, I'm the director of the Regional Alliance of Students and Professionals (RASP) a nonprofit organization.

The objective of RASP is simple; to empower Latino Students and young professionals with strategies to inspire and create positive change in our community here in the District of Columbia. In order to do so, RASP formed partnerships with various local educational organizations, governmental agencies such as OLA, other nonprofits and private entities. RASP is a firm believer in a person's ability to succeed if given the opportunity to do so.

Every career choice enables a member of the community to serve in distinct ways. We work with our constituents to succeed in their educational goals and to also form habits of volunteerism and community service. RASP was founded on the principle of giving back and our organizational motto of, "My profession at the service of my community," reflects that commitment. I am proud of our many achievements helping the Latino community in the district and look forward to expanding our partnership with OLA.

The mayor's Office of Latino Affairs has been an important partner in helping meeting the needs of our underserved and under privileged first generation Latino students for the last five years. I want to thank the members of this committee for supporting OLA and in the understanding of the importance the financial resources the office has on the diverse Latino community.

I lastly want to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to come before you and state the important role the committee has with the Latino DC constituents through OLA.

Olga Noriega
RASP Director

Testimony of Desta Yebassa
OCO Board President of Washington DC Mero Politian Area

Before the
Committee on Housing & Community Development
Anita Bonds, Chairperson Council of the District of Columbia
May 6, 2015
John A. Wilson Building, Chamber Room 500
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning, Chair woman Bonds, members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, and members of the Committee. My name is Desta Yebassa and I'm honoured to testify before your Committee today as the OCO Board President of Washington DC Metropolitan Area. Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak in front of you today.

The Oromo people constitute well over 40% of Ethiopia's total population of 96 Million and are the largest majority ethnic group in Ethiopia and the second largest single nationality group in Africa. They have their own unique language Afaan Oromo, which is the fourth most spoken language in Africa. There is an estimated of more than ten thousands Oromos live in the Washington metropolitan area. Though this community is so large in its homeland, mainly due to political repression and persisting persecution, it has been fleeing its country to USA and different part of the world.
Oromo Community Organization (OCO) was founded in July 1988 as a non-profit legal entity, under Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code with main objective of provide a multifaceted social and community services to Oromo immigrants that have settled in and around the Washington D.C. Metropolitan area. Our office is located at 6212 3rd St NW Washington DC 20011.

The primary mission of OCO is to play a central role in building cohesiveness and harmony among the Oromo Community members and other communities; to help its members to smoothly transition, integrate, and become productive citizens in America; and to promote the development of the Oromo language and culture through education.

The specific objectives and purposes of Oromo Community Organization are to provide:
Oromo cultures, historical heritages, and Oromo language (Afaan Oromo);
health awareness training; English language training; basic computer training; job networking services; immigration support; promote self-help and social assistance among Oromos and to foster and maintain good relations with other communities and humanitarian organizations with common goals and aspirations and as well as other related social services through our OCO website, various seminars and workshops.
The organization is run by 9 volunteer members of Board of Directors (BOD) and 5 members serve in Executive Committee among its member

OCO completed the first round health Awareness training program by using grant obtained from Office of African Affairs (OAA) in 2014. With the help of this grant the Oromo Community

Hygiene, Drug and Safety, HIV/AIDS and Nutrition. OCO also reapplied and won OAA grant FY2015 to expand Health awareness. We are currently providing another round of health Awareness training until September 30, 2015. The topics we have selected for this round are Ebola Outbreaks, Cancer, Heart Disease, Nutrition and Obesity, Tuberculosis and other upper Respiratory disease, IT in Healthcare, stress, depression and anxiety and Adult and Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP). OCO has achieved its health awareness training program due to grant support obtained from OAA. Most of our community members witnessed that they have obtained important health education through this program.

Most Oromo have lived through experiences of imprisonment or torture in their homeland or in refugee camps and luckily arrived in USA and chosen Washington DC and Metropolitan area as their primary residence. Majority of them desperately need appropriate social support and services. Without helps/supports from OAA and others, it is very difficult to provide such services to Oromo immigrants and refugees in DC.

In addition to Health Awareness, OCO has plan to implement other programs, such as immigration support, Language training (English and Afaan Oromo), computer training, job networking services etc. However, financial problem and lack of permanent staff is our main constraints to effectively implement the programs.
OCO is looking for more grants and donation from OAA and others to sustain its future function and activities.
Therefor we look forward to hearing from DC council member for more grants for African community in general and OCO in particular .OCO needs further assistance in coming years so that we can continue our ground-breaking work in addressing Oromo community issues.

Thank you,

Desta Yebassa, PhD
OCO Board president and project manager
Oromo Community Organization
6212 3rd St NW,
Washington DC 20011
Phone: (office):202-234-1151
(Mobile): 202-422-8971

Testimony of
Washington Performing Arts
To the Committee of the Whole
Wednesday, May 6th, 2015

Bonds

Good afternoon, Chairman [redacted] and members of the DC Council. Thank you for this opportunity to speak in support of the work being carried out by the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs. My name is Megan Merchant and I am the Education and Community Programs Manager of Washington Performing Arts. I am also a native Washingtonian.
My organization was the recipient of a 2015 Latino Community Development grant from the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs.

The Latino Community Development grant supports the DC After School Latin Dance Program, a partnership between Washington Performing Arts and the After School Dance Fund. The DC After School Latin Dance Program delivers weekly lessons in Latin dance, etiquette, and life skills to predominantly Latino DC public and charter high school students to enhance their arts knowledge and creativity, encourage cultural awareness and unity, and cultivate leadership and team-building ability. Upon completion of the program alumni are invited to participate in professional development training and hired to return to the program as group leaders and mentors to disseminate lessons learned and further reinforce skill development. Now in its third year, the program is being conducted in six DC public and charter schools: (1) Cardozo Education Campus in Ward 1; (2) Next Step Public Charter School in Ward 1; (3) Capital City Public Charter School in Ward 4; (4) E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Ward 4; (5) Roosevelt High School @MacFarland in Ward 4; and (6) Wilson High School in Ward 3. We have specifically selected partner schools in three of the four wards with the highest Latino populations in the city. According to U.S. Census Bureau data for 2010, from a total Latino population of 54,749 in the District that year, the highest proportion of Latinos lived in Wards 1 (28.9 percent), 4 (25.9 percent), 2 (13.8 percent); and 3 (10.6 percent).

Scan2

As we recognize at Washington Performing Arts, Latinos are among the newest and most rapidly growing populations in the District, but one that faces socioeconomic disparities and barriers to educational attainment. In the last few years it was found that only 61 percent of Latinos in DC had at least a high school degree, compared to nearly 99 percent of non-Hispanic white residents of the District. Research shows that Latino youth perennially lead other groups in high school dropout rates, including in the DC metro area. After surveying students in our program, we learned that many of their parents do not have high school diplomas. The overwhelming majority of our students, 100% of whom are foreign-born, have parents whose highest level of educational attainment was eighth grade (40%). This is a trend we hope to help ameliorate through our program.

While that outlook may seem bleak, the role of arts instruction has been shown to help prepare our students for a global 21st-century marketplace by sparking their creativity, building their confidence, and keeping them engaged in school. As N. Barry, J. Taylor, and K. Walls note in "The Role of the Fine and Performing Arts in High School Dropout Prevention," *Critical Links*, 2002, and *Critical Evidence*, 2006 (Arts Education Partnership), "Students at risk of not successfully completing their high school educations cite their participation in the arts as reasons for staying in school. Factors related to the arts that positively affected the motivation of these students included a supportive environment that promotes constructive acceptance of criticism and one where it is safe to take risks."

The Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs strongly embraces this method by supporting organizations like Washington Performing Arts that provide dynamic and leading-edge arts education programming. The importance of funding from the Office on Latino Affairs is to help combat the troubling prevalence of preventable social and health issues in the Latino community, including elevated high school dropout rates, teen domestic violence, childhood obesity, teen pregnancy, and the devastating

influence of gangs. After speaking with teachers and listening to testimony from students, I found it compelling that all of our students are vulnerable to these factors in addition to the burden of having to work while in school. We even moved the location of our competition this year to avoid clashes between rival school gangs. To this end, our DC Latin After School Dance Program becomes a vehicle for increased cultural awareness and pride, while fostering exercise and wellness and building community.

While there are no easy solutions to any of these issues, a multipronged approach developed in close collaboration with community stakeholders has been shown to have the greatest impact. Washington Performing Arts has always emphasized such an approach in its arts presenting, arts education, and community engagement initiatives, and we are honored and sustained by the support and partnership of the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs for our DC After School Latin Dance Program. This partnership plays an integral role in making our vital work possible.

I invite you all to join us in supporting our young people as they compete in the 3rd Annual DC Schools Latin Dance Competition, which will take place Thursday, June 11th 6pm-8pm at the historic Lincoln Theater. The program brings more than 500 family members and friends to the performance hall to cheer on the students who compete in Salsa, Merengue, Cha-Cha and Bachata. We also engage families by adding a special division where parents dance with students.

Once again, I come here today because I am excited about the types of programming the Office on Latino Affairs supports. They are giving our young people a voice to be heard and resources to ensure their success here in the city.

I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE

BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

May 6, 2015

Testimony of Rogelio Cedillo

Good morning. My name is Rogelio Cedillo and I am a Board member of Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC. Our nonprofit organization works to educate day laborers and other low-income immigrants about workers rights. The workers in our organization work in a variety of industries, including construction, restaurants, laundries, and offices. Many of you know us because of our efforts to create the new drivers' license program for immigrants. One of our biggest battles is to fight against the epidemic of "wage theft" here in the District of Columbia. Day laborers are particularly vulnerable because they do not understand their rights and do not know how to access the systems that can protect them. Our goal is to educate and organize these workers so they can be integrated into the mainstream of the District of Columbia.

I am here today to ask that you continue funding the Office of Latino Affairs. We agree with the Mayor's proposed budget for FY16 funding for the Office of Latino Affairs. This office provides critical support to our organization and the entire DC Latino community. OLA's

services and programs fill a gap in this city. OLA's outreach and expertise has helped our organization and many others. We have been able to provide educational workshops, forums and one-on-one services because of the support that OLA provides.

Without the Office of Latino Affairs many of our organizations would not be able to provide outreach to the Latino community. We are all struggling to improve the quality of life of our familie,s and OLA's support helps stabilize our community and ensures that our children live a better life.

I would just like to end by pointing out that I immigrated to this country as a child and graduated from Bell Multicultural High School. I qualified for the DACA program that is part of President Obama's immigration initiative. As a result, I now have papers. Now I have a more stable existence and I can work and go to school without fearing deportation. I am proud to be a resident of the District of Columbia and come today to provide public testimony about our government and the services it provides.

Please continue to fund the Office of Latino Affairs at the level proposed by Mayor Bowser.

PRESENTACION DELANTE EL

BUDGET OVERSIGHT HEARING OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

May 6, 2015

Testimony of Carlos Castillo

Buenos Dias. Mi nombre es Carlos Castillo. Soy el Presidente de Trabajadores Unidos de Washington DC. Somos una organizacion sin fines de lucro que trabaja con los jornaleros y trabajadores de bajos recursos en la comunidad de Washington. Tratamos de educar y organizar los jornaleros que paren en el sitio de Home Depot y la calle Mt. Pleasant en busca de trabajos diariamente. Parte de nuestro trabajo es luchar contra las injusticias que le ocurre a los jornaleros y a muchos de los trabajadores que residen en Washington DC. Por ejemplo estamos contra el robo de pago que occure cuando un empleador o contratista no paga lo que se debe al trabajador.

Estoy aqui hoy para hablar sobre el papel que juega la Oficina de Asuntos Latinos (OLA) en la vida diaria de todos los jornaleros y trabajadores del Distrito. Si no fuera por OLA nosotros, los trabajadores y jornaleros, no tendriamos asistencia de otro lado. Muchos de nosotros hemos vivido en Washington por mas que 10 años. La vida que llevamos es muy precaria y siempre estamos en busca de una vida mejor y un trabajo estable. Nosotros trabajamos diariamente en trabajos de construccion, limpieza de oficina, y en los restaurantes de nuestra

ciudad. Somos un grupo de inmigrantes que ayuda a mantener la economia de esta ciudad. El programa de OLA nos provee talleres de educacion y informacion de como navigar el sistema de esta ciudad.

La oficina de Asuntos Latinos (OLA) es un recurso vital para mejorar la calidad de vida de la población Latina del Distrito de Columbia. Yo personalmente he aprendido de como funciona las practicas gubernamentales y por eso tengo un compromiso civico con el desarrollo de nuestra comunidad. Por ejemplo, he participado activamente en el proceso de educar al publico sobre el nuevo programa de licencias para conducir para los inmigrantes de Washington.

La oficina de Asuntos Latinos (OLA) precisa un presupuesto adecuado para llevar adelante sus programas que ayudan a organizaciones como la nuestra y promueve la participacion de todos nosotros, los inmigrantes latinos, en los programas de nuestra ciudad. Les pido a todos Ustedes que mantengan el presupuesto de OLA a niveles que la Alcadesa ha propuesta para OLA.

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
Dionne Burkett
Director
District of Columbia Youth Advisory Council

Before the

Committee on *Housing and Community Development*

Council of the District of Columbia

May 6, 2015
Room *500*
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

"Good morning Chairwoman Anita Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am Dionne Burkett the Director of D.C. Youth Advisory Council. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, entitled "Pathways to the Middle Class". As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all 8 Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bower's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission will ensure that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end gave us a much better budget as a result and we will continue that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability—including these hearings led by the Council—to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year.

The mission of DCYAC is to provide an organized youth perspective to the Mayor, City Council, District of Columbia public schools, key officials and decision makers in the District of

Columbia regarding various issues faced by our youth. *As the Director of the D.C. Youth Advisory Council, I have five priorities for 2016 that will help us to complete our mission:*

- To increase agency awareness,
- To building strategic partnerships and collaborations with other local, national and international youth councils,
- To continue fostering and building partnerships between DCYAC and other DC youth agencies,
- To implement suggestions from the Youth council by developing legislation, and
- To create a Youth Leadership Development Program

Our goal is to implement a Youth Ambassador/Leadership Development program, which will promote increased civic engagement in their community. We will actively recruit high school students between the ages of 15 - 18 from all eight wards, ensuring that both the LGBTQ community and communities of color are well represented. Our goal is to empower them to be active and effective community leaders that engage their community through conflict resolution, social advocacy and building coalitions to uplift their schools and neighborhoods. We can achieve these goals by providing our participants an opportunity to develop their leadership skills by focusing on strengthening communities to be safe, healthy and sustainable for the youth of the District of Columbia. The Youth Ambassadors will be responsible for outreach, engagement and activism. This new initiative will increase DCYAC brand awareness, visibility, and give the agency a fresh start by having bigger youth imprint in the community.

Additionally, we are building strategic partnerships on the national level with organizations such as the Miami-Dade County Youth Commission and the Denver Centennial Youth Commission. As a result of our interactions with them, The Miami-Dade County Youth Commission is coming to visit us in June to discuss best practices.

We hope to accomplish these priorities by continuing to develop partnerships with other D.C. youth serving agencies and organizations. We are in the planning stages for a partnership with the Department of Employment Services (DOES) that will create opportunities for training, development and leadership skills. In addition to education, these skills are necessary for youth to understand the importance of economic independence that will help to lead them to the pathway of the middle class.

In September, we plan to select a new Youth Council who will be required to meet with the Youth Ambassadors to identify issues that are effecting the youth. The Youth Council and the Youth Ambassadors will work together to research one youth issue that they wish to propose for legislation.

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

During the Performance Hearing we discussed teen racial discrimination and the relationship between D.C. youth and the Metropolitan Police Department. We are going to address these concerns by hosting a Youth Summit in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police

Department, U.S. Attorney's Office and the East of the River Family Strengthening Collaborative. We intend to discuss the current local and national issues and share more information about interaction with law enforcement agencies. Due to the recent situation that occurred in Baltimore, we feel the need to start the dialogue that will break down stereotypes and foster a positive relationship between youth and law enforcement. In 2016, DCYAC will continue to address these efforts by implementing quarterly meetings with youth and MPD.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget will be critical in achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you Chairwoman Anita Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.

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