

**Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES
NOTICE OF JOINT PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004**

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY**

**COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION**

AND

**COUNCILMEMBER BRIANNE K. NADEAU, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

ANNOUNCE A JOINT PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE ON

**EXAMINING THE DISTRICT’S LEGISLATIVE PROHIBITION ON EVICTIONS
DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**Thursday, February 4, 2021, 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Virtual Roundtable via Zoom**

To Watch Live: <https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen>

On Thursday, February 4, 2021, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, Councilmember Anita Bonds, Chairperson of the Committee on Housing and Executive Administration, and Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau, Chairperson of the Committee on Human Services, will convene a joint public oversight roundtable on “Examining the District’s Legislative Prohibition on Evictions During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” The roundtable will be held virtually via the Zoom platform from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. *Testimony at the Committees’ roundtable will be limited to invited witnesses only.*

On March 11, 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser declared a public health emergency due to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. To forestall the potential for mass evictions of the tens of thousands of District residents who had recently lost work due to mandatory closures of businesses, which could have exacerbated the public health emergency, the Council has adopted several iterations of moratoria on evictions during the public health emergency.

On March 17, 2020, the Council passed the COVID-19 Response Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, enacted on March 17, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-247, 67 DCR 3093), section 308 of which included a prohibition on evictions during a public health emergency. On May 5, 2020, the Council passed the Coronavirus Omnibus Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, enacted on May 13, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-317, 67 DCR 5235), section 10 of which clarified that the moratorium on evictions included a prohibition on filing a complaint seeking an eviction during a public health emergency, and that the prohibition on filing extended for 60 days following the public health emergency. These eviction moratoria were included in later versions of emergency and temporary legislation that are still in effect today, intended to protect District residents from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, in particular by reducing the spread of the virus. Additionally, on September 22, 2020, the Council passed a standalone measure, the Eviction Notice Moratorium Emergency Amendment Act of 2020, enacted on October 14, 2020 (D.C. Act 23-415, 67 DCR 12243), that further amended the existing evictions moratoria by clarifying that housing providers are prohibited from issuing a notice to vacate to a tenant or otherwise attempting to force a tenant to leave their housing.

These eviction moratoria mirrored similar measures enacted in other jurisdictions across the country. The federal government also issued guidance from the Centers on Disease Control and Prevention halting evictions nationwide. The District, along with the federal government and other jurisdictions, all recognized at the time that massive job losses would put thousands of residents at risk of losing their housing, and if those residents were without stable housing, the District would risk increased spread of the virus.

The purpose of the Committees' roundtable will be to examine whether and to what extent the harms that the Council intended the evictions moratoria legislation to address have been prevented. The Council sought, with each of the measures adopted, to protect District residents from additional spread of the COVID-19 virus by keeping as many District residents as possible in stable housing. After nearly one year of living through the pandemic, the Committees will discuss to what extent the Council was successful in averting infections and deaths.

As noted above, testimony at the Committees' roundtable will be limited to invited witnesses only. Additional witnesses may provide written statements to the Committees, which will be made part of the official record. Witnesses at the roundtable should limit their oral testimony to 4 minutes. The Committees encourage witnesses to submit copies of any written testimony electronically in advance, but in any event, no later than the close of business on Thursday, February 4, 2021, to Chris Laskowski at claskowski@dccouncil.us.

Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation are requested to inform the Committees as soon as possible by emailing claskowski@dccouncil.us. The Committees will make every effort to fulfill timely requests.