

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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"2016-2020 FIVE YEAR CONSOLIDATED PLAN
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA" AND THE
"2016 PROPOSED CITIZEN PARTICIPATION PLAN"

NEEDS ASSESSMENT HEARING

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THURSDAY
AUGUST 13, 2015

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The Needs Assessment Hearing convened on the 1st Floor of the Housing Resource Center, located at 1800 Martin Luther King Avenue, SE, Washington, DC at 6:00 p.m., Polly Donaldson, Director, presiding.

PRESENT

POLLY DONALDSON, Director
ALLISON LADD, Chief of Staff
VONDA ORDERS, Chief Program Officer
JENNIFER SKOW, Resource Management Specialist

1 P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

2 (6:12 p.m.)

3 MS. LADD: Thank you for coming
4 tonight. My name is Allison Ladd and I'm the
5 Chief of Staff here at the Department of Housing
6 and Community Development. Our Director, Polly
7 Donaldson will be here shortly. She's in a
8 meeting with the Mayor, but she is on her way to
9 the hearing. So I expect her here in about five
10 to ten minutes.

11 So I wanted to welcome you here to the
12 Housing Resource Center for DHCD's first public
13 hearing on the development of our consolidated
14 plan. The consolidated plan is a five year
15 vision for local programming and spending for
16 four federal grant programs, the Community
17 Development Block Grant, Home Investment
18 Partnership, the HOME Program, Emergency
19 Solutions Grant, and Housing Opportunities for
20 Persons with AIDS, the HOPWA Program.

21 As a steward of the federal resources,
22 the Department of Housing is charged with

1 developing a policy strategy for how we spend
2 these resources every five years. For the
3 Director and for me, this plan will not only be a
4 federal requirement but it will map for DHCD's
5 work ahead, promoting the administration's
6 comprehensive vision for an affordable living,
7 growing D.C.

8 In order for us to create this guiding
9 document, our process requires extensive data
10 collection and analysis to paint a picture about
11 market trends. It also requires community
12 engagement, to hear your stories and testimony
13 about how you think we should spend our federal
14 resources.

15 We want the plan to be an accurate
16 representation of the city's needs, and your
17 voice will serve as the basis for our policy
18 goals and decision making.

19 This has really been a time for our
20 Director, Polly Donaldson to, as she's embarked
21 into her tenure here at the Department of Housing
22 to really take another view at how this

1 department is utilizing both local and federal
2 resources.

3 The process that we're talking about,
4 I'll relate it to the consolidated plan, is a
5 critical component for how the Department is
6 going to be actually utilizing the funds going
7 forward.

8 So tonight is a very important part of
9 the process. We're glad you're here. And I'm
10 going to turn it over to Jennifer Skow, who is
11 serving as our coordinator and lead preparing
12 this consolidated plan.

13 MS. SKOW: Hi, my name is Jennifer
14 Skow. I'm the Resource Management Specialist
15 working on the fiscal year 2016 through 2020
16 consolidated plan for DHCD. I want to take a
17 moment to briefly describe the four federal
18 resources available as well as an overview of our
19 process going forward.

20 The first resource, the Community
21 Development Block Grant, CBDG program, that's
22 where funds are available for local activities

1 that revitalize neighborhoods, promote economic
2 development and improve community facilities,
3 infrastructure, and services in low to moderate
4 income communities.

5 CBDG funds are our most flexible
6 federal resource and can be used for both housing
7 projects as well as non-housing community
8 development activities.

9 Second resource, the Home Investment
10 Partnerships, HOME program supports building,
11 buying and/or rehabilitating affordable housing
12 for rent or home ownership or providing direct
13 rental assistance to low income residents.

14 The third resource, the Emergency
15 Solutions Grant or ESG program provides funding
16 for programs and services supporting homeless
17 individuals and families.

18 And the final resource, Housing
19 Opportunities for Persons with AIDS, HOPWA
20 program makes grants to local communities,
21 states, non-profit organizations for projects
22 that benefit low income persons living with

1 HIV/AIDS and their family.

2 Now I would like to spend a couple of
3 minutes discussing the process. The informal
4 ward-by-ward check-ins, which drew hundreds of
5 community members over the last few months,
6 provided a strong foundation for community
7 dialogue with DHCD.

8 But tonight's and next week's Needs
9 Assessment Hearings are your first two
10 opportunities in a series of formal community
11 meetings to testify about your community's needs
12 for inclusion into the fiscal year 2016 to 2020
13 consolidated plan before DHCD begins drafting the
14 document and policy priorities.

15 For community members who wish to view
16 our consolidated plan for fiscal years 2011 to
17 2015, we have printed three hard copies located
18 at the sign in table. And it's also available on
19 DHCD's website for your review.

20 We've made some amendments to our
21 Citizen Participation Plan as well. That's a
22 document that informs how DHCD will engage with

1 the public throughout the consolidated planning
2 process.

3 Before adopting this plan, DHCD has
4 made this document available on our website and
5 in hard copy at the sign in table for public
6 commenting. And you guys will have until
7 September 12th to provide any feedback to DHCD
8 about how we will engage with residents during
9 this consolidated planning process and how the
10 community can play a part in shaping priorities.

11 Moving on to today's hearing, for
12 residents and organizations who do not wish to
13 speak tonight or are not in attendance but would
14 like to submit testimony, they can submit written
15 comment for the record.

16 We've already received quite a few
17 testimonies already. These emails, I'm sorry,
18 these individuals can do so by mail or email by
19 the close of business Friday, August 21st, 2015.
20 Written statements should be mailed to our
21 offices to Director Polly Donaldson with Five
22 Year Consolidated Plan Comments in the subject

1 line.

2 Residents may also email comments.
3 And please direct those electronic testimony to
4 DHCD.events@DC.gov with a subject line Five Year
5 Consolidated Plan Comments. All of this
6 information is printed on a handout that you
7 could have received at the sign in table.

8 At this moment I would like to
9 transition back to Chief of Staff Allison Ladd to
10 begin the hearing. And I just want to thank you
11 all for joining us tonight. I look forward to
12 hearing your contributions this evening and in
13 the months ahead.

14 MS. LADD: Wonderful. Thanks,
15 Jennifer. As we get started, what I would like
16 you to know is that we have a number of our
17 Department of Housing's managers and leaders here
18 in the room.

19 So you're not only talking to the
20 Director when she arrives and other members,
21 you're also speaking to the members of the
22 leadership here in the Department so that we're

1 all working together to shape the plan. And so
2 we wanted to ensure that people are here so that
3 you can, they can hear the comments as well.

4 Oh, and we also have, we welcome our
5 federal funders from HUD who are here. Thank you
6 for coming. They just walked in. And it's
7 always good to have HUD here at the Department.
8 So welcome.

9 Let's see. If I could, could the DHCD
10 team members stand. And then while they're
11 standing I'll introduce Vonda Orders who is our
12 Chief Program Officer. And she is responsible
13 for many of our funding sources related to this
14 consolidated plan.

15 So you can see from the people
16 standing in the room we have managers, we have
17 leaders, we have visionaries in this Department
18 that are looking from a compliance standpoint,
19 from a development standpoint, from a regulatory,
20 home ownership. And we're really trying to
21 figure out how to be inclusive and really build
22 equitable communities in the city.

1 So I just wanted to give everybody
2 who's in the room a sense as to who our members
3 are on the DHCD team. Thank you.

4 How the hearing is going to go is that
5 we are going to allow for five minutes. If there
6 is a period of time in which a witness would like
7 to speak a little longer, given the number of
8 witnesses which we currently have is six, we'll
9 be happy to entertain probably a little bit
10 longer of a conversation.

11 I will say if you would like to
12 testify and you haven't signed up already, please
13 sign up at the registration table. Yes, please
14 sign up at the registration table and we'll
15 ensure that there's time.

16 And at the end, as we finish the
17 witnesses that have already signed up, we'll ask
18 if there's any other representatives who would
19 like to testify.

20 So with that, we'll go to our witness
21 list. The first witness is Jim Edmonson who is
22 with E&G Group. Jim, would you like to come to

1 the table? There's a microphone there. If we
2 could ask for your indulgence with using the
3 microphone because we are transcribing tonight's
4 hearing. Thank you.

5 MR. EDMONSON: Am I being heard? I
6 am, I can tell. My name is Jim Edmonson. I'm a
7 partner of E&G which is an active affordable
8 housing developer in the D.C. area and especially
9 in Washington.

10 We have multiple large low income
11 housing tax credit projects in D.C. and another
12 new project under construction near the Rhode
13 Island Avenue Metro stop. We will apply for
14 Housing Production Trust Fund and other monies in
15 the current NOFA as we do in most years.

16 I would like to touch on only six
17 points, all of which significantly impact our
18 work in producing affordable housing. Using HUD
19 funds we think should be consistent with the use
20 of Housing Production Trust Fund, the amount of
21 which is much larger in D.C. than the actual
22 amount of HUD funds. We think that using HPTF

1 funds wisely and well should help D.C. meet its
2 obligations for the use of HUD funds, too.

3 First, I provided in the handout that
4 I've given you a brief summary of demographic
5 information from the Center for Regional Analysis
6 at George Mason University. I'm sure you've seen
7 it, affordable housing is in short supply all
8 over the Metro area, and the needs keep growing.
9 Helping to create new, affordable units is an
10 economic development issue as well as a human
11 needs issue.

12 Second, we greatly appreciate the
13 Mayor's and the Council's enthusiastic support
14 for affordable housing. Your HPTF program and
15 funding are the best model for such activity in
16 the entire D.C. area.

17 Several of the E&G properties are in
18 neighborhoods that would easily find market rate
19 tenants to displace long time residents if such
20 affordable housing funding were not available.
21 Others are in areas that are gentrifying rapidly.
22 We encourage you to prioritize projects in those

1 areas, especially near Metro stops, and of course
2 consistent with HUD and D.C. rules.

3 Third, we hope that much of the \$100
4 million of funding for affordable housing for
5 this year that the Mayor has proposed will be
6 used to supply what we call gap financing for tax
7 credit deals. In most such transactions, bonds
8 with four percent credits and allocated through
9 DCHFA cannot finance the entire transaction.

10 Soft loans, as you know, provide the
11 gap funds so that the projects become feasible.
12 There is an adequate supply of these four percent
13 credits, but never enough for soft funds. And I
14 should note that it is not often that people in
15 my business can say with a straight face that
16 there is enough of anything.

17 Fourth, you will note in the summary
18 of the GMU data that the elderly population is
19 growing fast. Do not forget to prioritize
20 affordable housing for the elderly in the QAP.

21 Fifth, as everyone knows, special
22 needs housing is always in short supply. We

1 provide a lot of it. We appreciate the linking
2 of capital funds and the funds for special needs
3 services in the NOFA.

4 The Agencies responsible for the funds
5 do not yet coordinate well with DHCD. We're
6 experiencing that firsthand now. It is DHCD
7 which is supposed to disburse these capital
8 funds. Please address this. It's important for
9 us in the immediate future.

10 Finally, we know that the City
11 officials embrace the idea of putting affordable
12 units through the IZ and other processes in very
13 expensive buildings in prime locations. For the
14 lucky few residents who are able to rent a \$2,500
15 apartment in a city center building and pay only
16 \$1,100 dollars it's like winning the lottery.

17 Is that smart public policy? In a
18 way, yes. But the alternative could be
19 permitting an owner to assign his responsibility
20 for some deeply discounted rental or for sale
21 units to an affordable housing developer along
22 with a large cash payment that would, in effect,

1 supplement the HPTF, extending the necessary
2 resource.

3 We would get a lot more units built
4 that way to meet the growing needs. And I'm not
5 talking about taking units from M Street and
6 putting them on Suitland Parkway.

7 If we didn't need to stretch our
8 resources to meet the shortage of affordable
9 housing, doing fully mixed income projects would
10 make perfect sense.

11 Again, we thank you for your personal
12 and collective commitment to providing affordable
13 housing and using all these funds wisely.

14 Thanks.

15 MS. LADD: Thank you. Stan Jackson?
16 I don't see Stan. Next we have Anabell Martinez.
17 Anabell is the Housing Director for Central
18 American Resource Center, CARECEN.

19 MS. MARTINEZ: Good afternoon, members
20 of the Committee. My name is Anabell Martinez
21 and I am the current Housing Director of CARECEN,
22 Central American Resource Center. Today I want

1 to share CARECEN experience as CDBG grantee
2 partner of DHCD and the impact within low income
3 communities.

4 CARECEN has been supporting and
5 advocating on behalf of Latino community in D.C.
6 for 34 years. We had received the unparalleled
7 support of DHCD since 2000. The mission of
8 CARECEN housing community program is to secure
9 safe and affordable housing for low and moderate
10 income Latino families in D.C. by informing
11 tenant and homeowner of their rights,
12 facilitating access to low income resource,
13 helping them continue improve living condition in
14 their home, preserve home ownership and promote
15 financial education within the Latino community.

16 To do our work, we promote vigorous
17 and diverse neighborhood. Good housing program
18 meets its goals thanks to DHCD grant. With this
19 grant, CARECEN can provide counseling in the
20 area of rental, foreclosure prevention, financial
21 literacy and credit counseling, organize tenant's
22 association and engage in education and advocacy

1 on behalf of tenants and their association.

2 Every day CARECEN counselor hear
3 horrific stories from people facing serious
4 housing issues. There are tenant who can't
5 afford to pay the skyrocketing rent in newly
6 gentrified neighborhood and risk being displaced
7 from their community and neighborhood where their
8 children go to school.

9 Families living in units contaminated
10 with lead and infested with bed bugs or rodent
11 and family who are at risk for losing their home
12 to foreclosure. This is where we step in to
13 ensure this and other very serious housing issue
14 are addressed and resolved appropriately.

15 So therefore, DHCD is critical to
16 ensuring these basic rights and helping to
17 provide tenants with a tool and resource to
18 organize, become empowered tenant association and
19 ultimately create new leaders in our community.

20 CARECEN provide counseling to family
21 with mortgage problem or are facing foreclosure
22 in the District of Columbia. Ms. Anna Munoz and

1 her husband, Ricardo Madeira, are one of them.
2 Munoz and Madeira, who are battling with two
3 children, have income reduction. They well
4 behind on their first lien; on their second lien
5 which was with H. Papillion (phonetic), and they
6 go on to their fifth.

7 They came to CARECEN to request
8 foreclosure prevention. CARECEN helping them
9 fill out all the required documentation and
10 submit it to their lenders. CARECEN counselor is
11 working with them on their budget and finance and
12 help them negotiate.

13 With quality counseling and
14 negotiation, they set up a master plan with their
15 condo fees, set up a payment plan with H.
16 Papillion (phonetic) and receive a loan
17 modification that will remain on their first
18 lien.

19 They were so happy to obtain immediate
20 assistance and bring their mortgage payment
21 current. It also helped them to bring their
22 condo fees and H. Papillion (phonetic) current as

1 well.

2 Thanks to the partnership and funds
3 from DHCD our community members can live with
4 dignity, preserve the home they are working hard
5 to keep and raise their children in a safe place.

6 We ask you today to make affordable
7 housing a priority and realize that long term
8 impact that the ACD program has to the city.
9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

10 MS. LADD: Thank you. Ms. Martinez?
11 May we have a hard copy of your testimony? May
12 we have one, or you gave one? Thank you very
13 much. Next we have Gretta Fuller. Gretta
14 Fuller? Yes? Oh, very fine.

15 MS. SKOW: She will submit Friday,
16 August 21st.

17 MS. LADD: We have the next witness is
18 Dobromir --

19 (Off microphone comment)

20 MS. LADD: Dobromir? Thank you. For
21 the record, would you tell me again when you have
22 a seat with the microphone? And I apologize.

1 MR. VASSILEV: It's not uncommon.

2 MS. LADD: Thank you for that, too.

3 MR. VASSILEV: Good afternoon, good
4 evening rather. My name is Dobromir Vassilev and
5 I'm here as a D.C. resident and taxpayer. I am a
6 resident of Anacostia and DHCD is my neighbor. I
7 live across the corner.

8 And I would like to testify regarding
9 the 2016 2020 consolidated plan. Here are my
10 ideas, recommendations, and concerns for select
11 start with the Community Development Block Grant.

12 I would like to see this agency
13 involved more in revitalization of abandoned
14 buildings in historic Anacostia. They stay
15 abandoned. They attract crime and illegal
16 activities. They do not attract neighbors and
17 new home buyers, and it's not something that you
18 would like to have next to you or close to you.

19 Currently, DHCD owns houses in our
20 neighborhood that gets worse and worse. They're
21 abandoned, we don't see any progress on that.
22 They just get just worse and worse, and some of

1 them historic. And they may get lost for the
2 future generations.

3 Organizations like L'Enfant Trust are
4 willing to help, and this will cost close to
5 nothing to the taxpayers. For instance, the
6 beautiful building of 2020 Maplevue Southeast is
7 a great example of building falling apart. This
8 agency is still holding it, as one of the many.

9 L'Enfant Trust has approached the
10 agency many times and willing to take over,
11 restore it to the full historical glory, put it
12 on the market. And we haven't heard anything
13 back from this agency.

14 This stabilized community in a passive
15 way, makes it more desirable. People would like
16 to move here, spend time outside, being outside,
17 hang out at their neighbors.

18 Also, I think that DHCD shouldn't hold
19 properties in this neighborhood. Maybe it has
20 really good intentions but it doesn't work out.
21 BK is a good example. What this agency did,
22 spending our taxpayer's money, all I think it

1 did, make the whole neighborhood angry and it's
2 stuck in the middle of nowhere.

3 So just let the market does what the
4 market does the best. I see that you have a
5 request for proposal for the buildings across the
6 street. But just put them on the market and find
7 a faster way. This is better for the community
8 and it costs close to nothing.

9 Also, I think to help this community
10 it will be good if you subsidize a farmer's
11 market that attracts traffic, also gives more
12 healthy choices. And everybody talks about art
13 in Anacostia and I see a lot of artists that have
14 nothing to do in Anacostia.

15 If you support artists, please support
16 local artists who engage with the community, not
17 people that come and go. Don't rent your
18 properties to project like 5x5 last year that
19 make all of us angry with all the trash. It's
20 not like there was no trash around.

21 Around the home section and building
22 affordable housing, I would like to ask this

1 agency to completely comply with the June 25th,
2 2015 Supreme Court ruling on interpretation of
3 the Affordable Housing Act of 1968 which pretty
4 much says do not concentrate poverty, which has
5 been happening.

6 It's been happening for 30 years. And
7 there is so many studies that I know about it and
8 I do not work over here. It should be, people
9 should be familiar with them, or if they're
10 familiar which I believe they are, I wonder why
11 they keep doing it.

12 I also think that this agency should
13 work towards removing the stigma of affordable
14 housing. We have a lot of affordable housing
15 here. I think all other wards should have
16 affordable housing, there is nothing wrong.

17 Two quotes from the Center of Housing
18 Policy Research, and there are many, many
19 researchers. Affordable housing does not have a
20 negative impact on a neighborhood if it's placed
21 in established neighborhoods, which is not the
22 case over here.

1 It's not going to do anything wrong.
2 It's in our neighborhood. I don't see any
3 problems with 14th and U Northwest, and there was
4 a big project over there. You know, everybody
5 feels safe.

6 Across the bridge there is still
7 developments going pretty well. Close to the
8 affordable housing called 13th Street, right
9 across 11th Street you make a right. Affordable
10 housing should be concentrated on a rehab of
11 vacant properties.

12 So you don't build more and you remove
13 something ugly from the street and the
14 neighborhood. Design and maintenance of
15 affordable housing should be good. It shouldn't
16 look something that oh, it's affordable housing.

17 It should be inspirational, and that
18 doesn't happen all the time. It just looks like
19 check. And also the maintenance. You can build
20 as much affordable housing, if it's not
21 maintained it will turn into a ghetto, and it's a
22 waste of our money.

1 And also I would like to see a vision
2 for the future. Everybody's saying oh, let's
3 build affordable housing where it's cheap. And I
4 understand that, we cannot build it on M Street,
5 you cannot build it in the City center, you
6 cannot build it in Georgetown.

7 I don't see a vision how much it will
8 cost us in the long run, how much it will cost us
9 for extra police presence, for extra community
10 services, for extra education, for I don't want
11 to say lost lives but, you know, lives that are
12 taken for the full advantage of. I don't see
13 anything about it.

14 And my last recommendation is this
15 Agency not to concentrate on the housing but to
16 concentrate on the community development also.
17 Thank you.

18 MS. LADD: Thank you very much.
19 Appreciate your testimony. Director Donaldson
20 has arrived. Welcome the Director. Our next
21 witness is Charles Wilson, the Historic Anacostia
22 Block Association.

1 MR. WILSON: Good evening, everyone.
2 How are you guys doing today, or this evening? I
3 didn't have a chance to print out my testimony,
4 so bear with me, I'm going to read it from my
5 computer.

6 Dear DHCD, my name is Charles Wilson.
7 I am a resident of Historic Anacostia. I am
8 currently the Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner
9 for 8A05 and the President of the Historic
10 Anacostia Block Association, also known as HABA.

11 We are the civic association for the
12 Historic Anacostia neighborhood. HABA's goal as
13 an organization is to keep our neighbors informed
14 and involved in the happenings in and around our
15 community.

16 Below is our testimony regarding the
17 performance of the Department of Housing and
18 Community Development and our request for better
19 coordination and support for initiatives that are
20 important to the Historic Anacostia community.

21 Number one, the need for additional
22 focus and support for vacant and abandoned

1 properties. Concerns about vacant properties in
2 Historic Anacostia are well known and have been
3 voiced by the residents to the officials of DHCD
4 for years.

5 There has been little attention or
6 focus paid to vacant properties in our community.
7 One only has to walk through Historic Anacostia
8 to recognize there is a real need for DHCD to
9 rehab the properties in the Agency's inventory.

10 The properties should be rehabbed and
11 put into productive use not just for economic
12 reasons, but also because of real safety
13 concerns. Such efforts could and should include
14 support for public/private partnerships that
15 focus on the revitalization of our community.

16 Representatives from the L'Enfant
17 Trust recently visited our community to tout the
18 rehab efforts. Organizations willing to provide
19 financial support for key initiatives should be
20 fully supported and DHCD should be coordinating
21 with such organizations to restore and revitalize
22 historic properties where the rehab costs make it

1 privately not possible.

2 I've been living in the neighborhood
3 now for nine years. I live on the 1600 block of
4 U Street. There is a property owned by DHCD
5 directly across the street from where I live.

6 I spoke to some of the long term
7 neighbors and I asked them how long has that
8 property been vacant, and they told me upwards of
9 25 years. And nothing has been done.

10 I do recall, I want to say five or six
11 years ago I guess DHCD put out an RFP and a
12 contractor was looking at the house, came and
13 looked through it and said that he was given the
14 property to rehab. I don't know if that's true,
15 but eventually he walked away from it because he
16 said it was going to cost him too much to rehab
17 the historic property.

18 I've gotten phone calls from neighbors
19 in my single member district that complain
20 constantly and ask me what is happening with
21 these properties. And I can't give them a solid
22 answer. So we really do need a plan from the

1 Agency on how we address this issue.

2 As I stated in my testimony, not just
3 for economic reasons, not just to put in a new
4 homeowner, but these vacant properties, they
5 invite all kind of negative activity in our
6 neighborhood from rodents to loitering.

7 And it's even a danger because, you
8 know, if you guys remember the property across
9 the street, again I've been here nine years. And
10 that property, no one touched it for nine years.
11 And all of a sudden, you know, the weather took
12 its toll and it fell.

13 You know, there are houses out there
14 that are open to the elements. You know,
15 something could happen and we want to prevent
16 that before it gets to that point.

17 Second on my testimony, we need to
18 include the Big K project into the Mayor's RFP,
19 our RFP program. The Big K solicitation process
20 left a very bad taste in the neighborhood
21 residents who had a vision for their community.

22 We participated in several planning

1 meetings regarding this site since the Fenty
2 administration. The fact that DHCD simply
3 ignored the community's vision and concern is
4 unjustifiable. The original RFP for the Big K
5 project took into consideration and ultimately
6 incorporated the wishes of the community as they
7 were articulated in the joint Government
8 community focus group called the Big K focus
9 group.

10 The original RFP called for no
11 residential housing and a renovation of the
12 historic properties. The current proposal
13 ignores these suggestions.

14 We're asking that the Agency pull back
15 the RFP and allow residents, Government
16 officials, and developers to participate in the
17 RFP process initiated by Mayor Bowser.

18 I actually was one of the participants
19 in the focus group, and believe it or not we
20 actually sat around the table where you guys are
21 sitting now. I remember the project manager was
22 Martine Combal who is now with DMPED.

1 She did a very, very good job of being
2 open and honest about the process. Later on,
3 Darnetta Tyus joined her as, I guess, a co-
4 project manager and they were awesome.

5 And all of a sudden Martine gets
6 promoted. She does such a good job she gets
7 promoted, Darnetta gets reassigned to another
8 division. And all of a sudden it's radio
9 silence.

10 We asked questions, nobody answers.
11 Then all of a sudden we're presented with a new
12 idea that the community had no participation in.
13 It was, I sit on the Historic Preservation Review
14 Board. We as a Board, and I'm not speaking as a
15 Board, I'm speaking for myself, did not agree
16 with what was put in front of us.

17 The whole Mayor's agent process I
18 questioned. And I won't go into any more detail
19 than that but if we really want to make this
20 neighborhood a special place and not just another
21 neighborhood, I really think the Agency and the
22 Mayor's office should really take a concerted

1 effort and take a second look at this project to
2 make sure that it not just meets the Government's
3 needs but the community's needs as well.

4 So in closing, there is a strong level
5 of frustration felt by the community about the
6 lack of action and attention paid on the items
7 that have significant impact in our community.

8 Over the years we have lost many
9 historic buildings in and around our neighborhood
10 due to the lack of care and attention from the
11 District Government and absentee property owners.

12 It is our hope that continued support
13 for all these efforts noted above will help us
14 guide future development in our neighborhood that
15 is vibrant and complimentary.

16 If we choose to do nothing, we will
17 all look back one day and regret that we missed
18 an opportunity to get in front of an issue before
19 the economic revival of our neighborhood really
20 takes hold. Thank you for your time.

21 MS. LADD: This concludes the list of
22 witnesses that have signed up before the hearing

1 started this evening. Are there any other
2 members or representatives that are here that
3 would like to testify this evening? Okay. May I
4 ask for Camille Bourguignon?

5 MR. BOURGUIGNON: Hi, good evening.
6 My name is Camille Bourguignon. I'm also a
7 resident of Historic Anacostia, a member of HAPS,
8 Historic Anacostia Preservation Society. But
9 first I want to say that I fully agree with the
10 testimony I heard from my neighbors, Charles and
11 Dobromir. I think we think the same thing and
12 many of other resident who couldn't come tonight
13 think the same.

14 I think most of us in those streets
15 have just one property DHCD owned and it is blank
16 or vacant. I think it's very frustrating for us
17 to see no movement at all on these properties.

18 If I could, you know, I mean, some of
19 them are not in that very bad shape. Some are
20 but some other, you know, is just waiting for
21 DHCD to give the opportunity to someone to work
22 on them. So it's definitely, there is a

1 political bureaucracy here.

2 And I don't think it's acceptable that
3 residents are being affected by that. I think
4 it's we should be able to, and this is I think
5 one of the clear things we would like to see is
6 in Historic Anacostia and around I think DHCD
7 already has a list of properties available for
8 disposal.

9 I don't know if it's been updated or
10 not but it should be updated. If it's not, and
11 for each of them we should have a clear plan of
12 what DHCD intends to do with deadlines and key
13 objectives and things DHCD should be accountable
14 so that if it doesn't happen by a certain time,
15 we're going to come and ask for it.

16 Too often the way it's happening is we
17 complain, we always are being looking at people
18 who just complain and we spend significant amount
19 of time doing that. And then we get a bit of
20 attention and then it just doesn't, nothing
21 happens.

22 I mean, I don't know, there is

1 probably around 20 properties DHCD owns around
2 here, or maybe more. Some of them it's just like
3 nothing is happening. And those are actually,
4 properties, I mean, they're residential but also
5 commercial properties, they're essential for the
6 economic development of the area.

7 I mean, you go along Good Hope and
8 MLK, I mean DHCD is holding the development of
9 the area because, you know, you've got maybe
10 what, six-seven commercial properties and they
11 just sitting there. Nothing is happening.

12 So I think it's, you know, we would
13 like DHCD to take advantages of this opportunity
14 of this strategy, you know, thinking to really
15 reflect that in the document. And we would like
16 to see some commitment so that maybe what we
17 would call a better management of the properties
18 DHCD owns.

19 And again I think we've got now some
20 good example. I mean, we've got bad and good
21 experience of developers here, a good experience
22 with L'Enfant Trust. I've seen you will always

1 hear from the residents that we're very happy
2 with what they are doing.

3 I think the fact that they are non-
4 profit allows them to not expect them making any
5 profit so it's, which is sometime what you need
6 for certain of certain properties like that. So
7 I think I would like to see more, like, DHCD
8 encourage this type of initiative and recognize
9 like that, you know, the historic character of
10 the area is essential.

11 By contrast, what we're seeing here is
12 the only project that is moving forward is a
13 project what we call the Big K and is a total
14 disregard of the identity of the neighborhood,
15 about the how it was the community put to think
16 something for what in the end.

17 We don't know what's happening. There
18 are two things, figures like okay, it's going to
19 be 100 more affordable housing units. Okay. And
20 also the other thing what's actually driving
21 everything is profit. Is because it's a very
22 profitable project for the developer and he will

1 do whatever he can to push it through.

2 So I think, you know, DHCD in that
3 case, and since it's about community
4 participation, I think often seems to be on the
5 side of the developer. As far as I'm concerned,
6 I will reach the impressions that DHCD picked a
7 side and I don't think it is normal. We should
8 not feel that DHCD is on the side of the
9 developer. You know, you should be one.

10 So when we reach out, I'm sure DHCD
11 has a lot of interaction with the developer. But
12 as far as you're concerned, it's always if you go
13 to hear from DHCD. So I think on that it's just
14 typical what you've heard and we would like to
15 see that reflected again.

16 And another aspect I think it's,
17 because we talk about affordable housing and I
18 feel it make us look bad, because always it looks
19 like we're against affordable housing which is,
20 you know, I'm not at all against. And I think
21 it's very important that we have a good shelf of
22 affordable housing as the area develop.

1 You know, it's essential. People who
2 live here, they live with economic diversity.
3 And I think we want to keep that with the
4 neighborhood. But we don't want to become the
5 valve for the other area of the city.

6 And it's very frustrating to see that
7 why the Big K which was for all the community,
8 had great expectation in terms of economic
9 development is becoming just an affordable
10 housing side.

11 The City with a property it owns in
12 Mount Vernon decided to allow developers to put a
13 hotel there and just to do affordable housing
14 here. I mean, I think there is a problem here in
15 the way the City plans the localization of
16 affordable housing.

17 And there is, DHCD since DHCD manage,
18 for instance, the federal tax credit, has an
19 important role to play in ensuring that it's
20 spread across the City. I mean, that's not, and
21 we raise issue many times and we're going to keep
22 an eye on those things.

1 But I hope that maybe in this document
2 there is a clear commitment and also probably
3 some proposal to make sure that there is a
4 balanced distribution of affordable housing
5 through the City.

6 When we last time I went to, again for
7 this project in Mount Vernon, well the developer
8 basically decided to put all the affordable
9 housing here. Mayor Bowser was chairing the
10 commission asked the developer why he decided to
11 do that, I think the first thing he responded was
12 well, it's because I didn't want to put people
13 Northwest who couldn't afford living there, which
14 I think is a tragedy to do things like that.

15 So I think, you know, there is an
16 economic reality that makes it easier --

17 MS. LADD: Can I ask you to wrap --

18 MR. BOURGUIGNON: Okay, that's fine.

19 So I think, I hope you can reflect that in these
20 plans. When I'm going to read them I will be
21 searching for these things. And I guess that's
22 it. Thank you.

1 MS. LADD: Thank you very much. Next
2 witness is Courtney Davis. It needs to turn on,
3 give it a moment.

4 DR. DAVIS: Oh, here we go. Good
5 evening, everyone. My name is Dr. Courtney
6 Davis, and I am a resident of Historic Anacostia,
7 a D.C. taxpayer, co-founder of the Historic
8 Anacostia Block Association with Charles Wilson,
9 and active in the community and working with
10 fellow neighbors.

11 I currently reside at 1650 U Street
12 Southeast and have been happily living in
13 Historic Anacostia for almost 12 years. I am a
14 first time homeowner that chose the comforts of
15 Historic Anacostia because I wanted to plant
16 roots in the nation's capital, become actively
17 engaged in my community, and create a connection
18 with my fellow neighbors.

19 Many of those goals have been reached
20 to date. However, I live next door to an eye
21 sore in 1648 U Street Southeast. I'm that
22 neighbor that Charles Wilson referred to that

1 constantly calls him to ask what can we do about
2 this eye sore, Charles.

3 It is the common topic of conversation
4 with my neighbors. It is a burned out, derelict
5 structure that can no longer be called a house,
6 at least not to human beings. Over the last
7 decade I have witnessed a series of possums, run
8 away cats, a family of racoons, and recently
9 rats, not mice but rats that have taken shelter
10 in the forgotten structure.

11 In conversation with the Reed family,
12 because our homes are like bookends to the
13 ignored property, they are attempting to remodel
14 their basement and have stopped construction due
15 to mice sightings in their basement.

16 As a result, I've consulted with my
17 ANC rep, Charles Wilson, and called 311 countless
18 times to share information about the animals and
19 the safety hazard they posed to the residents of
20 the community.

21 In addition, this structure is in
22 danger of collapsing. Though the four sides are

1 standing, the roof has completely caved in, and I
2 along with the Reed family believe that it only
3 takes a strong storm to come along to result in
4 the structure collapsing on our homes or injuring
5 someone, and we want to avoid that.

6 We both have received notifications
7 from DHCD that supports would be placed to hold
8 the structure up. However, no actions have been
9 taken to date.

10 Third, the property has been used as
11 a dumping ground for trash and unsightly
12 materials including mattresses, despite calling
13 DHCD who removed the mattress, it adds to the
14 fact that the property reduces the value of my
15 home, the Reed's home, and every property in our
16 community, the only historic community east of
17 the river.

18 Last, the unsafe property draws the
19 curiosity of children and results in heavy
20 traffic from the alley to the front of the house.
21 Regularly people are seen traveling along the
22 side of the house, using it as a private walkway.

1 I've had to constantly inform children
2 not to play on the side of the house or in the
3 back yard to maintain their safety, as there is a
4 partially boarded up basement window and the
5 foundation of the sidewalk is crumbling.

6 In my attempts to be proactive to
7 avoid someone tripping or falling into the
8 basement of the derelict property, DHCD must be
9 accountable to the residents of Historic
10 Anacostia.

11 As some of my neighbors have already
12 stated, to date local community members and
13 historians have shared that the house has been
14 sitting without any hints of redevelopment for
15 over 20 to 25 years.

16 I, along with residents, would like to
17 hear a plan that will be implemented within a
18 reasonable time frame so that the value of our
19 homes may flourish, be safe, and admired in the
20 Historic Anacostia community in the nation's
21 capital.

22 I am proposing that DHCD make

1 abandoned properties a priority as soon as
2 possible. And thank you for your attention and
3 immediate response to these concerns.

4 MS. LADD: Thank you. The next
5 witness is Patrice Sheppard, Lydia's House.

6 MS. SHEPPARD: Good evening. I wanted
7 to come and talk about the housing counseling
8 program that's funded by CDBG funds. In our
9 community, we've seen an uptick in families
10 wanting to become first time homebuyers in the
11 District of Columbia which is really very
12 exciting.

13 We are seeing between 75 and 100 new
14 clients every month coming to the workshops and
15 then signing up for one on one counseling so that
16 they can qualify for the HPAP and get their
17 finances in order.

18 One of our greatest issues is that the
19 residents that we are seeing are the poorest of
20 the poor. And so when they qualify for the HPAP
21 and the other loans that they are doing their
22 qualifying for loans of \$175,000.

1 But as you know, that property doesn't
2 exist anymore, and if it does exist it's the
3 properties that Charles and this young lady just
4 finished talking about. And we won't finance
5 that for people to get into.

6 And I'm not sure. I think HPAP money
7 comes from a different pot of money. But if
8 there's a way that we can put in additional money
9 for homeowners or maybe do a sliding scale on the
10 amount of money people can get based on their
11 income and their family size, increasing that
12 amount of money for the clients that we serve
13 because when you have your meetings and you put
14 up there how many HPAP loans have closed, our
15 number is very small.

16 But you don't tell them how many HPAP
17 loans we've processed. We still do the same
18 amount of work, but the people that are actually
19 closing have to find a property that they can
20 afford to be able to purchase.

21 So it would be helpful if we would go
22 back and look at the amount of money that we're

1 giving out on the HPAP and how we're giving it
2 out for the home ownership opportunities.

3 The other issue that I wanted to talk
4 about was the way that the Agency finances its
5 housing counseling program. You've changed it to
6 be a cost reimbursable grant, and I've seen
7 Lydia's House go through its reserves to or three
8 times just to sustain the work, waiting on being
9 reimbursed from DHCD.

10 And I would ask that maybe you go back
11 and revisit that because for a small agency like
12 we are, it's really, it's a burden. So when
13 staff has to go miss a pay cycle because we
14 haven't been reimbursed by DHCD and my reserve is
15 gone.

16 So I really commend our staff because
17 none of them are looking like they want to walk
18 away from this. They're committed to serving the
19 residents of the District of Columbia that are in
20 our community.

21 And the other thing that I wanted to
22 say is about the affordable housing. As you know

1 we just had the ribbon cutting for Trinity Plaza.
2 And before we had the ribbon cutting and before
3 we even advertized we had a list of 500 people
4 that wanted to apply for 49 units.

5 And so there is just such a need for
6 both affordable home ownership opportunities and
7 affordable rental opportunities in our community.
8 So any way that DHCD can push that ball forward
9 would be greatly appreciated by the residents of
10 the District of Columbia.

11 And we shouldn't deceive ourselves to
12 think that Homeland Security is going to come on
13 to the St. Elizabeth's campus and these people
14 are going to want to drive around 295 from
15 Maryland or 295 from Virginia to come to work
16 every day.

17 They're going to come into our
18 neighborhoods and they're going to scoop up those
19 properties as soon as they become available,
20 which it makes our job a lot more difficult when
21 we want long term residents to be able to be in
22 the neighborhoods that they were raised in and

1 they want their children to live in those
2 neighborhoods as well.

3 So we need to keep an eye, we need to
4 be in front of the ball to help our residents be
5 able to achieve home ownership.

6 MS. LADD: Okay. Next we have Lee
7 Echols.

8 MS. ECHOLS: My name is Lee Echols.

9 MS. LADD: Could we ask you to use --

10 MS. ECHOLS: I've served as an ANC
11 Commissioner for 15 years, half of those years
12 have been here. I had a business which was
13 demolished so that this largely vacant land
14 assemblage that you have surrounding your office
15 building could be assembled and held.

16 It was the big promise. It was
17 probably, maybe the fifth major broken promise.
18 There was always how when the subway was open,
19 Anacostia's going to be just like Georgetown.

20 Okay, and the Gateway project, a
21 history of projects that were targeted for
22 Anacostia that the light rail, the trolley line

1 was going to be here. It was going to be right
2 out here. It couldn't make that corner.

3 But that didn't matter for the first
4 almost \$200,000 of research and development and
5 soft costs that went into the whole promotion of
6 the trolley project because it never could have
7 made that corner. All right?

8 So you get very frustrated when, I
9 always try to wait until last to testify because
10 when you see that everybody in the room either is
11 not an Anacostia resident, not one of our ANC
12 Commissioners besides Mr. Wilson is here, that
13 shows you how estranged an agency that is
14 headquartered right here.

15 That wasn't the agency we were
16 promised, that isn't the agency that was told was
17 going to be here and probably it came as quite an
18 unhappy surprise to you folks too. Okay?

19 But all of a sudden this building was
20 the DHCD headquarters. To illustrate the degree
21 of estrangement that you have from this
22 neighborhood, who in here is a neighbor, okay,

1 that knows about this. What ANC Commissioner is
2 here.

3 What's even more indicative of the
4 lack of response is your developers who have big
5 money either in the pipeline or pending from you
6 folks, they haven't even provided light
7 refreshments and pretty pictures of their
8 projects because the development east of the
9 river has been so lauded with secret agendas with
10 who knows who downtown, who can get what bridge
11 loan, who can get what fast turnover of property
12 like the K Street project, who can get what
13 special constituencies like the so called set
14 aside affordable housing for artists across from
15 the Big K liquor.

16 These are developers who in any other
17 part of the City would be here. They would be
18 quietly working the audience. They would be
19 handing out nice little PowerPoint on paper,
20 pictures of their new projects. Okay?

21 But because there is a sensitivity and
22 an awareness that wait a minute, those folks in

1 addition to getting pretty stropy over there,
2 they do know they have a historic district. It
3 is the original historic district was very
4 gerrymandered.

5 This side of the block, for instance,
6 was never included because D.C. Government always
7 thought that they might get their hands on this
8 themselves, which eventually they did. Okay?

9 But it also was gerrymandered because
10 the nature of the corridor MLK had at that time
11 before again DHCD, you know, there's no better
12 illustration of destruction by neglect than those
13 properties outside your window every day that now
14 have bushes on them this high.

15 Weeds, while local residents are
16 getting \$500 fines for having weeds this high,
17 senior citizens who can't take care of their
18 properties are getting \$500 fines for weeds this
19 high.

20 And you look right out the window and
21 you see properties, commercial properties which
22 we can't get a list of that ANC has been asking

1 for a list of the commercial properties for over
2 a year. It was really highlighted and
3 reemphasized when you put this damn trash
4 installation across the street which in a viable
5 commercial storefront that you folks have owned
6 for ages, you paid, the D.C. Government and the
7 D.C. Taxpayer paid to have trash brought in by a
8 white guy and two Hispanics under the auspices of
9 an artist from New York.

10 Okay, so I mean, I couldn't make these
11 kinds of things up. But go out. When you folks
12 go out this door now, look over and see that
13 chain linked lot which had three historic fronts
14 on it which they were not unique, they were not
15 one of a kind at all.

16 But what they did and what was so
17 critical is they defined the scale of this
18 neighborhood which is not -- it is, you know,
19 it's an inch deep and a mile wide. And our
20 historic district has been gerrymandered around
21 the commercial corridors because we have big
22 things like the telephone frame rule up the

1 street, which you had to draw a line around.
2 What's historic about it? It's ugly. But it
3 will be there forever, trust me, because of the
4 costs --

5 MS. LADD: Can I ask you to wrap up?

6 MS. ECHOLS: No, maybe you can't. But
7 we'll try with okay, there's no ANCs from our ANC
8 here but Mr. Wilson. We can't get a list of the
9 properties that you guys own, which I'm from the
10 old days. You know your property owner, you
11 probably know what's going to happen.

12 With Kushner at Big K you never knew
13 what was going to happen. Okay? I do know the
14 number of public dollars that went into loans on
15 those houses which again were then demolished.
16 Now they're getting covered with graffiti. You
17 don't even take care of what you own outside your
18 window.

19 You start doing that and you'll make
20 a contribution one of a kind. Okay, and if it
21 takes five years to do it, hey, in my time spent,
22 see most of the people that testified, they're

1 younger than my son.

2 All right, but I'm telling you I have
3 watched this neighborhood and I love this
4 neighborhood. And to see it, this, all the
5 myths, all the five year plans go through again
6 and then you don't have a couple of extra minutes
7 to let me finish, I think you'll make those extra
8 minutes. Okay?

9 It's not like you've got a crowd of
10 people that want to testify. You've got a couple
11 of NGOs that are unhappy with your payment
12 schedules. Okay, I don't know when that hasn't
13 ever been the case.

14 But we're talking about this block.
15 Build something on it. That block over there,
16 don't let it get blown down because of the way
17 you didn't take care of it. Get out the old
18 promises that were made to this neighborhood and
19 fulfill them and stop having cozy deals for
20 subsidized artist apartments, okay, that the
21 taxpayers are paying for.

22 What the hell does an artist apartment

1 look like? All right, when do you put them out?
2 When do you say they haven't complied?

3 (Off microphone comment)

4 MS. ECHOLS: Yes. Right, okay. All
5 right, let's go on to the last one. You've got
6 you're the biggest slum lord. We can't get the
7 list of properties you own. Your trashy art
8 project. That Big K being covered in gravity,
9 demolition by neglect.

10 And then the last one which is we're
11 feeling it again, fads. The latest fad is hey
12 you can turn a neighborhood around by subsidizing
13 artists. Dolby can't park in front of his house
14 because 11 cars are parked along there until 11
15 o'clock at night, not one of them with a D.C.
16 tag, all of them because you have an art center
17 in a place that has virtually no parking.

18 And it's subsidized by 17 different
19 D.C. Government money projects. Okay? It's one
20 building that takes all the parking. It's
21 beginning to really affect U Street, the
22 stability of that neighborhood.

1 And you have another project that is
2 saying that, and I believe it has heavy funding
3 from you guys, okay, right behind there on V
4 Street saying that it's a matter of right to
5 build 68 apartments there and shoe hole them in.

6 It is not matter of right to take an
7 itemized lot in the historic district and convert
8 it to a service driveway for a commercial
9 apartment building being subsidized by you. They
10 have presented it as a matter of right that's not
11 matter of right.

12 Just do what you've promised to do and
13 that will be enough. But stop being the biggest
14 landlord, the biggest negligent person and
15 driving the little people out that can't afford
16 to fight anymore.

17 MS. LADD: Thank you for your
18 testimony. That concludes the second list of
19 witnesses that we have for this evening. I will
20 ask once again, are there any other individuals
21 that would like to testify this evening?

22 Yes, sir? Would you please give your

1 name to Pam? She's the woman in red. Sir, you
2 can come to the table.

3 MR. JONES: Good evening, everybody.
4 I don't have very much to say, but I came down
5 mostly to listen. My name is George Jones, I'm
6 the CEO of Bread for the City which has been on
7 Good Hope Road for 12, 13 years now providing
8 support to some of the residents who live in this
9 part of the City.

10 And I guess I just wanted to, I know
11 the number of challenges associated with the
12 affordable housing crisis, and I heard some
13 people earlier talking about the concentration of
14 units here in Ward 8 and over in Southeast.

15 That's a fair point. We also have a
16 center over in Northwest D.C. where we've seen a
17 kind of redevelopment that has been, has created
18 a kind of havoc for the folks who live in that
19 part of the City.

20 And I just want to sort of encourage
21 DHCD to think even more strategically than I
22 think the previous administration and the

1 previous efforts did when they were redeveloping
2 what was Ward 2 for the most of the time that we
3 were in Northwest that is now Ward 6.

4 We've seen a kind of gentrification
5 there that has again created a real crisis for
6 the people we serve. And so I just really
7 encourage the Department to think strategically
8 about redeveloping this community. And I
9 certainly support the residents who live here and
10 the idea that it should be balanced and fair.

11 But we definitely have people who need
12 access to affordable housing and look forward to,
13 I guess, working with the Department and the
14 residents as they think about those redevelopment
15 efforts.

16 I also wanted to talk about the fact
17 that our services are increasingly taxed by both
18 the challenges and the limitations of our own
19 facility, the size of it. We're in a 9,000
20 square foot facility at 17 Good Hope Road.

21 We have probably over 2,500 residents
22 who turn to us every month looking for services,

1 food, clothing, legal services, social services.
2 And we are looking for a way to create a more
3 dignified, sort of more adequate space to still
4 address the needs of those residents who turn to
5 us monthly.

6 And I know there's some questions
7 about CDBG dollars and whether or not those
8 dollars will be released in the near future. I
9 don't know what the facts are about it but I just
10 implore the Department to think about some of the
11 community facility dollars that you may have at
12 your disposal and to think about projects that
13 need some support during this next strategic
14 period of yours.

15 So thanks a lot for your time.

16 MS. LADD: Thank you very much.

17 Appreciate your testimony. Director Donaldson,
18 she will be making closing remarks, then we'll
19 have Jennifer Skow do some final wrap up about
20 where you can see us again to testify. Again,
21 more on the consolidated plan and the strategic
22 view as to how the District of Columbia is going

1 to be using our federal funds. Director
2 Donaldson?

3 DIR. DONALDSON: Great, thank you.

4 And again, my apologies. I was in a meeting with
5 the Mayor that ran long over at the Wilson
6 Building, and made my way back across the river
7 as swiftly as I could.

8 Thank you all for being here tonight.
9 This is the first of several occasions for public
10 input into our consolidated planning process. In
11 fact, we've been doing ward meetings since March,
12 ward by ward in all eight wards, and also have
13 participated in a number of community meetings,
14 certainly in the Historic Anacostia area and in
15 other parts of the City across the City.

16 That's partly because I'm new as the
17 director, and I think it was very important for
18 us to gather input and feedback from the very
19 beginning and understand what are the issues that
20 then frame what it is that our response is
21 strategically and what we want to do with both
22 our federal resources and our local resources

1 over the next five years.

2 So I want you to know that this is not
3 a one time only occasion, and really it is
4 integral to how DHCD under my leadership and in
5 the Bowser administration is going to operate and
6 function.

7 I heard you tonight. For those whose
8 testimony I didn't hear, I will be either
9 listening to the recordings or getting a copy of
10 the transcript. So I appreciate those who did
11 come out to testify.

12 Again, this is a process and it is
13 also one that must have the involvement and the
14 engagement with the residents of the District.
15 And so we look forward to that continuing.

16 Jennifer I think will tell you that
17 there's another opportunity next week, a hearing
18 at the Martin Luther King Library in Ward 2 right
19 downtown, and that that will be an additional
20 opportunity.

21 And then as the plan is drafted, I'm
22 actually taking your words I bet, as the plan is

1 drafted we will be sharing that with the public
2 and asking for feedback and input on that as
3 well.

4 So stay tuned, but know also that this
5 is an important part of the dialogue. For the
6 specific points about Historic Anacostia, I just
7 want you to know that I heard you. I think I am
8 going to be coming in September to the HABA
9 meeting as I did in February I believe, right
10 after I came into office.

11 So I want you to know that I hear you
12 and understand and want to be able to be in
13 dialogue and to be able to know that your
14 thoughts are being heard.

15 So again, I thank you for coming
16 tonight, and I want to turn it back over to
17 Jennifer to reiterate maybe some of the things
18 that I took from your talking points. Anyhow,
19 Thank you all very much.

20 MS. SKOW: Yes. So like the Director
21 said, I just want to reiterate we have a second
22 public hearing next Wednesday the 19th at MLK

1 Library downtown which will be another
2 opportunity to formally testify as part of the
3 fiscal year 2016 through 2020 process.

4 For those of you that wanted to
5 testify tonight but not speak but provide written
6 testimony, you have until August 21st, so next
7 Friday to submit formal testimony to us. Again,
8 the information on how to do that is outside at
9 the sign in table.

10 And then lastly, I just want to
11 reiterate that there will be more opportunities
12 later on in the fall to formally testify and also
13 to informally share your thoughts with us so that
14 you can help play a part in shaping the
15 priorities.

16 And I again just thank you so much for
17 coming. I really enjoyed hearing your thoughts,
18 and I look forward to hearing more as we
19 progress. Thanks.

20 (Whereupon, the hearing in the above-
21 entitled matter was concluded at 7:22 p.m.)
22

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In the matter of: 2016-2020 Five Year Consolidated
Plan for the District of Columbia

Before: DC DHCD

Date: 08-13-15

Place: Washington, DC

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