



**Department of Housing and Community Development  
Ward 2 Check-In Meeting  
July 30, 2015**

**Martin Luther King Jr. Library  
901 G Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001**

*This report details key information regarding the July 30, 2015 Check-in Meeting for Ward 2. The DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) hosted this event.*



## Event Overview

Starting April 8, 2015, the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) held eight community Check-In events throughout the District of Columbia. These public events updated residents, business owners, and community stakeholders on DHCD’s current and future projects, and attendees were encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns with DHCD. There were eight sessions, one in each ward. This report concerns the event in Ward 2, which was the eight and final event for this series.

The DHCD team promoted this event in several ways, including flyers, posters, social media, and postal mailings. DHCD Director Polly Donaldson gave remarks detailing interagency collaboration, DHCD initiatives, and general agency updates. DHCD staff briefed attendees on current and future projects in their community. Multiple representatives from DHCD were present to provide context, present on their particular program areas or areas of responsibility, answer questions, and connect with community leaders. Following the presentations, participants asked questions of DHCD staff.

Participant survey results can be found in Appendix A. The scribes’ records and raw conversation notes can be found in Appendix B. Audience feedback notes in the Discussion Analysis section are edited for clarity, but generally follow the trajectory of emerging themes from the conversation.

## Discussion Analysis

Following presentations on DHCD initiatives, event attendees asked questions of DHCD leadership and staff. Two themes emerged from the questions and audience feedback: concern about protecting Museum Square and its current affordable housing status and services for senior citizens. These themes are reflected in the following summary.

### Protecting Museum Square

Museum Square tenants comprised a sizeable population of meeting attendees, and they communicated their concerns through a translator. It was very clear that attendees wished for the District government to protect their affordable housing units from market-rate development.

#### Audience Feedback

- Since 401 K Street was taken back, we no longer feel safe there and are worried about our future. However, we support your plan to help us 100 percent.
- We wish for the District government to help all people in low-income housing be protected and not be evicted.
- The best way to help us is to give us peace of mind and help those who don’t have a place to live to find a place.
- Policymakers could organize a visit to some smaller units to gather ideas from those residents.



## Services for Senior Citizens

Another theme of the evening's event was curiosity about the services – housing and otherwise – available to the District's seniors.

### Audience Feedback

- Where do people go to learn more about senior housing services and opportunities?
- Which agency controls the development of micro-units? Are they for seniors, or just for people with high incomes? How are these decisions made?

## Action Items

DHCD will employ feedback from residents and stakeholders to guide its policy priority areas and communication procedures to better serve the community through a dialogue and process that benefits everyone in the District. There were lessons learned from this event that could serve upcoming events and future work with DC residents:

1. Some event attendees used the service of a translator. This was a community service provided by DHCD that benefitted meeting attendees. This is an important service that allows all people to participate and weigh-in on significant issues in their communities, and we recommend continuing to offer this service at DHCD community meetings.
2. At these events, DHCD could provide information about neighborhood social services available to senior citizens and underserved populations. Many people expressed interest in these services, and DHCD could provide a public service by providing information in their meeting materials.
3. Several questions were asked about the District government's decision-making process, particularly around development and land use decisions. It could be helpful to give a brief overview of the District government's structure and DHCD's place within that structure at the beginning of the presentation at future meetings.



## Appendix A: Survey Results

Participants were surveyed about their priorities and how they heard about the event. Those results are below.

How familiar are you with DHCD services and programs?		
Response	# of Responses	% of Responses
Very familiar	0	0%
Familiar	1	50%
Somewhat familiar	0	0%
Not familiar	1	50%

Most to least important priorities in your community (1=Most important; 6=Least important)		
Issue	Responses	Average Ranking
Redeveloping or restoring abandoned buildings	2, 6	4
Access to storefront façade improvement and small business technical assistance	5	5
Access to first-time home-buyer incentives	1, 4	2.5
Housing that accommodates the needs of the elderly	1, 1	1
Access to affordable housing for purchase (single-family and multi-family)	2, 2	2
Access to affordable rental housing	3, 3	3

How do you prefer to hear about news, events, and other opportunities from DHCD?		
Response	# of Responses	% of Responses
Postal mail	1	33%
E-mail	1	33%
DHCD's website	0	0%
In-person meetings	1	33%
Social media	0	0%

<b>How did you hear about the community meeting?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b># of Responses</b>	<b>% of Responses</b>
Email	0	0%
A friend or relative	0	0%
Social media	0	0%
Flyer or poster	1	50%
Other	1 (Was in building to use computer and found out about it)	50%

<b>What is your preferred social media network?</b>		
<b>Response</b>	<b># of Responses</b>	<b>% of Responses</b>
Facebook	0	0%
Twitter	0	0%
Instagram	0	0%
Other	0	0%



## Appendix B: Notes

*The information below is from the scribe's notes at the event and reflects questions asked by the audience.*

- Since 401 K Street was taken back [from government subsidized housing], the tenants no longer feel safe there. Since you have a project to help us, we support your efforts 100%. I wish you could help out all the people in the low-income housing to be protected and not be evicted. The best is to help us have a peace of mind and help those who don't have a place to live find a place to live. I do wish you could organize a visit to the small units to get their ideas.
- If I am interested in senior housing, where would I go to learn more?
- Which agency controls the development of micro-units? Are they for seniors, or just for the well to do?
- What's the status of 930 N Street, NW? There was a scheduled disposition hearing – what happened?