



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**



*****Press Release*****

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DONALDSON CONFIRMED AS DHCD DIRECTOR

MEDIA CONTACT: Marcus A. Williams | Director of Communications | (P) 202-442-7253 | (E) marcus.williams@dc.gov

WASHINGTON, DC – Non-profit housing executive, Polly Donaldson has been unanimously confirmed by the Council of the District of Columbia and officially appointed by Mayor Muriel E. Bowser as the Director of the DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD). In this capacity, she will oversee 172 employees, 14 program areas as well as the Office of the General Counsel, Administrative Services Office and the Office of Communications and Community Outreach and an operating budget of over \$200 million dollars to preserve and create rental and homeownership affordable housing opportunities for Washington, DC residents and lead the charge of revitalizing underserved communities.

"I am truly honored to officially join the Bowser administration and work closely with our sister agencies, partner organizations and housing leaders to ensure that housing and community development needs are met throughout all eight wards of the city," said Donaldson. "My vision for DHCD, is to produce more affordable housing, preserve and sustain the affordable housing DC has and prepare to house a larger future population, including the most vulnerable residents who need access to housing and supportive services."

As part of the vision to keep Washington, DC affordable for all, Donaldson has outlined four initial objectives, which include:

- Developing a coordinated housing strategy plan among D.C. housing agencies;
- Increasing funding for affordable housing;
- Establishing clear priorities for the Housing Production Trust Fund and ensuring an efficient and effective competitive bid process and
- Engaging in strategic planning around ending homelessness.

Prior to joining DHCD, Donaldson served as the Executive Director of the Transitional Housing Corporation (THC) for over ten years and with THC Affordable Housing, Inc. (THCAH) since its founding in June 2005. Under Donaldson's leadership THC was on the front lines of the city's housing crunch, working with churches, charities and other nonprofit groups to produce and support affordable units for more than 500 homeless or very low income families in the District. In addition, Donaldson served as Board Chair of the Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development and as an appointed member of the DC Interagency Council on Homelessness.

Donaldson has lived in the Mt. Pleasant neighborhood in Ward 1 for more than 20 years and was elected and served as the chair of the Mt. Pleasant Advisory Neighborhood Commission 1-E. She resides with her wife Susan Rees and daughter Florence, and is an active member of St. Margaret's Episcopal Church on Dupont Circle. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences from Johns Hopkins University.

Donaldson's full biography can be found on the DHCD website at, <http://dhcd.dc.gov/biography/polly-donaldson> and the Council's resolution and Mayor's Order appointing her as the DHCD Director is available online at <http://dhcd.dc.gov/node/1029262> and <http://dhcd.dc.gov/node/1029992>, respectively.

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The mission of the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is to create and preserve opportunities for affordable housing and economic development and to revitalize underserved communities in the District of Columbia.