PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT:
LaToya Foster (EOM) 202.727.5011; latoya.foster@dc.gov
Marcus A. Williams (DHCD) 202.442.7253; marcus.williams@dc.gov

Mayor Bowser Joins DHCD to Kick-Off the "DHCD Ward-by-Ward Check-In" Community Meeting Series

WASHINGTON, DC – In a continued effort to build pathways to a middle class, Mayor Muriel E. Bowser joined the D.C. Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) at THEARC on Mississippi Avenue in Ward 8, to kick-off the three-month community meeting series, "DHCD Ward-by-Ward Check-In."

These meetings are designed to seek feedback and suggestions from community members to help shape the future of affordable housing throughout the District. Additionally, the agency seeks to inform residents, business owners, and other community members of the agency's programs and services, current and future projects, and the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 affordable housing budget.

"These forums continue our commitment to ensuring that residents and community leaders have a seat at table in shaping the future of Washington, DC," said Mayor Bowser. "Ward by Ward, we will engage residents, address their affordable housing needs and invest in the resources that will help build more pathways to the middle class."

These meetings will provide a platform for communities to voice their concerns, ask questions and provide input on what the housing and community development needs are in their neighborhoods. Additionally, agency leaders will be on hand at the meetings to discuss the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) and other resources available to developers and community members to ensure affordable housing.

Mayor Bowser recently discussed during her State of the District Address that the HPTF will be funded at $100 million during FY 2016 and beyond—delivering on an important campaign promise that has received unanimous support from the DC Council. The fund is critical to the District's plans to end chronic homelessness and support affordable housing in the city.

"It is DHCD's goal to continue to build strong relationships with our partnerships to better understand the housing and resource needs of our communities," said DHCD Director Polly Donaldson, who was confirmed by the DC Council and officially appointed by Mayor Bowser last month. "At the end of the series we hope to have a clearer understanding of the various housing and community development needs ward-by-ward and neighborhood-by-neighborhood. This information will help the agency effectively plan the best approaches for creating opportunities, preserving valuable resources, and building enduring communities throughout the District."

Agency leaders met first with Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners a few weeks ago to announce the community meeting series and learn about top priorities for their respective neighborhoods. The series began in Ward 8 and will conclude in late June in Ward 1. Below is a full listing of meetings.

Ward 8
April 8, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
THEARC (1901 Mississippi Avenue, SE)

Ward 7
April 14, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
Marshall Heights Community Development Organization (3939 Benning Road, NE)

Ward 6
April 30, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
SE Neighborhood Library (403 7th Street, SE)

Ward 5
May 14, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
Dunbar High School (101 N Street, NW)

Ward 4
May 28, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
Coolidge Sr. High School (6315 5th Street, NW)

Ward 3
June 11, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
Tenley/Friendship Library (4450 Wisconsin Avenue, NW)

Ward 2
June 18, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
MLK Memorial Library (901 G Street, NW)

Ward 1
June 22, 2015/ 6:30-8:30 pm
Greater Washington Urban League (2901 14th Street, NW)

For more information please visit the DHCD website at http://dhcd.dc.gov.

Media seeking interviews with the DHCD director or spokesperson should coordinate with the media contact listed above.

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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.