



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

Office of Communications and Community Outreach

1800 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue SE

Washington, D.C. 20020



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

August 11, 2016

DHCD Joins Affordable Housing ‘Fiesta’ in Logan Circle

*Helping Tenants Purchase and Rehab the Norwood
Shows District’s Commitment to Housing Preservation*

MEDIA CONTACT: Gwendolyn Cofield | Communications Director | (P) 202-442-5716
(E) gwendolyn.cofield@dc.gov

(WASHINGTON, DC) – The DC Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) recently participated in a ribbon cutting with the 1417 N Street NW DC Tenants Association to celebrate the substantial rehabilitation of their 84-unit building in Ward 2.

The association received over \$10.3 million in financing from DHCD to acquire the Norwood Cooperative through the District’s Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act (TOPA), and to rehabilitate the building. The property now features new kitchens, upgraded bathrooms, a space for community activities, a rooftop garden, restoration of historic architectural details and other updates to comply with current building codes.

DHCD Director Polly Donaldson gave remarks at the July 30 ribbon cutting, which occurred near the end of SoulFiesta, an annual neighborhood party celebrating the ethnically diverse population of Logan Circle.

“This project is not just a shining example of preserving affordable housing for low to moderate income District residents—it is also an example of the diversity we have, and want to keep, in our great city,” said Donaldson. “Part of this involves providing our residents with tools like TOPA that enable them to buy their building. It was a several year journey for the Norwood residents, which paid off in the end with a lovely and affordable place to live.”

The tenants association also received additional financing and technical support for the rehabilitation project from [City First Enterprises](#) and its subsidiaries.

“We are proud to support the leaders and residents and their commitment to community and culture as they continue calling this beautiful building home. City First is also excited to continue partnering with DHCD and our joint mission to create and preserve affordable housing in Washington, D.C.,” said Robert Burns, executive director of City First Enterprises.

Since taking office, Mayor Muriel Bowser has made affordable housing a major focus of her Administration. She has committed an historic \$100 million to the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) in each of her budgets—an amount that is unprecedented among U.S. cities. She also created a Housing Preservation Strike Force, which in June unveiled [six recommendations](#) on how the District can preserve its existing affordable housing covenants set to expire by 2020.

Since January 2015, DHCD has produced and preserved over 2,100 affordable housing units in the District. And more is to come. Another 5,300 units of affordable housing—which will house nearly 12,000 District residents—are in the development pipeline.

For more information on the District’s efforts to preserve and produce affordable housing, visit: dhcd.dc.gov.