

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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PUBLIC HEARING

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WEDNESDAY
JULY 27, 2016

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The Forum convened at 815 Florida
Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., at 6:00 p.m.,
Polly Donaldson, Director, presiding.

PRESENT

POLLY DONALDSON, Director
MICHAEL KHARFEN
JENNIFER SKOW

C-O-N-T-E-N-T-S

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Adjourn

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

2 6:30 p.m.

3 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Good evening. It
4 is 6:30 p.m. and I am here to welcome you to the
5 beginning of the public hearing that we are
6 holding tonight on the Consolidated Plan.

7 I'm Polly Donaldson. I am the
8 Director of the D.C. Department of Housing and
9 Community Development. I'm delighted to see so
10 many people here. I do want to say I'm very
11 grateful also for our partners at D.C. Housing
12 Finance Agency for letting us meet in this space,
13 and in this cool space.

14 You'll feel it in a moment, Michael,
15 I know.

16 Anyhow, I wanted to officially welcome
17 you to DHCD's public hearing on the Draft five-
18 Year Consolidated Plan. Yes, I got a notebook
19 but I know the rest of you read it online.

20 Not only to look at the consolidated
21 plan, our FY17 Action Plan, and the first ever
22 National Housing Trust Fund Allocation Plan

1 reflecting a new source of HUD funding for
2 affordable housing for families and individuals
3 at under 30 percent of the area median income so
4 at \$35,000 for a family of four or under. That's
5 a great new source and we have a plan for how we
6 want to allocate that that also was distributed.

7 These plans, all three of them, are a
8 requirement, a federal requirement, by the U.S.
9 Department of Housing and Urban Development.
10 It's an order for us to then as a city receive
11 five entitlement resources that are part of the
12 federal budget.

13 The five sources are the Community
14 Development Block Grant; the HOME Investment
15 Partnership; Housing Opportunities for Persons
16 with AIDS, also known as HOPWA; the Emergency
17 Solutions Grant, which is administered by the
18 Department of Human Services as part of its
19 homeless services program; and the National
20 Housing Trust Fund, the new fund that I just
21 mentioned coming online in this coming fiscal
22 year.

1 These documents lay out our intended
2 use for these resources and serve as the District
3 of Columbia's application for these resources.
4 Public input has been an important component to
5 this process. To develop the plan DHCD reached
6 out to community members through an online
7 survey, through focus groups, public events, and
8 formal hearings.

9 Now that the plan is drafted and has
10 been available for public review for the last
11 month, this hearing is an opportunity for you to
12 give us feedback on whether we captured the right
13 goals, priorities, and focus, or if the plan
14 should be changed prior to submission to HUD for
15 final approval. Your voice will help refine the
16 draft to ensure that the plan is an accurate
17 representation of the city's needs.

18 I want to remind everybody your
19 comments, and this is part of the HUD process,
20 require -- we must respond to your comments in
21 the plan that goes to HUD so your comments not
22 only will be heard tonight, but we must then

1 prepare a written commentary or response to HUD
2 as part of the final piece of the consolidated
3 plan. I think that's an important point that I
4 wanted to make sure everybody understood.

5 I know that we have a representative
6 coming from HUD. I don't believe she's here just
7 yet but I know she's someone who has been very
8 supportive of our work out of the D.C. field
9 office.

10 I know also that the Department of
11 Human Services many of them are attending the
12 National Alliance to End Homelessness conference
13 that is going on right now in the District. We
14 will be taking notes on their behalf on the
15 Emergency Solutions Grant commentary that may
16 happen and we will certainly consult with them as
17 we prepare the responses for the formal plan to
18 HUD.

19 And then I'm really delighted that my
20 friend Michael Kharfen is here as Deputy Director
21 of the HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis
22 Administration at the District's Department of

1 Health. He's going to say a few words of welcome
2 right now.

3 Michael. It's live.

4 MR. KHARFEN: It's live. Thank you
5 Director Donaldson. Thank you for this
6 opportunity and thank you for all attending this
7 afternoon -- this evening. It's a great turnout.
8 And how important this is in terms of our plans
9 for the next five years as a framework for
10 affordable housing in the District of Columbia.

11 I would just like to add to Director
12 Donaldson's comments in that HOPWA, the Housing
13 Opportunity for Persons with AIDS component of
14 this plan is somewhat unique from the rest of the
15 other program components in that we also cover
16 services for persons living with HIV in Northern
17 Virginia, suburban Maryland, and actually one
18 county in West Virginia.

19 In this plan we really do create a
20 framework for a vision for a new HIV housing
21 program in our region that creates a regional
22 housing system that supports individuals so that

1 affordable options are within the entire area,
2 and that we support a continuum for people to be
3 successful in their HIV care, but also successful
4 in their housing plans towards independence and
5 self sufficiency.

6 Our objective is to be able to help
7 individuals along towards their housing success
8 mirroring Mayor Bowser's goals for success for
9 residents of the city to do that for the region
10 and for persons living with HIV. I have team
11 members here; Anthony Fox and Andre Taybron.

12 We look forward if you have comments
13 for us. If not, we also have done some
14 consultation with partners and community members,
15 and also very much open to your insights as to
16 ways to improve our plans and program. Thank
17 you.

18 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you so
19 much.

20 I want to also note if I could a
21 couple things. Also we're still accepting
22 written comments. To be clear, if you are not

1 necessarily planning to testify tonight but have
2 comments or hear something that might stimulate a
3 comment, written comments are being accepted
4 until August 10th.

5 The reason I asked the person to my
6 right, this is Jennifer Skow who has been heading
7 the effort at DHCD, leading the staff team, doing
8 the outreach with all the agencies that had input
9 into this. She's done a terrific job. She
10 worked with other team members on drafting the
11 document and she's here in a couple roles.

12 One, because you've got to feature the
13 person who really put heart and soul into this.
14 But also as timekeeper because I'll be calling up
15 the witnesses two at a time to join at the table.
16 We will ask you to please limit your oral remarks
17 to three minutes, if you could, so that we give
18 time for the whole witness list.

19 If you did not sign up but you do want
20 to testify, there will be an open period at the
21 end of the witness list where I will ask for
22 additional witnesses, or those who want to

1 testify or speak in any way. So we hope to have
2 a very robust set of testimonies and look forward
3 to that. Again, please know your written
4 comments also are open and on the record until
5 August 10th.

6 Without further ado, I'm going to
7 start by calling the first two witnesses; Abel
8 Nunez from CARECEN, and Nathan Davis, also, I
9 believe, from CARECEN.

10 Good evening and please proceed.

11 MR. NUNEZ: Thank you, Director
12 Donaldson, and thank you everyone for being here.

13 My name is Abel Nunez and I'm the
14 Executive Director of the Central American --

15 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Speak directly
16 into the mic so everybody can hear you.

17 MR. NUNEZ: My name is Abel Nunez and
18 I'm the Executive Director of the Central
19 American Resource Center, CARECEN. CARECEN was
20 founded in 1981 and fosters a comprehensive
21 development of the Latino community by providing
22 direct services in immigration, housing,

1 citizenship while promoting empowerment, civil
2 rights advocacy, and civic training for Latinos.

3 The estimated Latino population in the
4 District of Columbia is 65,560, or approximately
5 10 percent of the overall population. Fifty
6 percent of the working population in the District
7 identify as limited English proficient, or
8 Spanish speaking. Those workers tend to earn 25
9 to 40 percent less than the English proficient
10 workers.

11 In addition to having low income,
12 CARECEN participates are more likely to rent than
13 home their homes, 63.8 percent of Central
14 American immigrants are renters compared to 33.9
15 of native born persons, and 39.3 of other
16 immigrants.

17 Additionally, unfair and abusive
18 credit card policies and practices trap Latinos
19 in a cycle of debt. Latinos carry the highest
20 credit card balances. 75 percent of Latinos
21 carry debt compared to 54 percent of Caucasian
22 households.

1 These facts strongly support the need
2 for continued funding for organizations that have
3 the language and cultural competencies for
4 individuals that have limited English proficiency
5 or are immigrants that have settled in D.C.

6 In the year 2000 CARECEN salvaged its
7 housing program and launched tenant organizing
8 efforts in the city to fight landlord abuses for
9 thousands of immigrants. The program continues
10 to be supported by funding from DHCD Community
11 Development Block Grant.

12 The focus of our program was initially
13 to improve the living conditions but expanded as
14 CARECEN staff noticed trends and community needs
15 or gaps in services. Currently we focus the
16 program on preventing displacement and promoting
17 financial sustainability leading to the creation
18 of wealth for low-income immigrant residents.

19 CARECEN offers individual counseling
20 and educational workshops on topics such as
21 foreclosure prevention, credit, financial
22 management, and tenant rights. CARECEN also

1 helps homeowners avoid losing their homes to
2 foreclosure and counsels them on how to negotiate
3 with banks, avoid foreclosure, rescue scams, and
4 improve their financial management skills.

5 CARECEN is here today to support
6 DHCD's five-year consolidated plan and ensure
7 that Latino immigrant residents in D.C. have a
8 resource that educates, navigates, and
9 anticipates housing issues to help them integrate
10 into the D.C. community.

11 Although the Latino population is only
12 10 percent of the overall population, it is
13 disproportionately impacted by housing programs.
14 Given this reality, the plan must ensure that
15 resources are allocated to organizations with
16 language and cultural competencies to assist
17 Latino and immigrant residents.

18 These organizations are in the best
19 position to also address emerging needs to
20 alleviate housing problems. An example is a
21 continued influx of unaccompanied children from
22 Central America to the D.C. area. Given the

1 makeup of the Latino population, this flow will
2 continue to come and it will have an impact on
3 the housing conditions for their families and the
4 community as a whole.

5 Finally, I would like to applaud the
6 efforts of Director Polly Donaldson and her
7 staff. As the Latino community in D.C. continues
8 to grow and evolve, it is critical that its
9 members access the D.C. government through a
10 culturally-competent office by ensuring that our
11 community's needs are incorporated to the
12 consolidated plan that enables funding for the
13 programming of CARECEN and other Latino community
14 organizations.

15 DHCD helps to guarantee that the
16 Latino immigrant community is educated about
17 their housing rights and take advantages of the
18 resources provided by the city. Thank you for
19 the opportunity to testify today.

20 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you.

21 Mr. Davis.

22 MR. DAVIS: Thank you for the

1 opportunity to testify. My name is Nathan Davis
2 and I'm tenant counselor intern at CARECEN, the
3 Central American Resource Center. Today I want
4 to share CARECEN's experience as a community
5 development block grantee of DHCD.

6 CARECEN's housing department is a
7 wide-reaching program which offers services
8 ranging from foreclosure prevention to credit and
9 debt counseling to technical assistance for
10 tenant's associations and to basic one-on-one
11 rental counseling. All this work and more is
12 handled by a staff which is three full-time
13 employees.

14 CARECEN's housing department is able
15 to employ the staff and maintain its day-to-day
16 operations thanks in part to the invaluable
17 support received from DHCD's Community
18 Development Block Grant Program.

19 Over the past three months I've been
20 working with the staff's tenant counselor. Every
21 day I listen to story after story from Latino
22 tenants living in the area on unjust evictions,

1 illegal rent increases, lead paint and
2 infestations left untreated. The list goes on
3 and on.

4 The individual stories and the
5 similarities each bear into the others. It takes
6 only a few days with CARECEN to see that the
7 abuses and the mistreatment this community faces
8 are distinctive.

9 Low income, non-English speaking
10 tenants are in a uniquely vulnerable position
11 from the get-go. They are unlikely to know their
12 rights and even less likely to have the resources
13 to exercise these rights.

14 This is compounded by the fact that
15 the neighborhood in which they occupy are in
16 Wards 1 and 4 which are experiencing rapid
17 development and soaring property values.

18 Landlords and property managers are aching to
19 vacate rooms that were rented at '80s prices in
20 order to rent them at 2016 rates. Low-income
21 Latinos are a large target that are easiest to
22 take advantage of.

1 Take, for example, Jose Roberto
2 Ramirez who has lived in the same 13th Street
3 apartment with his family for over 12 years. He
4 came to CARECEN earlier this month looking for
5 help finding a new apartment.

6 When I asked why he wanted to move, he
7 said that after he started asking for repairs
8 earlier in the month, he was told by the building
9 manager that he was better off just leaving.
10 Then later in the week, the building owner
11 himself called and told him he had a month to
12 leave. He was given no written notice, no
13 justification, and no further explanation.

14 What is so striking about Jose's case
15 is that not only were his rights being violated,
16 he was not even aware they were being violated.
17 He didn't come to us to ask if what was happening
18 was legal. He just assumed that it was and
19 wanted help following instructions of his
20 building manager.

21 Jose is far from the exception. Many
22 tenants who come to us to ask for help have no

1 idea they had so many legal protections in the
2 first place. Due to this, CARECEN's housing
3 projects have to do double duty to fight back
4 against the abuses once they have taken place,
5 but also to educate tenants of their rights so
6 they can prevent the abuses themselves.

7 We have to both defend and empower to
8 be both reactive and proactive. For the staff
9 this means working themselves to the bone. It's
10 not a 9:00 to 5:00 workday. If my clients need
11 immediate help, it means late-night tenant
12 association meetings, Saturdays spent holding
13 Know Your Rights workshops, and phone calls
14 organizing people to come to meetings like this
15 one.

16 Day after day I've seen how long and
17 hard this staff works and how careful they are to
18 stretch every single dollar in the Department's
19 budget. They do so because they care deeply
20 about preserving an important but imperative part
21 of the D.C. community. Support and funding to
22 CARECEN allows them to uphold such a demanding

1 commitment and pursue such a worthy mission.

2 Thank you for your time.

3 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you so much
4 for your testimony, both of you. This is being
5 recorded so there will be a transcript. If you
6 have written copies, that's helpful, too, as
7 well. Thank you.

8 MR. DAVIS: Thank you so much.

9 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Next I would like
10 to call Marla Bilonick from the Latino Economic
11 Development Center. Is Christine Books-Proper
12 here, president of the D.C. Fashion Foundation?
13 Then I'm going to move to the next name on the
14 list. If she comes later, she can certainly
15 testify. Jose Hernandez with CARECEN. Come on
16 up. We'll add another chair.

17 Please go right ahead. Thank you.

18 MS. BILONICK: Director Donaldson, my
19 name is Marla Bilonick and I am the Executive
20 Director of the Latino Economic Development
21 Center, LEDC. We're a 25-year-old D.C. based
22 organization that provides comprehensive

1 community development services for both housing
2 and small business development.

3 I also serve on the Board of Directors
4 of the Coalition for Non-Profit Housing and
5 Economic Development, CNHED. Over the past three
6 years, as you know, CNHED has expanded to adopt a
7 more holistic view of equitable neighborhood
8 development that encompasses housing and economic
9 development initiatives starting with small
10 business services.

11 Both LEDC and CNHED share a vision for
12 equitable communities in D.C. that relies on
13 balance and complementary services that address
14 multiple gaps in under-served communities.

15 Specifically, these are services that address the
16 need for affordable housing, as well as the need
17 for expanded small-business driven economic
18 opportunity for self employment and job creation.

19 We are concerned that the Draft
20 Consolidated Plan does not meaningful include
21 small business development as a primary component
22 to creating strong equitable neighborhoods in

1 Washington, D.C.

2 Small businesses are the undisputed
3 economic engine in the District creating the
4 majority of jobs in our city. These very jobs
5 lifts D.C. residents out of poverty and allow
6 them to access stable housing and a viable
7 pathway toward economic equality.

8 Yet, the Draft Consolidated Plan
9 allocates slightly over \$6 million over the
10 course of five years to small and local
11 development out of an overall budget of \$284
12 million in funding.

13 This means that only two percent of
14 the overall funding and just four percent of the
15 CDBC funding outlined in the Draft Consolidated
16 Plan is allocated to small business services.
17 Yet, DHCD's Consolidated Plan Goal No. 12 to
18 foster small and local business development is
19 critical to HUD's objective to create economic
20 opportunities.

21 Every year Small Business Technical
22 Assistance, SBTA, provide technical assistance

1 training and financing to help thousands of low
2 to moderate income and minority entrepreneurs to
3 start and grow businesses in the District. SBTA
4 providers create significant impact in the area
5 of new business creation and job creation and in
6 turn promote local spending every time a resident
7 engages in these new and growing establishments.

8 According to the SBA 48 percent of
9 D.C. employees are employed by D.C. small
10 businesses. These small businesses were
11 responsible for creating 3,589 jobs in 2013 in
12 the District. In 2014 start-up small businesses
13 generated 3,625 new jobs. Firms with fewer than
14 100 employees have the largest share of small
15 business employment in the District.

16 For low to moderate income individuals
17 entrepreneurship can be one of very few income-
18 generating options. Issues such as legal status,
19 prior incarceration, the high cost of child care,
20 disabilities, or low levels of education impede
21 some D.C. residents from accessing traditional
22 employment models.

1 Entrepreneurship provides self
2 employment for D.C. residents and small
3 businesses are more likely to employ at-risk
4 individuals from their communities than larger
5 firms are. With improved economic standing our
6 clients can invest in businesses and homes in the
7 District and they can ignite a virtuous circle of
8 investment and opportunity in the communities
9 where they live and work.

10 The number of minority-owned
11 businesses in the District is rising. From 2,000
12 in 2012 the number of African American-owned
13 firms in the District grew by 40 percent.
14 Hispanic-owned firms grew by 22 percent.
15 Asian/Pacific Islander-owned firms grew by 21
16 percent.

17 While the number of minority-owned
18 firms is growing, they do not access equitable
19 levels of revenue. For example, African-American
20 firms in D.C. make up 35 percent of total
21 businesses, yet only account for 1 percent of
22 overall D.C. business revenue. 6.6 percent of

1 D.C. businesses are Latino owned but only account
2 for .5 percent of overall D.C. business revenue.

3 These businesses need the support of
4 SBTA providers to improve their operations,
5 finance their growth, and access opportunity such
6 as government procurement so they can build
7 wealth for themselves, their families, and the
8 individuals they employ.

9 96 percent of LEDC's clients who
10 participated in our 2015 impact evaluation
11 indicated that LEDC improved their business
12 performance in some way and provided an average
13 rating of 5 on a 5-point scale regarding their
14 perceived impact of loan and/or services they
15 received from LEDC.

16 Our clients paid themselves an average
17 of \$52,221 a year through their business revenue.
18 While our services allow most of our clients to
19 establish an income source, 41 percent indicated
20 they had also seen an increase in their income as
21 a result of the performance of their business.

22 97 percent of those sampled were still

1 in operation when we reached out to them two
2 years after receiving our services. We know our
3 services produce many services to our clients and
4 to our city. This work merits support.

5 Without undermining the value of how
6 the intervention is a key element of equitable
7 community development, we feel compelled to point
8 out a gap in the drafting of the Consolidated
9 Plan. There seems to have been an oversight of
10 the complementary role the economic development
11 focused on fostering the start and extension of
12 small businesses in the District played in
13 poverty alleviation in our community.

14 An imbalanced approach will not serve
15 D.C.'s low to moderate-residents well. We
16 support a comprehensive approach to equitable
17 community development and LEDC walks the walk on
18 providing a comprehensive suite of services that
19 addresses housing needs while equipping residents
20 with tools to improve their financial position.

21 Our clients are investing in D.C. and
22 we hope that you can invest in their potential by

1 supporting small and local business development
2 in a more robust manner in the consolidated plan.

3 I know I'm out of time. I actually
4 have in the written testimony specific points
5 about the plan like sentences or places where
6 there could be adjustments made but I know I went
7 over my time so I will be respectful of that. I
8 think that is probably the most useful piece of
9 my testimony if you want to take a look at it in
10 the written.

11 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you. We
12 will obviously -- yes, we will take a look at it.
13 I have it right here. Thank you very much.

14 MS. BILONICK: Thank you so much.

15 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Mr. Hernandez.

16 MR. HERNANDEZ: (Speaking in Spanish.)

17 MR. GARCIA: I'll translate that.

18 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Gracias senor.

19 MR. GARCIA: I'm Michael Garcia, the
20 tenant and outreach specialist at CARECEN. I'll
21 translate what he read.

22 Good afternoon. My name is Jose T.

1 Hernandez and I'm a client of CARECEN. I have
2 been living in Mount Pleasant for over 26 years.
3 As the neighborhood changes and house prices rise
4 it has become more difficult to maintain the
5 lifestyle I have come to know and love in this
6 community.

7 These changes have affected me
8 directly as the makeup of my building has become
9 more and more affluent. Just a few months ago
10 the tenants in my building voted to instate a
11 voluntary rent increase. At the time I had no
12 idea what that was or what it meant. All I knew
13 was that I had received a letter stating that my
14 rent was rising by almost 9 percent.

15 I brought the letter to CARECEN and
16 they helped me file a petition for relief from
17 the increase. More importantly, the staff was
18 able to teach me about the voluntary increase
19 process. Now I am capable of telling friends of
20 mine who live in similar buildings what the
21 process is and when it can be avoided.

22 I'm been coming to CARECEN for almost

1 five years. Whether they are helping me prevent
2 eviction, request inspections, or just translate
3 a document, I have always been treated with
4 respect and dignity. More than that, they make
5 sure that I am educated on the law so that I can
6 address these issues on my own in the future.
7 Thank you for your time.

8 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you all for
9 your testimony. If you haven't given us copies,
10 please do. Thank you.

11 Next I would like to call Alvavaro
12 Leonardo Contreras. Then also Tom Dawes.

13 Please proceed. Thank you.

14 MR. CONTRERAS: Hello and good
15 afternoon. Thank you for the opportunity to
16 testify this evening. My name is Leonardo
17 Contreras and I'm a Latino business owner and
18 operator of Wapa Cafe located at 6230 Georgia
19 Avenue, N.W. in Washington, D.C.

20 As of this year I worked with the loan
21 officers and technical assistance providers of
22 the Latino Economic Development Center to help

1 expand Wapa Cafe operations. I received a
2 \$20,000 loan from LEDC and I was able to create
3 additional staff positions, as well as remodel
4 the structural layout improving the look of my
5 business, the look of the location, and the block
6 overall.

7 These changes allowed me to expand the
8 menu and operate evenings and weekend brunches.
9 This, ultimately, has led to larger revenue for
10 Wapa Cafe and has raised my personal household
11 income. I am here this evening because it
12 concerned me to see such a drastic reduction in
13 small business development in the Draft
14 Consolidated Plan for small business development.

15 This makes it seem that the small
16 business development is not seen as a critical
17 component to our communities. This reduction I
18 fear will cause the goal of equitable
19 neighborhoods to become even harder to achieve.

20 According to the United States the
21 Small Business Administration, SBA, 47.6 percent
22 of D.C. employers are employed by D.C. small

1 business. More importantly, on this topic the
2 number of minority-owned small business in the
3 District is increasing. Access to critical
4 levels of revenue for these businesses is not
5 increasing.

6 6.6 percent of D.C. business are
7 Latino owned but only account for .5 percent of
8 all D.C. business revenue. I am proud to say
9 that I am a Latino business owner in Washington,
10 D.C. that employs six people in the District.

11 However, as I stated before, because
12 I could not access back to business help, I
13 received a technical assistance and a business
14 loan from the Latino economic development center.
15 Due to their services, I have been able to
16 increase my own financial stability, create jobs,
17 and have a positive impact on the economy and my
18 community in Washington, D.C.

19 I feel my experience with the Latino
20 Economic Development Center demonstrates the need
21 for a balanced and comprehensive approach to
22 serving low to moderate income residents in the

1 local small business economy. I do not mean to
2 reduce the importance of housing interventions in
3 the community development but the current drop in
4 the Draft Consolidated Plan must be addressed.

5 I strongly encourage you to increase
6 the level of funding that would cover small
7 business development activities as they are
8 critical to provide individuals like me and the
9 people I hire with opportunities for economic
10 advancement. Thank you.

11 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you very
12 much.

13 Mr. Dawes.

14 MR. DAWES: Good evening.

15 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Good evening.
16 Speak right into it.

17 MR. DAWES: Good evening, Director
18 Donaldson. My name is Thomas Dawes. I'm the
19 Business Development Director for Development
20 Corporation of Columbia Heights.

21 The Development Corporation of
22 Columbia Heights is a place for neighborhood

1 community development whose mission is to lead
2 physical, economic, and social organization in
3 the Columbia Heights and Pleasant Plains
4 communities.

5 We have been involved with the
6 Columbia Heights community for over three decades
7 and I'm now located at 2604 Georgia Avenue, N.W.,
8 which is one of the District's most significant
9 historic avenues.

10 As a community partner DCCH has
11 received several small business technical
12 assistance grants for the Columbia Heights and
13 Pleasant Plains communities. DCCH staff has
14 provided small business assistance to business
15 merchants and property owners on 14th Street,
16 11th Street, and the lower Georgia Avenue
17 business corridor.

18 DCCH also has been very instrumental
19 in assisting business merchants and property
20 owners in applying for the Great Streets
21 Initiative and the Department of Housing and
22 Community Development Facade Improvement Program

1 for the 1400 block of Park Road and the lower
2 Georgia Avenue business corridor.

3 Many of the business merchants and
4 property owners were able to receive a multitude
5 of small business technical assistance including
6 planning, legal, accounting, and loan referrals
7 for their businesses. As a result of these grant
8 funds received from DHCD, in the 1400 block of
9 Park Road is now a lot more appealing and the
10 business merchants and property owners are seeing
11 a significant increase in business.

12 DCCH also works very closely with the
13 Georgia Avenue Community Development Task Force
14 in combining small business technical assistance
15 to business merchants, residents, community
16 partners, and property owners on the lower
17 Georgia Avenue business corridor.

18 We have been very successful in
19 providing economic development in the Columbia
20 Heights community and providing small business
21 technical assistance to businesses along the 14th
22 Street, 11th Street, and the lower Georgia Avenue

1 business corridor.

2 DCCH would hope DHCD will continue to
3 provide funding for small business technical
4 assistance grants as a part of the fiscal year
5 2016 consolidated plan because these funds are
6 very critical for small businesses throughout
7 both communities. We look forward to a continued
8 strong relationship with DHCD.

9 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you both.
10 If you have written testimony, please make sure
11 we get a copy of it. Thank you very much.

12 I would now like to call up Tim
13 Hampton and Chet Bennett. We'll hear from Mr.
14 Hampton first.

15 MR. HAMPTON: Thank you. Good evening
16 Director Donaldson, DHCD staff, and my fellow
17 D.C. residents. My name is Tim Hampton and I am
18 a small business coach at WACIF. I'm here to
19 talk about the Small Business Technical
20 Assistance Program which is funded through DHCD.

21 In reading through the five-year plan
22 I didn't see a lot about what we do and how it

1 supports housing so I just wanted to say a few
2 words today about what is small business
3 technical assistance, why is it valuable.

4 I took a few notes on some people I
5 talked to over the last week. In one instance
6 someone called and their landlord is selling the
7 building. They need to make a move. They need
8 to understand where should they be moving, how is
9 it gong to affect their business, what do they
10 do.

11 We work with them to organize the data
12 they have and set up a survey to their current
13 clients to get information, as well as setting
14 them up with a commercial realtor who can help
15 them so very quickly providing service and
16 referrals and sort of a deep dive at their site
17 working with their data helping them.

18 Someone called in with a common
19 situation. Their subcontractor and prime
20 contractor is very, very late in paying and it's
21 really affecting their ability to make payroll to
22 pay their own rent or mortgage.

1 We help them work through the process
2 the way we've helped people before and get to a
3 place where they are not in a situation where
4 they're closing their business or they're missing
5 their commitments and they're getting a black
6 mark and they can't get new business.

7 Multiple people wanted help with
8 business plans who are hoping to start
9 businesses. Or, in one case, somebody who is
10 changing their business model and needs help with
11 that so we're working with them.

12 Another person calling about available
13 market research. I met with one person at their
14 site who wanted to move their business from
15 Maryland to D.C. and what do they need to do to
16 do that and how can they understand what impact
17 it will have so we work with them.

18 As well as one person who is trying to
19 start a business who has worked really hard, has
20 a marketable skill, but hasn't been able to get a
21 job as an ex-offender but wants to start their
22 own business to be able to work with clients

1 directly.

2 That's someone we can definitely help
3 and work with them through the process as well as
4 knowing already partners who work with folks in
5 that situation and who have been through it
6 before.

7 Those are just a few of the folks I've
8 worked with over the past five days and there's
9 many more over time. It's hard to -- it's hard
10 to really put a number on it. I know the goal
11 says to give help to 150 businesses in a year for
12 the whole portion of goal number 12. I was
13 surprised at first because that's many fewer than
14 we work with in a year and we're just one of the
15 providers.

16 But also just those numbers of
17 counting up doesn't begin to tally up the impact
18 that Small Business Technical Assistance has. I
19 think of one situation, a business on 14th. They
20 took an empty attic over a furniture store and
21 had this dream of turning it into an 8,000 foot
22 dance studio for practices and performance.

1 We helped them through every step of
2 the process for over a year to get through that.
3 The person who started it had been a dancer but
4 had never owned a business before. Now they're
5 at the point -- the most recent conversation
6 we're having with them is, "Now we're doing so
7 well how do we have a growth plan? How do we
8 have a succession plan? How do we do hiring and
9 make sure we have the right work plan?"

10 Right now people -- hundreds of people
11 come there every week. Of course, after a
12 performance they go downstairs out in the
13 commercial corridor and buy food and go to a
14 restaurant and it's spurring economic activity in
15 the area. It's increasing the property value of
16 the place which increases taxes. Every business
17 we help has this ripple effect across their area
18 of the city.

19 In particular one person I worked with
20 recently called me from the hospital. She found
21 out she has a terminal illness. What she wants
22 more than anything else is to keep her business

1 running.

2 She said, "That is what gets me up in
3 the morning. How can you help me continue
4 working with my clients and not let anything
5 fall?" She's going to be out of her second round
6 of chemo very soon and she'll be out but it's the
7 small -- we're the person she's calling and
8 talking to.

9 Given her situation right now she
10 could easily qualify for one of the many
11 supports, and perhaps she may need to at some
12 point but she does not want to go there until she
13 really needs to. The Small Business Technical
14 Assistance Program she said so far as helped her
15 pay her rent through the process so far. People
16 have told me that so many times.

17 Small Business Technical Assistance is
18 not just about local economic development. It's
19 about giving people the hope and meaning that
20 when they decide to help out the local economy
21 and create jobs that someone is there to answer
22 the phone and help them achieve their dream.

1 Thank you.

2 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you very
3 much for your testimony and your stories. Again,
4 everything is being recorded so we'll have a
5 transcript of that. Thank you.

6 Mr. Bennett.

7 MR. BENNETT: Yes. Good evening,
8 everyone. I want to first take an opportunity to
9 thank you guys for allowing me to speak today.
10 My name is Chet Bennett. I'm the founder and CEO
11 of the Bennett Career Institute, also Bennett
12 Babies 1 and 2. And I have the salon down the
13 street at 705 Florida Avenue which is the Sea
14 Island Signature Salon.

15 I'm here today and I've been in
16 business -- I am a small business owner. I've
17 been in business for 20 years. We have a little
18 over 30 employees at the Bennett Babies 1 and 2,
19 30 employees at the Bennett Career Institute. I
20 have ten staffers down the hall -- down the
21 street at the Sea Island Signature Salon.

22 A short quick story. I don't take too

1 much of your time but I found myself in a place
2 where my salon was struggling financially. The
3 Bennett Career Institute and Bennett Babies could
4 give me the financial assistance that I needed.

5 I started looking all over the place
6 to try to figure out where do businesses go for
7 assistance and help. I found WACIF, the
8 Washington Area Community Investment fund. I
9 went into the office. It was a little small
10 office. I was like I don't even think these
11 people are going to help me. I've been in
12 business 20 years. I'm like I don't know what's
13 going on.

14 The problem was I was in a really bad
15 financial situation with the salon. When I met
16 Janice Stuppe at WACIF and the people at WACIF,
17 it completely changed my life. I'm here today
18 talking about the technical assistance piece to
19 your project.

20 If it wasn't for WACIF, I don't even
21 think that my salon would be open today. It was
22 the technical assistance that I received from

1 Janice not just -- because you have the thing
2 someone like me who has 70-some employees now. I
3 have a master's degree but that was 20 years ago.
4 I'm not up to date with all the financial
5 business and all that kind of stuff because I'm
6 in the beauty industry so my goal is to make
7 people beautiful.

8 Janice comes into my life and my life
9 completely changed. Not only did WACIF assist me
10 with the funding that I needed to pay my past
11 rent and all of that at the salon, but the
12 technical assistance was the most important
13 thing. It was because of her sending the email.
14 First she said -- she told me the truth. She
15 said, "Your stuff is a mess. You need to do
16 something about it."

17 She sent me to different places. She
18 gave me resources where I can go and learn more
19 about the financial aspect of the business. Not
20 only did she do that but then -- I'm not going to
21 say a nuisance but then she'll pop up at the
22 salon and say, "Hey, I came to check out your

1 books. I want to see what's going on. How are
2 you doing? I teach 22 salon owners in the city
3 how to own and operate their business through a
4 leadership course."

5 She comes to the school and give that
6 kind of technical support to all of those people
7 even though she mentioned to me in reference to
8 the funding it's not like it's a lot there to
9 help those people but they were able to help me.
10 So, in return, the technical assistance was
11 helping so many other people.

12 I really want you guys to kind of look
13 at my business, I have three, and how the
14 technical assistant not only did she make it a
15 reality check for me because I have all these --
16 there's a vision and you have all these goals and
17 dreams and all of that.

18 She said, "Baby, it's not going to
19 mean anything if you don't have any money, if you
20 don't know what you're doing with your money."
21 Because of her coming into the door, it has
22 completely changed our life drastically.

1 Most of my employees live in the
2 District. Most of my employees have housing and
3 all of those things because of the business that
4 we have. I just want to make sure that for the
5 record that WACIF is an organization that not
6 only did they save our life and saved the beauty
7 industry, but we need them to continue to get
8 that technical assistant support so they can help
9 so many other people.

10 My final thing I wanted to say was
11 because of what WACIF did last year, if you go
12 down to my salon now, my salon was the salon that
13 had the boarded-up windows. My salon was the
14 salon that had graffiti on it. The people kept
15 busting in and doing all kinds of stuff.

16 Because of the technical assistance
17 and her help in assisting me from a financial
18 point of view, now we have a full flourishing
19 salon. If you walk right down the street now,
20 you will see a multi-cultural beautiful
21 environment where things are really, really
22 striving. If it wasn't WACIF, I don't even think

1 I would be in business. Thank you.

2 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you, Mr.
3 Bennett. Appreciate your testimony very much.
4 Thank you both.

5 Next I'd like to call Art Johnson and
6 John Mainz. We'll start with Mr. Johnson.

7 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you. Good
8 evening. I thank you guys for allowing us to
9 come here and testify.

10 I am with Capital City Community
11 Development Corporation. We are a non-profit
12 organization and we are a small business
13 technical assistance provider. We work with
14 veterans. We focus on veterans in the community.

15 Veterans face a lot of challenges out
16 there from homelessness to PTSD to all types of
17 things. What we do is we focus on them and help
18 them to become entrepreneurs. We give them
19 training. We give them business concepts,
20 business plans. We help them to register their
21 businesses.

22 We help them to put together legal

1 formations so that they can become an LLC or SCOR
2 or CCOR. We work with them from a comprehensive
3 standpoint because there are a lot of
4 organizations out there who do one thing or
5 another with veterans but nobody does a
6 comprehensive thing with them.

7 From a business perspective we take
8 our veterans from cradle to grave. We work with
9 them. We offer them business support through
10 capability statements, marketing plans, and all
11 types of things that they need in order to
12 promote themselves.

13 We help them with networking. We help
14 them with other organizations and we work with
15 other organizations to help veterans to get there
16 and find these opportunities.

17 As we know, it's a tough transition
18 for some veterans as they come out of the
19 military and they have to transition into
20 civilian life. They don't know which way to go
21 or how to do that so we're an organization that
22 steps up and helps them to find their footing,

1 helps them to transition into civilian life once
2 again and help them to move forward and help them
3 to become economic forces in their community.

4 I thank you for the opportunity to
5 talk about our veterans. I thank you for the
6 funding that you offer with your Small Business
7 Technical Assistance Program.

8 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you very
9 much for your testimony.

10 Mr. Mainz.

11 MR. MAINZ: Good evening. Thank you
12 for the opportunity to speak with you. My name
13 is John Mainz. I'm the Executive Director at SB
14 Works, another one of the District's small
15 business development groups.

16 As you've heard personal stories and
17 rather daunting statistics from other groups like
18 DCCH, LEDC, and Cap City, I'm going to stay a
19 little more general with you to talk to you about
20 the importance of small business technical
21 assistance in the District.

22 Simply put, the budget for small

1 business technical assistance as is is not large
2 enough for what we need to do. I really want to
3 emphasize that money spent on small business
4 assistance now is an investment in the future
5 that has a return on that investment that is hard
6 to match with any other programs.

7 You've heard people talk about
8 opportunities that came from their business
9 improvement, how they stayed in their housing
10 because their businesses have improved, how they
11 hired people because their businesses have
12 improved.

13 Small business investment now is going
14 to make everyone's job easier in the future,
15 everyone's job in terms of providing housing and
16 accommodations, providing other types of
17 assistance.

18 Even though SB Works, my particular
19 nonprofit, is only eight months old, we've
20 already had requests for or assisted businesses
21 in Districts 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8. Clearly
22 listening to me and listening to the other SBTA

1 providers here, there is much more demand than
2 there is supply for small business technical
3 assistance and small business promotion in
4 general.

5 As places like Georgia Avenue continue
6 to change and the demographics, the identifies,
7 the cost of those areas adjust, it's important to
8 remember that small businesses are the
9 cornerstones of those communities. They give the
10 communities the character they have. They give
11 the communities the identifies they have. Often
12 a small business is the first, last, and
13 sometimes best opportunity to employ people in
14 those communities.

15 CBDG funds are unfortunately the
16 primary and sometimes exclusive source of funding
17 for groups like ours. While I know you have a
18 very difficult and daunting task ahead of you of
19 splitting up limited funds and cutting up a very
20 small pie for a very large amount of demand.

21 I just want to encourage you to, like
22 I said, invest in the future and to reflect in

1 the budget the understanding that improving
2 business assistance programs today will, like I
3 said, ultimately make your jobs easier in the
4 future and reflect in a stronger District. Thank
5 you.

6 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you, Mr.
7 Mainz.

8 Thank you both very much. If you want
9 to share, again, it will be in the transcript so
10 we'll have it. Thank you.

11 Next I would like to call up Zachary
12 Grieman. Is that right? Did I say it right?

13 MR. GRIEMAN: Yes.

14 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Oh, wow. Okay.
15 Good.

16 And then Harold Pettigrew. We'll
17 start with Mr. Grieman, please.

18 MR. GRIEMAN: Hi. Thank you for this
19 opportunity. I work with Mr. Mainz who just
20 spoke at SB Works. I'm going to discuss the
21 overall importance of small business development
22 funding in the five-year plan.

1 Small businesses are the main economic
2 opportunity for many people. They offer someone
3 often their first job. They are economic safety
4 nets during hard times. For disadvantaged people
5 they represent economic independence.

6 Small businesses have been engines of
7 economic recovery in the past and especially
8 today. Small businesses are responsible for
9 three-fourths of the jobs created after the
10 recession and small business funding remains only
11 at about 90 percent of pre-recession amounts.

12 Funding for SBTA helps small
13 businesses create jobs, drive local economies
14 toward greater community development. Any
15 reduction in funding threatens community
16 development and local economic growth. Thank
17 you.

18 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you so
19 much.

20 Mr. Pettigrew.

21 MR. PETTIGREW: Good evening, Director
22 Donaldson. My name is Harold Pettigrew,

1 Executive Director for WACIF. I wanted to share
2 with you some thoughts. You've heard from our
3 team a little, as well as one of our clients.
4 It's important for me and today I'm coming from a
5 little different perspective.

6 I used to serve as the director for
7 DSLBD, Department of Small Local Business
8 Development, for the city and have worked in
9 entrepreneurship and small business development
10 for the last 10 or 15 years between New York City
11 and here in D.C.

12 For me today it's coming from the
13 ecosystem standpoint of why it's important to
14 support small business technical assistance.
15 Around my different posts and throughout the work
16 that we all do in entrepreneurship is a central
17 guiding principle in that income helps you get by
18 but assets help you get ahead.

19 When you think about the two most
20 critical assets that most people, particularly
21 unbanked or under-banked populations that we deal
22 with, or the under-served, it's either buying a

1 home or creating a business specifically when you
2 think about the income needs of the city.

3 I couldn't think of a guiding principle that is
4 more aligned with DHCD, quite frankly.

5 You've heard today a lot of the impact
6 in the work. It's always more important to hear
7 from a business owner directly so it's not just
8 us talking about that impact but you see it
9 firsthand. It's important for us to note and to
10 articulate that the impact that we have is a
11 direct reflection of our partnership with DHCD.

12 In 2015 through our loan fund 108 jobs
13 were created and we closed \$1.7 million in
14 capital that supported housing but primarily
15 small business development. Those 108 jobs were
16 a direct reflection of the investments by DHCD.

17 The capital that went toward those
18 businesses were a direct reflection of our
19 partnership with DHCD. I think you will hear
20 that as well with the impact of LEDC, the impact
21 of the DCCH, and the many other organizations
22 that are certainly supported by the funding

1 that's provided through DHCD.

2 The reason why I mention I used to be
3 the director for DSLBD is that it's important to
4 note that DHCD is actually the biggest funder for
5 technical assistance in the city. Not DIMHED,
6 not DSLBD, not the other organizations that touch
7 small business technical assistance providers.

8 It's important that you hear the
9 impact of those dollars on the organizations that
10 help to support the businesses that are important
11 for job creation as well as income preservation
12 and creation throughout the city.

13 You show me a business that's been
14 successful in the city, chances are they've been
15 touched by the dollars that you put forward.
16 It's important that impact is also reflected in
17 the plan.

18 I think that's the consistent thread
19 that you hear from all of us today in making sure
20 that entrepreneurship and small business focus
21 for DHCD is not only practiced which we, of
22 course, think it is through the wonderful team

1 that you have in place as realized through your
2 work, Director Donaldson.

3 But also it's reflected in the plan
4 because I think it's the longer-term concern that
5 either the funding won't be there as we move
6 forward, but ultimately it will have an impact on
7 our ability to have impact. I wanted to share
8 that.

9 One final stat I will share that
10 wasn't touched on and it's by the Aspen
11 Institute. For every dollar that's invested in
12 small business technical assistance, it
13 translates into \$9 worth of impact to every small
14 business. That's really hard for us to
15 articulate when you hear the stories of Tim
16 Hampton earlier and some of the small business
17 owners.

18 It's hard to capture that but this is
19 one that certainly I would like to leave with you
20 as you begin to look back at the technical
21 assistance component of the investments of DHCD.
22 I wanted to share those thoughts. We fully

1 support DHCD. You are a wonderful and your great
2 leadership is certainly the plan that's coming.
3 We want to make sure that feedback is heard as
4 well.

5 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you both
6 for your testimony. Appreciate it.

7 I have now two more witnesses; Julian
8 Everett and June Everett. Then actually those
9 are the last two witnesses whose names I have.
10 If anybody else would like to testify after the
11 Everetts, just indicate so and we will call you
12 up.

13 MS. EVERETT: Hi. I'm the other half.
14 I'm the mother and I apologize but my son is
15 opening up a business down the street today so he
16 came and he had to leave.

17 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: That's fine.

18 MS. EVERETT: I represent --

19 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Pull the mic
20 closer.

21 MS. EVERETT: Okay. I represent both
22 of us.

1 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Okay, great.

2 Thank you.

3 MS. EVERETT: Director Donaldson and
4 company, thank you for having me here today. My
5 name is June Everett and I have been a business
6 owner in Washington, D.C. since 1995. With the
7 help of LEDC I was able to acquire a loan that
8 helped me financially and helped me with a
9 facelift on my business front and interior on
10 Georgia Avenue.

11 Recently my son and I expanded our
12 business venture. Currently we have established
13 a new business on U Street, 10th and U which will
14 be open up it doors this week, Friday. WACIF and
15 LEDC worked hand in hand with me and my son to be
16 able to accomplish this. They provided technical
17 guidelines on marketing, locations, how to
18 establish a LLC, advertising, business plans,
19 etc.

20 They guided us through each step of
21 the way, even how to sign the lease. Without
22 their financial help we would not be able to pay

1 rent and funding for this new venture. They are
2 educators and financial geniuses, and they take
3 time to make sure you succeed.

4 Thank you for helping me accomplish my
5 dreams. When I learned the funding for these
6 organizations could be cut 70 percent, I was
7 alarmed. Alarms went off in my head and I
8 thought how many young people will never be able
9 to fulfill their dreams without their help.
10 I thought to myself they would not be able to
11 accomplish what my son and I have accomplished.

12 Whatever it takes to continue the
13 funding at the maximum rate for these
14 organizations, I beseech you on behalf of the
15 future of our young people and our young
16 entrepreneurs that small businesses are the
17 backbone of America. God bless you. Thank you.

18 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you.
19 Appreciate your testimony very much.

20 Is there anybody else who would like
21 to testify who has not? Please come forward and
22 identify yourself.

1 MR. BYERS: Good evening. My name is
2 Andre Byers, President and CEO of Development
3 Corporation of Columbia Heights. I'll keep this
4 brief. I wasn't going to provide testimony
5 tonight but I so compelled given all the
6 tremendous impactful stories that have been told.
7 I just wanted to add one additional angle for
8 Director Donaldson and staff to look at.

9 We understand that this is a very
10 critical time. It is not the time to reduce
11 funding for small business technical assistance.
12 I say that because we're all looking at the same
13 numbers.

14 We know that there are about a 1,000
15 people moving into the District a month. We
16 understand that. We understand on the housing
17 side why you try to do your best to continue to
18 work hard to mitigate the impact of the influx of
19 people moving into the District. We understand
20 that.

21 However, that is only one side of the
22 coin. When you look at where jobs are being

1 generated in the District it's mostly
2 hospitality. No matter how much affordable
3 housing is being built, we don't know if there's
4 affordability covenants for 35 or 40 years.

5 If you are a server in a hotel or you
6 are working at a restaurant, you still run the
7 risk of being misplaced. Even with the herculean
8 efforts that you're doing on the housing side
9 with the allocated money on the housing side,
10 they will still run the risk of being misplaced.

11 How do you then try to figure out a
12 way to prevent that from happening? You look at
13 the other side of the coin. If there is the
14 opportunity for people to receive increased
15 income because if you're receiving a 1,000 people
16 moving into the District a month, that has
17 increased the amount of leakage in the District.

18 About 10 years ago Social Compact did
19 a study that said there was a billion dollars
20 worth of leakage in the District. It is now \$3
21 billion worth of leakage. You do have to figure
22 out how to mitigate the impact but you look at it

1 from a different angle.

2 We can't be so fearful of people
3 moving into the District. Don't only look at it
4 as the problem that needs to be mitigated. Look
5 at that as an opportunity. That is \$3 billion
6 being spent on District residents and Maryland
7 and Virginia.

8 We are not doing an adequate job of
9 positioning people to earn that revenue that is
10 continuing to increase. This technical
11 assistance is that. If we don't fund it
12 properly, we still will have collectively -- this
13 is my story as well. We are all partners.

14 We will have collectively failed at
15 this critical juncture of providing people with
16 opportunities to advance themselves. Not just
17 stay in the District for more years but to
18 advance themselves. Thank you.

19 DIRECTOR DONALDSON: Thank you so
20 much, Mr. Byers.

21 Is there anybody else who would like
22 to testify at this point? Again, I would like to

1 stress that the record is open until August 10th
2 and we appreciate written comments. There are
3 instructions on the website about who to direct
4 them to. I'm pointing at her.

5 I also want you to know that there is
6 also a general address as well. Our website is
7 DHCD.DC.GOV. I encourage you to take a look and
8 obviously be able to access that.

9 This concludes the public hearing. I
10 appreciate the feedback that all of our witnesses
11 provided tonight. Our comments period has been
12 opened since the plan was released for public
13 comment on June 27, 2016. We will continue to
14 accept written comments until August 10th.

15 If you have questions about submitting
16 written comments for the record, please talk with
17 Jennifer after this session is closed. We will
18 take these written comments plus all comments
19 received tonight into consideration, update the
20 plan as necessary, and submit a final document to
21 HUD before our deadline of August 16th. We are
22 on a fast pace here so get those comments in.

1 Thank you all for coming. Thank you
2 all for your really wonderful and inspiring
3 testimony. The stories are important for all of
4 us to hear. I, again, thank you all for coming.
5 Have a good evening.

6 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
7 went off the record at 7:40 p.m.)
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In the matter of: Public Hearing

Before: DC DHCD

Date: 07-27-16

Place: Washington, DC

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