

Resolution Requesting a Full Restoration of Funding to Community-based Organizations Providing Affordable Housing Counseling Services

Housing and housing policies are central to the inclusiveness of a city. In many ways, housing determines how residents share in a city's wealth by defining access to its assets and amenities. The location of a resident's home deeply affects the services and opportunities afforded to them and their children. The District has experienced tremendous population growth and has also seen dramatic changes in the demographic and socio-economic make-up of its residents. Our city is much wealthier yet it is also less inclusive. As a result, Ward 1, particularly ANC 1C, has been negatively affected by these changing demographics and is less diverse than in years past. The current shortage of affordable housing in the District and ANC 1C exacerbates these negative trends, impacting our community in fundamental ways.

Whereas, the mission of the District Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is to produce and preserve opportunities for affordable housing and economic development;

Whereas, DHCD-funded affordable housing programs include programs like the Home Purchase Assistance Program (HPAP) and Inclusionary Zoning (IZ);

Whereas, the Home Purchase Assistance (HPAP) program provides interest-free loans and closing cost assistance to qualified applicants to purchase single family houses, condominiums, or cooperative units, up to a maximum of \$80,000 in gap financing assistance and an additional \$4,000 in closing cost assistance;

Whereas, the District's Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) Program requires eight percent to ten percent of the residential floor area be set aside for affordable rental or for-sale units in:

- New residential development projects of 10 or more units; and
- Rehabilitation projects that are expanding an existing building by 50 percent or more and adding 10 or more units

Whereas, community-based organizations (CBO) provide important services such as hosting training sessions for Inclusionary Zoning (IZ) rental programs, homeownership programs including HPAP and IZ, and provide housing counseling services;

Whereas, the District requires that qualified households satisfy registration criteria that include completing orientation classes with community-based organizations (CBO) and registration renewals every two years;

Whereas, DHCD's recent budget has negatively affected its "Neighborhood-Based Activities" by dramatically reducing funding to high-performing CBOs;

Whereas, CBOs rely heavily on District government funding provided for in DHCD's "Neighborhood-Based Activities" program;

Whereas, without the funding provided for in DHCD's "Neighborhood-Based Activities" program, CBOs will be forced to reduce entrants for these affordable housing assistance programs without District government funding, guaranteeing that low and moderate income residents in ANC 1C and across the District will not have sufficient access to programs and counseling services that enable them to buy homes, make needed repairs to their homes to keep their homes habitable, protect their homes from foreclosure, improve their credit, or build wealth for their families through obtaining and maintaining homeownership;

Whereas, this reduction in funding will result in significant delays and lack of access to housing counselors, the engines to homeownership for low and moderate income DC residents who depend on HPAP and other DHCD programs to enter the middle class and build wealth;

Whereas, community-based organizations provide essential and mandated housing counseling services that help bridge the gap between District residents in need of affordable housing and District government programs intended to serve them.

Be it resolved, ANC 1C provide a letter, sent by the Chair, to the Mayor and DC Councilmembers requesting the full restoration of funding for 2019 to the District Department of Housing and Community Development's "Neighborhood-Based Activities" program.