

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



PRESS RELEASE

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Include an Experienced Community Organizer/Advocate on Housing Authority Board of Commissioners

The Committee of 100 on the Federal City (C100), the District's oldest planning advocacy organization, testified on October 30, 2019 before the DC City Council in support of Councilmember Anita Bonds' bill to add two Council-appointed members to the Board of Commissioners (Bill 23-0121, the Housing Authority Board of Commissioners Qualification and Expansion Amendment Act of 2019). (For full testimony see <http://committeeof100.net/download/housing/2019-10-30-C100-Testimony-Hearing-on-Bill-23-0121-the-Housing-Authority-Board-of-Commissioners.pdf>)

In her C100 testimony, Andrea Rosen stated:

“The D. C. Consortium of Legal Service Providers currently appoints a commissioner and that should continue. But in order to guarantee that each board member contributes to the mix of expertise, we suggest that each of the public members appointed by the Mayor and Council meet a different competency listed in the legislation, so that a broad range of expertise significant to solving the District's crisis in public housing can be realized.”

Rosen stated that one of the new members should be an experienced organizer/advocate for public housing residents. On-the-ground knowledge and experience of a community organizer who is dedicated to advocating for funding, policies, operations, and individual rights would augment the expertise of a housing developer commissioner or a lawyer well versed in public housing regulations but without the hands-on relationships with the public housing community and background in representing their interests before various forums.

With this and other bills, the Council is responding to sharply escalating public concern since the DC Housing Authority announced that over public housing 2,500 units are uninhabitable and that the agency does not have the money to meet the costs of upgrading and maintaining the inventory of public housing units that the District needs to house our city's most vulnerable residents.
