

The Committee of 100

on the Federal City



June 24, 2020

Dear Chairman Mendelson and Councilmembers,

In response to the extreme hardships low income DC residents are experiencing during this pandemic, and knowing that the Council can make significant policy changes to address long-standing needs in housing and transportation, the Committee of 100 testified on a number of specific issues during the Council hearings on the Mayor's FY2021 budget (see links to testimony below). As you prepare final changes to the FY2021 budget, we urge you to consider these changes :

Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Development, June 8, 2020

- Restructure the Housing Production Trust Fund (**HPTF**) to dedicate public funds for housing up to 50% MFI, not 80% MFI, in order to meet the greatest need for affordable housing.
- Restore \$21 million in funding for affordable housing since the city's number one issue is affordable housing and is a measure of our commitment to actively end inequities and unjust burdens on our most vulnerable residents.
- Sufficiently fund those programs that hold the best chance of addressing the growing post-pandemic need for affordable housing, specifically **Preservation Financing, Property Acquisition and Disposition**, and **District Opportunity to Purchase**.

<http://committeeof100.net/download/housing/2020-06-08-C100-Testimony-DCRA-Budget-and-Oversight-HPTF.pdf>

Committee of the Whole, June 17, 2020

The Budget Support Act of the Mayor's FY2021 budget contains a proposed 40-year tax abatement for housing projects in four specified areas of the city on the condition that the projects, containing 350 or more housing units, also provide 30% of the units at the 80% MFI level. 80% MFI is by all accounts market rate housing, so there is no justification for providing such a bonus for housing that is not addressing affordable housing needs at all and is in fact continuing an apparent policy of providing help to sectors of the housing market that do not need it or deserve it.

<http://committeeof100.net/download/housing/2020-06-17-C100-Testimony-DC-Council-FY2021-Budget-Tax-Abatement.pdf>

Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Development, May 28, 2020

- Preserve public housing by applying \$76 million in capital funding over 2 years to support existing DCHA property renovation rather than as a supplement for the troubled New Communities Initiative.

<http://committeeof100.net/download/housing/2020-05-28-C100-Testimony-DCHA-Budget-and-Oversight-Maguire.pdf>

Committee on Transportation and the Environment, submitted June 4, 2020

Reprogram \$37 million proposed for the obsolete Benning Road/Minnesota Ave. streetcar extension to other much higher priorities including:

- Improving bus service throughout Wards 7 & 8 with more routes and shorter headways
- Investing in low income housing
- Increasing job opportunities
- Investing in public health

http://committeeof100.net/download/transportation/dc_streetcars/2020-06-04-C100-Testimony-DDOT-2021-Budget.pdf

Office of the Tenant Advocate:

In addition to our written testimony, we urge the Council to amend the Mayor's budget to restore \$300,000 funding for the incomplete and unpublished database established in 2005 to provide decision-makers and the public with information on vacancies, housing code violations, providers, petitions, violations and administrative actions. (From May 28, 2020 testimony by David Marlin before Housing Committee.)

This is a time of great opportunity to take bold steps that address the needs of communities most in need of public investment.

Sincerely,


Kirby Wang, Chair