

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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WEDNESDAY
MAY 9, 2018

+ + + + +

The Board of Commissioners met at Fort DuPont/Stoddert, located at 155 Ridge Road, S.E., Washington, D.C., at 1:00 p.m., William Slover, Vice Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- NEIL ALBERT*, Chairman
- WILLIAM SLOVER, Vice Chairman
- KENNETH D. COUNCIL, Commissioner
- KEN GROSSINGER, Commissioner
- FRANK LANCASTER, Commissioner
- NAKEISHA NEAL JONES, Commissioner
- JOSE ORTIZ GAUD, Commissioner
- FRANSELENE ST. JEAN, Commissioner
- AQUARIUS VANN-GHASRI, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

- TYRONE GARRETT, Executive Director
- ALETHEA McNAIR, Acting Board Liaison

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

- BRIAN KENNER, Commissioner

*present by telephone

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DRAFT

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

1:22 p.m.

VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Good afternoon.
My name is Bill Slover. I'm the vice chairman of
the Board of Commissioners, and I'd like to call
this meeting to order. This is our regular meeting
of the District of Columbia Housing Authority,
being held today, May 9, 2018, at Fort
DuPont/Stoddert, 155 Ridge Road Southeast,
Washington, D.C. The time is 1:20.

I apologize for the delay in getting
started. As a reminder, would everybody please
silence their cell phones and other electronic
devices at this moment? I would also like to now
ask for a traditional moment of silence before we
get started.

(Moment of silence.)

VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Okay, thank you.
I'd also like to now read our statement of public
decorum for these meetings. The Board of
Commissioners welcomes constituent input on
matters of public concern and offers you, today,

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1 an opportunity to express your view, including
2 spirited debates of DCHA's decisions by its
3 management and this Board during the public
4 testimony portion of every meeting. However, we
5 require that members of the public who attend our
6 meetings abide by certain rules of decorum, to allow
7 the Board to complete the business before it.

8 Members of the public cannot engage in
9 any disruptive conduct or loud, threatening, or
10 abusive language during the Board meetings. This
11 includes loud outbursts or shouting during times
12 when you have not been invited to speak.

13 Anyone who violates these rules will
14 be asked to leave the meeting immediately and could
15 be subject to arrest for violation of D.C. laws
16 on disorderly conduct. Serious or repeated
17 violations of the rules may result in you being
18 barred from future meetings for a period of at least
19 60 days.

20 We do appreciate your interest in the
21 matters before us today and thank you in advance
22 for abiding by these rules of conduct. At this

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1 time, I'd like to ask for a role call to determine
2 a quorum of the Board.

3 MS. MCNAIR: Thank you. Commissioner
4 Council.

5 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: Present.

6 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Grossinger.

7 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: Here.

8 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Kenner.

9 (No audible response.)

10 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Lancaster.

11 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Present.

12 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones.

13 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Present.

14 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Ortiz Gaud.

15 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: Here.

16 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean.

17 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Present.

18 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner
19 Vann-Ghasri.

20 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Present.

21 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Slover.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Present.

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1 MS. MCNAIR: Chairman Albert.

2 (No audible response.)

3 MS. MCNAIR: Currently, Vice Chair,
4 you have eight commissioners. You have a quorum.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you.
6 Today's agenda is our regular agenda. First, we
7 will allow the public to come before the Board
8 twice, once to discuss any issues they may have
9 about the resolutions we'll be considering today,
10 and second, to discuss any personal issues related
11 to housing. We have two sign-in sheets, one for
12 the resolutions, and one for everything else.
13 Those who are residents of public housing will have
14 five minutes; others will have three minutes. At
15 this time, actually, I would like to approve the
16 minutes from the April 11th meeting. I'd just like
17 to --

18 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Chair --
19 (Simultaneous Speaking).

20 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can you hold on one
21 second? I would like to point out that Chairman
22 Albert has now joined us by cell phone. Welcome,

1 Chairman Albert. I'd like to go over -- I have
2 a review of the minutes from the April 11, 2018
3 meeting. If there are any comments or changes to
4 those minutes, can you express them now?

5 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Chair,
6 being that I hadn't heard anyone speak up on the
7 minutes, I move that the minutes be accepted as
8 they are.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Do I have a second?

10 PARTICIPANT: Second.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All those in favor?

12 (Chorus of ayes.)

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Any opposed?

14 (No audible response.)

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: The minutes are
16 approved. Next, we will hear from the executive
17 director, Mr. Garrett, on his monthly report.

18 MR. GARRETT: Good afternoon,
19 Commissioners. Good afternoon to the public.

20 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Good
21 afternoon.

22 MR. GARRETT: Are there any questions,

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1 Commissioners, in reference to our monthly
2 dashboard? We're still modifying and trying to
3 improve it, so that it gives you the information
4 that you would like, but also gives us the
5 information at a glance that'll be appropriate for
6 other things.

7 I know Commissioner Vann-Ghasri's
8 often talked about being prepared and ready to have
9 information for individuals who may come to our
10 Agency asking for information and statistics.
11 It's very important for us to maintain this. The
12 version of the dashboard that we're trying to
13 utilize and continue to modify should do that for
14 us. It is still a work in progress, I must say,
15 though.

16 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Director
17 Garrett, when it comes to tickets issued, I would
18 like to see several other categories. One category
19 would be -- many of my constituents have what they
20 call CNAs, certified nurse assistants, and they
21 drive, and they get \$250 tickets.

22 Many of my constituents also have

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1 elderly parents who live in other public housing
2 communities. They, too, get \$250 tickets when they
3 park legally, out of their zone, and run in to either
4 take the parent or the guardian back to their
5 residency or to deliver groceries. We need to
6 tweak that out. Thank you so much.

7 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am. Also,
8 Commissioners, we are at that point. I'm seven
9 months into my tenure here. As I talked
10 previously, we were going to start off with
11 assessing the organization and Agency for the first
12 90 days. The second 90 days would be an opportunity
13 for us to develop strategies. Then in the third
14 90 days, we would start to implement several
15 programs and several new ideas or enhance current
16 programs with appropriate strategies that better
17 suit where we are in today's industry. I'm happy
18 to say that we're starting to move in that
19 direction. You will start to see changes
20 internally and externally within our organization,
21 to the betterment of the Agency.

22 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Chair, if

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1 I may.

2 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Go ahead.

3 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Director
4 Garrett, this dashboard report of yours is a great
5 tool for us, as commissioners, but I would like
6 to advise you, going forward, to take and highlight
7 certain elements of that dashboard and make it known
8 to the public exactly how you're moving this Housing
9 Authority forward.

10 MR. GARRETT: Okay, yes, sir.

11 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Because they
12 don't get a copy of this.

13 MR. GARRETT: Right. We'll start to
14 make a copy available.

15 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Thank you.

16 MR. GARRETT: At least on a monthly
17 basis.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: One other
19 comment on the dashboard. This goes for my
20 constituents, being that I am the elect family
21 commissioner. The Virginia Williams Center and
22 the Community Partnership for the Homeless are two

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1 organizations which provide emergency assistance
2 to my constituents.

3 I would like to see some type of
4 trendsetting from those agencies, any and all
5 agencies that provide any type of assistance to
6 my constituents. My constituents are taking the
7 burden if they have anyone that live in their
8 household over 18 years of age.

9 One of my constituents could lose their
10 job in between waiting for unemployment, and would
11 get an eviction notice. Because what I'm
12 understanding is that my constituents will no
13 longer be able to get assistance from either
14 Virginia Williams or the Community Partnership for
15 the Homeless, due to the fact that they do not have
16 minor kids in their homes. That's something that
17 needs to be looked into based on my constituents.

18 MR. GARRETT: Thank you, Commissioner
19 Vann-Ghasri. Commissioners, I just need to end
20 my report with what we do on a monthly basis, which
21 is recognizing outstanding service to the
22 organization and to the residents.

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1 At DCHA, we've changed our philosophy,
2 to some extent. We have a strong commitment to
3 excellence. Currently, my role, as executive
4 director, is to try and recognize our DCHA employees
5 who are delivering that type of service to our
6 constituency.

7 Every month, I try to do that by
8 regularly recognizing employees who have come
9 forth, have put forth a great effort, and who
10 actually, many times, are recognized by the
11 residents, themselves.

12 I don't take these presentations
13 lightly because they mean a lot, not only on your
14 behalf, as the Board of Commissioners, but on behalf
15 of the residents and the other employees who support
16 them. For their outstanding delivery and service,
17 we want other employees to emulate these
18 individuals. I talked about it a couple of months
19 ago. I want my employees to be contagious. I want
20 them to rub off on one another, so that what we're
21 giving to our residents is what they expect from
22 us. Our employee of the month for May 2018 is

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1 Anthony Brackett.

2 Mr. Brackett is a mechanic in the
3 Department of Property Management Operations.
4 (Applause.) If we could say this about every
5 employee that we actually have (Applause.) I don't
6 know if he knows these things, but what his
7 supervisor has said about him is that he defines
8 the meaning of a dedicated employee.

9 He has the role for addressing 215 units
10 all on his shoulders, himself, alone. According
11 to his supervisor, he addresses all of his work
12 assignments without hesitation and never
13 complains. He tackles everything with
14 determination and a smile.

15 His dedication and loyalty is truly
16 among the great assets to this organization, and
17 he always seeks solutions versus just bringing us
18 problems. That's something that I prefer, having
19 someone bring me a solution to an issue versus a
20 problem that I have to figure out how to solve on
21 my own. A couple of weeks ago, he dealt with a
22 major issue of a water main break. He dealt with

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1 it in such a way that it was fixed within several
2 hours. He's consistently guided not only himself,
3 but other employees, to provide new skills and new
4 opportunities to work on behalf of the residents.

5 Again, can we congratulate Mr. Brackett
6 on his service and a job well done? (Applause.)

7 Thank you, Mr. Brackett. Now, as I mentioned at
8 last month's Board meeting, we were going to also
9 recognize the Apprentice Training Program, our
10 modified apprentice program that we put in play
11 about two months ago.

12 It began, again, March 12th, where we
13 have DCHA trainees that go out with our maintenance
14 staff to try and help us with our initiative to
15 revitalize, rejuvenate some of our properties.

16 That's one of our mechanisms that we're
17 trying to do something a little bit different to
18 ensure that the service and residents feel as though
19 we're committed to them. In doing that, we have
20 three apprentices that are going to be recognized
21 this month for their work at the Village or Knox
22 Hill, and now they're working at Stoddert Terrace,

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1 LeDroit, and Kelly Miller. They've been on board
2 with us for about nine weeks, and I think they've
3 pulled a great service. They're enhancing our
4 properties, and they're working on your behalf.
5 Residents, from what I understand, enjoy seeing
6 them come on site.

7 Now we're going to do three more
8 individuals again this month, where we said last
9 month we were only going to do one. It turns out
10 these apprentices are doing such a great job that
11 we need to recognize three more. Our first
12 individual will be Keith Harrison. (Applause.)
13 Yolanda Dawkins. (Applause.)

14 I just want to note Ms. Dawkins is a
15 Villager resident. Also, we have Shermane Perry
16 (phonetic). She's at work right now, so she
17 couldn't be here, but we'll make sure she gets it.

18 I want you to congratulate these individuals for
19 their hard effort and their work on our behalf.
20 (Applause.) Thank you very much. (Applause.)

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you for that
22 report. Does anybody have any questions of the

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1 executive director about the report? I appreciate
2 that, and let's move on to the business resolutions
3 of the day. We have one person signed up to comment
4 on the resolutions, which happens to be the first
5 resolution, 18-06, so Mr. Watson, could you please
6 come forward. You have three minutes, and welcome.

7 MR. WATSON: Good afternoon, Vice
8 Chair, Commissioners.

9 COMMISSIONERS: Good afternoon.

10 MR. WATSON: My name is Melvin Watson,
11 Sr. I'm here to testify in reference to Resolution
12 18-06. Before I give my comments in reference to
13 whether or not I will oppose or support this
14 resolution, I have a question for the executive
15 director. As you well know, I testified last month
16 down at Greenleaf.

17 They have 30 ACC units coming out of
18 Arthur Capper/Carrollsburg. I have no problem with
19 those ACC units remaining in that neighborhood.
20 Like I said, the amenities in Ward 6 supersede all
21 amenities in this city when it comes to ACC units.

22 Therefore, I will vehemently object if we're

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1 talking about moving those 30 units to what you
2 call City View Apartments, which is the old Douglas
3 Junior High School, which I'm very familiar with
4 the area because I live in Ward 8. My question
5 is are we talking 30 additional ACC units, or are
6 we talking about transferring 30 units, ACC, out
7 of Ward 6 to Ward 8?

8 MR. GARRETT: There are 30 additional
9 units, Mr. Watson.

10 MR. WATSON: Thirty additional units?

11 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir.

12 MR. WATSON: I have no problem with
13 your financing of 30 additional ones. Like I said,
14 I'll be watching this, and I hope that coming down
15 the line, that these are the same 30 units that
16 we financed, that we transferred when they, in fact,
17 are not 60, but 30.

18 MR. GARRETT: Thirty additional units
19 are being built.

20 MR. WATSON: Okay.

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Mr. Chair.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes. Hold on.

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1 Mr. Watson, are you done?

2 MR. WATSON: Yes, I'm done.

3 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Okay, thank you.

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: In
5 reference to Resolution 18-06 to authorize
6 submission to HUD of a development proposal for
7 the allocation of public housing operating subsidy
8 for 30 ACC units in the City View Apartments project
9 and related matters, first and foremost, it's
10 personal to me because I'm territorial, and I live
11 in Ward 6.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner
13 Vann-Ghasri --

14 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: This issue
15 involves much more than bricks --

16 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner
17 Vann-Ghasri, could I read the resolution, and then
18 we'll open it up to the public?

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Oh, I
20 thought we already done that.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We were just
22 getting public comment. What I would like to do

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1 is actually formally introduce the resolution, get
2 the --

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I
4 apologize.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: -- staff report,
6 our presentation on the resolution, and then I'll
7 entertain comments and points of view from the
8 commissioners.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Bring it to
10 my attention when it's my turn to be acknowledged.
11 Thank you so much.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'll make a note.
13 We're going to move on to the business resolutions.
14 The first resolution is Resolution 18-06 to
15 authorize execution and delivery and related
16 closing matters for 30 ACC units in the City View
17 Apartments project.

18 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: So moved.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Who's going to
20 present on this?

21 MR. GARRETT: We're going to have
22 Kerry.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Whomever is
2 presenting --

3 (Simultaneous Speaking)

4 MS. SMYSER: Good afternoon,
5 Commissioners.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Good afternoon.

7 MS. SMYSER: My name is Kerry Smyser.

8 I'm in the Office of Capital Programs. Resolution
9 18-06 is before you, and it would allow the Housing
10 Authority to submit a mixed-finance development
11 proposal to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
12 Development to put ACC through the annual
13 contributions contract on 30 units at the City View
14 Apartments. City View Apartments is a 58-unit
15 development. It is being constructed by William
16 C. Smith, in Ward 8.

17 The project overlooks Sheridan Station
18 and actually has funding from the Department of
19 Housing -- I'm sorry, the D.C. Department of Housing
20 and Community Development. The project is a \$20
21 million project. It has 9 percent tax credits.
22 It has funding from the Department of Behavioral

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1 Health, and it also has a grant from the D.C. SEU
2 for solar panels and for Energy Star.

3 The project will be energy efficient.

4 The project has a goal to meet gold LEED
5 certification. It will meet LEED homes
6 certification. The Housing Authority would submit
7 its mixed development proposal to HUD if the
8 resolution passes, with closing in July or August,
9 and then construction to occur within 30 days after
10 closing. Then the units would deliver in December
11 of 2019. I'm happy to answer any questions.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner
13 Vann-Ghasri.

14 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I'm going
15 to try to do all of this in the time before me.
16 I already let you know that I'm very territorial,
17 and I live in Ward 6. This issue involves much
18 more than bricks and mortar. It extends to
19 establish and maintain public housing residents;
20 I understand that.

21 It also enhances the opportunity to
22 achieve leverage with this deal because this is

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1 a deal. Within this deal, first of all, this deal
2 been going on for several years. Even though 30
3 units will be moved from Ward 6 into Ward 8, and
4 that Ward 6 will suffer because nothing is in
5 writing to say that William C. Smith will replace
6 those 30 units that he would have built former to,
7 and at what point in time.

8 In the meantime, I would sincerely
9 appreciate, when we do resolutions, to let us know
10 how much the land value is, lot and square, and
11 how much the deal is, so we can subtract and add
12 to see, as residents, what and how it impacts us,
13 not only economically, but socially. When you move
14 all the Ward 6 into Ward 8, whether or not you have
15 already spoke to my constituents in Ward 6. That
16 would be Christine Spencer. That would be Wanda
17 Hanson. That would be Deana Walker. And that
18 impacts -- and Ms. Loughridge (phonetic).

19 Those are the residents. I don't know
20 about how other wards run, but I'm going to tell
21 you now, I influence very heavily in my ward, and
22 we are territorial, and our council member

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1 understands that very, very well. If it's not in
2 writing, you already know, I will not be voting
3 for this resolution.

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I appreciate your
5 comments. Commissioner Lancaster.

6 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: No comment at
7 this particular time.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We're going to come
9 right down the line here.

10 PARTICIPANT: No comment.

11 PARTICIPANT: No.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Neal Jones.

13 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Can you
14 reiterate what will happen to the 30 units that
15 are here and what the plan is for Capper? Can you
16 hear me? I was asking if she could reiterate what
17 would happen to these 30 units, and also what's
18 the plan for former residents of Capper going
19 forward?

20 MS. SMYSER: Right. The 30 units that
21 -- the 30 units for Capper will remain in Capper.

22 These units are not leaving Ward 6 or the footprint

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1 of Capper. The goal here is to really hold Smith's
2 feet to the fire and to have them deliver 30 public
3 housing unit to the Housing Authority.

4 The Housing Authority intends to
5 deliver and keep its commitment to deliver the 707
6 public housing units. We still have three parcels
7 that are not planned for. We have an RFP that we
8 are drafting for a master planner to master plan
9 the last three parcels, Square 882 South, Square
10 739, and Square 768, to plan the remaining 234
11 units.

12 That includes the 30 units that we have
13 to do at Capper. These 30 units at City View are
14 really net new units to the Authority. We are
15 offering these units to former residents of
16 Capper/Carrollsborg. If they choose to go there,
17 then that will be consider their replacement unit.

18 If not, then they can wait for a unit at Capper.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'm sorry; can you
20 clarify that, it would be considered a replacement
21 unit, but not produced from the 707?

22 MS. SMYSER: Yes. I said we will offer

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1 units to -- the units at City View will be offered
2 to Capper/Carrollsborg residents. If they choose
3 to live at City View, then that will be considered
4 their replacement unit. If they choose not to go
5 there, then they can wait for a unit at Capper.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What you're really
7 saying is they're giving up their right to return
8 to Capper?

9 MS. SMYSER: Yes.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner Ortiz
11 Gaud, any questions? I have a few questions about
12 this resolution. It's really a replacement -- this
13 resolution is a result of the Board approving
14 Resolution 18-04, correct?

15 MS. SMYSER: Correct.

16 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: These are
17 basically -- just to remind everybody, Resolution
18 18-04 allowed WC Smith to exit a covenant that
19 required them to build 30 units for land that the
20 Housing Authority gave them. We gave them, I
21 think, 16,000 square feet in 2008, which allowed
22 them to build 1,100 units of market rate apartments.

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1 In return for that, they were supposed to build
2 us 30 units on the Capper footprint, correct?

3 MS. SMYSER: It was a piece of land,
4 not quite that large. It was a small piece of land
5 that they needed in order to build out their entire
6 --

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: How many square
8 feet?

9 MS. SMYSER: I can't remember the exact
10 square footage, but it --

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I think it was
12 about 16,000. It was 12,000, 10,000?

13 MS. SMYSER: I can't remember exactly.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: 10,000 to 12,000?

15 MS. SMYSER: Smaller than that.

16 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Smaller?

17 MS. SMYSER: I think so.

18 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That allowed them
19 to build the 1,100 units, and in return, they were
20 supposed to build us 30 units of public housing.

21 MS. SMYSER: That's correct.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: They built three

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1 buildings, and then they didn't build us the 30
2 units.

3 MS. SMYSER: Yes, they built --

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Right?

5 MS. SMYSER: They have built two
6 buildings, yes --

7 (Simultaneous Speaking)

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: They built three
9 buildings --

10 MS. SMYSER: -- build the third.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: -- and we didn't
12 get our public housing units, and they said it was
13 because it didn't work for them, but they were able
14 to build full-size basketball courts, single tennis
15 courts, indoor amphitheater, indoor green space,
16 the list goes on. We didn't get our 30 units in
17 that property, and in replacement, we're going to
18 get 30 units in an affordable housing building
19 that's City View. That's the tradeoff, right?

20 MS. SMYSER: That is the tradeoff.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: My personal
22 opinion is that's not a good tradeoff. Also, the

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1 other question I would ask is we keep talking about
2 how we're not losing anything on the 707, which
3 I think is important to point out, but I also think
4 that it increases our costs. Because now, we have
5 to, in our final three parcels, we have to find
6 30 more units of public housing.

7 MS. SMYSER: Yes, we do.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Which is going to
9 reduce our land costs because we all know land cost
10 gets reduced because of the 30 units of public
11 housing, which is what Smith just showed us. They
12 didn't want to reduce the value of their land with
13 those 30 units. They wanted to do it somewhere
14 else. We're now faced with a situation, because
15 of the Board's actions on 18-04, that we're going
16 to reduce our land further. Is that fair?

17 MS. SMYSER: No, I wouldn't say that's
18 fair.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We have to find 30
20 more units of public housing on the land we already
21 -- we wouldn't otherwise have had to have done.

22 MS. SMYSER: We're going to, like I

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1 said, do this master planning. We have done
2 mixed-income buildings at Capper, so it has not
3 decreased our land value at all. In fact, we've
4 been able to take the land value to build out our
5 public housing units. If we continue that model,
6 we'll be able to increase the value at Capper.
7 Over the years, the value at Capper continues to
8 go up.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We're going to
10 agree to disagree because you have to find 30 more
11 units of subsidized housing you otherwise would
12 not have had to have found, which would have
13 unlocked more value in the land with our partners.
14 You just fundamentally -- we just saw Smith
15 exercise that.

16 They did not fulfill their requirement
17 to build these 30 units, and we let them off and
18 let them build it somewhere else. We're going to
19 pay the price down the road. I fundamentally can't
20 support this because I just don't think we should
21 let them off the hook on 18-04, so I'm not going
22 to support this.

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1 MR. GARRETT: Commissioner Slover, may
2 I speak?

3 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Sure.

4 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, as
5 Commissioner Slover pointed out, this is a
6 companion resolution to 18-04. As noted, we did
7 sign and agree to move those 30 units, so that's
8 already been put in place by the Board of
9 Commissioners, and we've accepted payment.

10 As Commissioner Slover spoke about,
11 though, the Capper footprint, we should also note
12 that the Capper footprint is a very large acreage
13 and can handle additional units throughout that
14 particular footprint, whether they be mixed income
15 or additional ACC units.

16 We're not defeating ourselves when we
17 attempt to leverage those particular parcels. We
18 believe that we can still obtain the true land value
19 through leveraged sources to have those units
20 actually built without any additional cost to the
21 authority.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: One final point.

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1 I just want to make sure this gets on the record.
2 We traded 30 units in a luxury building for 30
3 units in an affordable building. Units are units;
4 I get it, but it's not a like kind exchange. I
5 feel like this Board continues to, I want to say,
6 get pushed around, but we need to hold people to
7 their commitments. (Applause.) I feel like we
8 really let down -- I think we really fell down on
9 the job by approving 18-04. With that, are there
10 any other comments? We'll take a roll -- is there
11 a motion to vote?

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I move.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Is there a second?

14 CHAIRMAN ALBERT: Second.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: A second from the
16 phone. We'll do a roll call vote.

17 MS. MCNAIR: Thank you. Commissioner
18 Vann-Ghasri.

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: No.

20 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean.

21 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

22 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Ortiz Gaud.

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1 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: Yes.

2 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones.

3 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

4 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Lancaster.

5 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Before I say
6 anything on this, I held my comment until this vote.

7 Hearing what I hear just a few minutes ago, there's
8 no friendly amendment to this vote, and I will say
9 no.

10 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Council.

11 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: No.

12 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Slover.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: No.

14 MS. MCNAIR: Chairman Albert.

15 CHAIRMAN ALBERT: Yes.

16 MS. MCNAIR: Let the record reflect
17 that Chairman Albert said yes. You have one, two,
18 three, four yes and four no. The resolution is
19 not passed.

20 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All right, moving
21 on to the next resolution. We have Resolution
22 18-07, which is to accept the final audit of DCHA

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1 for fiscal year 2017. The District of Columbia
2 DCHA requests approval from the Board of
3 Commissioners to accept the DCHA's audited
4 financial statements, the independent auditor's
5 report, and the management discussion and analysis
6 for the period end of September 30, 2017. Is there
7 going to be anybody presenting on this?

8 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, we can
9 have an additional presentation from our auditor,
10 if necessary. Again, based on the audit summary,
11 there was no financial finding. There was one
12 management finding that we needed to correct.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I apologize.

14 MR. GARRETT: There was no financial
15 finding, as you are aware, and then there was a
16 management finding, which we have corrected, in
17 terms of a recertification. We can go further in
18 depth, if necessary, with your approval.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Does anybody want
20 that or have any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I would
22 like to put some things on the record. What I would

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1 like to put on the record is A, would somebody
2 answer, so it can be on the record, what is an
3 independent audit? Why does the District of
4 Columbia Housing Authority have an independent
5 audit?

6 How and what was determined with this
7 audit? Why is it aligned, and how does that work,
8 and what was the outcome driven of this audit, and
9 what does collaborative work -- what it constitutes
10 for my constituents? I'm the family elect
11 commissioner.

12 MR. GARRETT: Commissioner
13 Vann-Ghasri, we're going to allow our auditor, who
14 conducted the audit and made the presentation
15 earlier, to answer your questions.

16 THE AUDITOR: Can we go through each
17 question one by one? Can we go back through each
18 one of your questions? Can you state the first
19 one? I was coming up from the back.

20 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: What is an
21 independent audit?

22 THE AUDITOR: First of all, the

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1 independent audit, you all, DCHA, is required to
2 have an outside third party conduct an annual audit,
3 since you receive over \$750,000 of federal funds.

4 It must be an independent audit.

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: What
6 constitutes a collaborative work environment, and
7 how does that impact my constituents, or the
8 residents of the District of Columbia Housing
9 Authority?

10 THE AUDITOR: When you say
11 collaborative?

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Your Goal
13 D, foster collaborative work environment that is
14 outcome driven and meets the highest expectations
15 of the affordable housing industry. What does that
16 mean, and how does it impact my constituents?

17 THE AUDITOR: From an audit standpoint
18 and us being independent, the word collaborative,
19 the way I translate it, is as we work with DC Housing
20 Authority to collaborate and to put together this
21 audit report that you're looking at. We work
22 together to collect data.

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1 They provide us information to support
2 how, from a financial aspect, the internal controls
3 checks and balances to make sure the money that
4 is spent is done appropriately. We also look at
5 it from the constituent side, where we're looking
6 at the programs that they're in, that the funds
7 are being properly spend. Again, we collaborate
8 with all the staff here to gather that information,
9 so then we can provide an independent report for
10 everyone to review.

11 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: This is the
12 last question. Where and how do you get that data
13 collected?

14 THE AUDITOR: We request it. We put
15 together requests and get an enormous amount of
16 data electronically from the financial records of
17 the Agency, and then also request other kind of
18 records that are maintained from the constituents'
19 point of view. We look at their records that are
20 maintained at the Authority, also.

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: What
22 records are you looking at that belongs to

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1 constituents? Is there confidentiality, or do you
2 have the privilege?

3 THE AUDITOR: We're independent, and
4 there's stuff we go through to make sure that's
5 all maintained independent.

6 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Thank you
7 so much.

8 THE AUDITOR: You're welcome.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Any other
10 questions? I heard someone yell be transparent
11 out there. We strive to be that way. What I would
12 offer is that these documents are made public at
13 some point in time. If you want to, you can go
14 out and -- check me if I'm wrong, but last year's
15 should be available to the public, so feel free
16 to go read through it. At some point, this one
17 will be made public. An audit is really just a
18 check and balance and to make sure that -- it's
19 not a description of efficiency. It's a required
20 process to go through to make sure that everything's
21 where it should be. I think we need to understand
22 that's what it is.

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1 I would like to echo some comments from
2 earlier and to thank the audit firm. It was a very
3 detailed report. Thank you very much. You
4 clearly spent a lot of time here and worked -- staff
5 and everybody. It sounds like it was a very
6 successful process, and we want to thank you for
7 that.

8 Again, it's available. Go take a look
9 at it, pull up last year's. When this one comes
10 out, take a look at it. We're not trying to hide
11 anything. It's just a process we have to go through
12 timing wise. We need to approve this document,
13 so that we can then make it available to you.
14 That's the way it works. Does anybody have any
15 other questions or comments related to Resolution
16 18-07? Do I hear a motion to vote?

17 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: So moved.

18 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Second.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Roll call, please.

20 MS. MCNAIR: Thank you. Commission
21 St. Jean.

22 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

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1 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Ortiz Gaud.

2 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: Yes.

3 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones.

4 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

5 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Lancaster.

6 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Yes.

7 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Council.

8 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: Yes.

9 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner
10 Vann-Ghasri.

11 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes.

12 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Slover.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes.

14 MS. MCNAIR: Chairman Albert.

15 CHAIRMAN ALBERT: Yes.

16 MS. MCNAIR: Let the record reflect
17 that Chairman Albert said yes. You have eight yes.
18 The resolution is approved.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Moving on to
20 Resolution 18-09 -- can you hold on one sec? With
21 the Board's okay, since Resolution 18-09 and 18-10
22 are essentially for the same services, just

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1 different divisions, I would like to be able to
2 move these two en bloc, unless I have some
3 opposition to that. Hearing none, we'll get a
4 presentation on Resolution 18-09, which is the
5 execution of a contract for screening services for
6 the Housing Choice Voucher Program participants,
7 and 18-10, which is to authorize the execution of
8 a contract for applicant screening services for
9 eligibility and continued occupancy division,
10 which is traditional public housing.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Good afternoon,
12 Commissioners, Chelsea Johnson. What you have
13 before you is a resolution requesting your approval
14 for us to enter into a contract with Yardi Services
15 for background screenings during recertification
16 process for our participants and for our residents.

17 Currently, we do background screenings
18 during the eligibility process, and we allow our
19 residents and our participants to recertify with
20 self-certifications. We have learned, through
21 past experience, that sometimes there are
22 misrepresentations, and then we have to later take

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1 action. As explained to you earlier, HUD rules
2 do not allow for us to allow individuals who are
3 Class A sex offenders or meth producers to remain
4 in our program or to use federal funds for their
5 participation in our program, so we are required
6 to take action when we learn of those types of
7 offenses.

8 What we're seeking to do is to have full
9 background checks done at recertification period,
10 to make sure that we're in compliance with HUD
11 rules. We will not be applying any new protocol
12 or procedure, in terms of taking any action that
13 we would not otherwise take action on for our
14 residents or our participants.

15 We will remain consistent. We
16 currently have policies in place that we follow.

17 This just simply allows us to not have to be
18 reactive after we later learn that someone
19 committed an offense that would not allow them to
20 be in our program.

21 Both resolutions are before you for
22 approval. There are two different resolutions

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1 because one is for our the Housing Choice Voucher
2 Program, and then the other resolution is for our
3 residents in the Low Income Housing Program. It's
4 two different departments that would need to enter
5 into contracts with Yardi. Please let me know if
6 you have any questions.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Questions?

8 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I would
9 like to put on the record that unfortunately, I
10 won't be able to vote for this because my
11 constituents -- on anything that concerns judiciary
12 challenged individuals in the District of Columbia
13 public housing, here are my constituents, and
14 here's a list that I know for a fact you have not
15 contacted them.

16 Roach Brown (phonetic), Elmalee Fircon
17 (phonetic), Deborah Rowe, Jonathan Howard, C. Sosa,
18 Tony Lewis, Ronald Moten, Jahar Abertson
19 (phonetic), Yango Sawyer (phonetic), Kenny Barnes.

20 It's an insult to me when Karen Settles
21 chaired the city-wide advisory board and brought
22 to the attention to this Housing Authority with

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1 Wallace Kirby reach. Unfortunately, until you
2 respect my constituents, I won't be able to vote
3 on anything that deals with residents in judiciary
4 challenge.

5 (Applause.)

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: You good?

7 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I'm good.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner
9 Lancaster.

10 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: No comment at
11 this particular time.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Okay. Does
13 anybody have any comments?

14 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Can you talk
15 about the plan for resident engagement in the
16 changes to the --

17 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Chair,
18 there's no other comments, I move --

19 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: -- the
20 changes to the recertification process.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Hold on; there's
22 going to be comments.

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1 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: I'm sorry.

2 I have to be really against the mic to hear. I
3 wanted to know if you could talk about your plan
4 for resident engagement and the changes to the
5 recertification process?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Thank you for that
7 question. We do intend to have a meeting with the
8 advocacy community on May 24th to talk about the
9 fact that we will be consistent with our plan.
10 Although we're seeking contract authority at this
11 particular time, we don't expect that we will begin
12 to do background checks until the September time
13 frame, when it's the first time we're going through
14 the recertification process. Before that time,
15 we definitely intend to engage residents, make sure
16 that they're fully informed.

17 Also, upon admission into our program,
18 every resident is made aware that they have to
19 remain in compliance with all federal requirements
20 and guidelines. This will just be a reminder of
21 that, but also advising them that we will be doing
22 full background checks.

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1 Also, I should put on the record that
2 if ever there is any issue in regards to,
3 particularly, one household member or one
4 participant in a family, that our Agency will
5 maintain the policy of allowing residents some
6 leniency, if they need to make some adjustments,
7 so that they can remain in our program.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I have a couple
9 questions. How many recertifications or
10 certifications do we do in each of these programs
11 annually?

12 MS. JOHNSON: In the Housing Choice
13 Voucher Program, we conduct 6,391
14 recertifications. There's a breakdown, actually,
15 in the resolution, that identifies how many we do
16 for annual. We do 12,781 on a biannual basis, and
17 767 for individuals who are on triannual
18 recertification schedules. Then in our Low Income
19 Housing Program, we conduct 6,500 recertifications
20 on a biannual basis, and 1,167 recertifications
21 on a triannual basis.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I just picked up

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1 this. I apologize. Why is there such a
2 discrepancy in the cost -- unless my math is way
3 off -- on the cost of each of the certifications?

4 It costs \$35, and then if you look at the HCVP
5 annual cost, it's \$580,000 for what equates to the
6 same amount of certifications.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, we did a
8 look at all of the adult household members in each
9 program, and that's how we came up with the number
10 in the estimate. These recertifications are for
11 adult household members. It appears as though
12 there's a difference in numbers for adult household
13 members in the various programs. That's what this
14 number references.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: So I'm to take from
16 that there's twice as many adults in the Housing
17 Choice Voucher per --

18 MS. JOHNSON: We actually ran the
19 numbers based on how many adult household members
20 we do recertifications on. That's how we came up
21 with what the estimate would be for their
22 recertifications.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Interesting. You
2 mentioned -- the biggest concern that I've heard
3 about this policy is that it's going to be used
4 to, let's say, deny entrance or re-entrance to
5 redeveloped properties. The timing of the
6 resolution is concerning to the advocates.

7 I wish we had the advocate meeting prior
8 to approving this. I hear you saying that we're
9 simply approving the contract, but I have concern
10 that we haven't heard enough from the residents
11 and the advocates that we serve prior to approving
12 this. I have concerns about it.

13 I'm personally going to vote no and wait
14 until we hear from the advocates and how they weigh
15 in on this and how we can assure that what we're
16 saying is in writing somewhere. I don't see that
17 in the resolution, so I can't support it. With
18 that said, are there any other comments?

19 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: I have a
20 couple of more questions. Did you have some?

21 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: Yes, I do.

22 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Go.

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1 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: For the clarity
2 of what's going on in this resolution, can you tell
3 me is it something that DCHA is doing? Is it
4 something that all of the housing authorities are
5 doing? Is it something that HUD is making us do?

6 MS. JOHNSON: HUD mandates that we not
7 provide any federal funding to anyone that's a Class
8 A sex offender or a meth producer. Once they learn
9 that you have provided funding, it's a potential
10 negative audit finding on our Agency.

11 I did do an audit of our Agency and
12 learned that there were individuals who
13 self-certified that they were not Class A sex
14 offenders, and that we made our programmatic
15 decisions based on that certification improperly.

16 Therefore, in order to be in compliance
17 with HUD rules, we need to be prudent and do full
18 background checks. Other public housing
19 authorities also do full background checks at
20 recertification.

21 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: Hearing you say
22 that, as far as sex offenders, there are certain

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1 class of sex offenders. Just to say sex offenders,
2 that sends a red light that makes a person say I
3 don't want him or her in my neighborhood or my
4 neighbor. Can you clarify, for example, what is
5 and what isn't, as far as from A, B, C sex offender?

6 MS. JOHNSON: The clarification I
7 could provide is that it's based on a Class A sex
8 offender, the HUD rule, and that's the requirement
9 where if someone commits an offense that rises to
10 the level of them being a lifetime registered sex
11 offender, they are not permitted to be in any
12 federal program, including our program.

13 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: But there is
14 one that I believe that's an A if one's caught by
15 the police relieving them self in public. That
16 can make them a sex offender, as well.

17 MS. JOHNSON: That would probably be
18 considered a Class B, but I don't want to speculate.

19 I don't have the District of Columbia criminal
20 rules before me. I will indicate that, of course,
21 if we were made aware of anything that could
22 potentially put our residents at risk, then we would

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1 handle it like we currently handle it, in terms
2 of fight-backs, having to look at what the action
3 was, if it's something that is dangerous and
4 something that we need to be responsive to would
5 be consistent with our current policies and
6 procedures.

7 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: I hear what
8 you're saying, but we need to be clarified to make
9 the residents feel comfortable in knowing what
10 we're trying to do with safety. If we don't do
11 it that way, it seems like we are being
12 discriminatory. We need to make sure that we tweak
13 it. We give them every definition that follows
14 under what we call a sex offender. There are women,
15 just as well as men, that are sex offenders.

16 MS. JOHNSON: Absolutely.
17 Commissioner, this particular resolution wouldn't
18 delineate the various Class A sex offenders
19 because, of course, this is a resolution regarding
20 contract authority. But for purposes of making
21 sure that all of our residents understand what is
22 not permissible, we could definitely provide

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1 guidance on what would be considered a Class A sex
2 offender versus Class B. I should also indicate
3 that if someone is a Class B sex offender and they've
4 committed some other kind of egregious act, our
5 Agency would still have to take that same due
6 diligence to make sure that we're protecting our
7 residents and make a decision on if that resident
8 is a danger to our residents.

9 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: It certainly
10 sounds like there's some unreadiness and a desire
11 to have more engagement and public comment. Can
12 you tell me about the timing? From your
13 perspective, from where you're sitting, why does
14 it need to go forward now? What time of constraints
15 are we facing?

16 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioners, you all
17 often have a very jam-packed schedule. We have
18 a lot of various initiatives that we're moving on.
19 Getting your approval to move forward allows us
20 to move into the next direction of informing our
21 residents, of putting forth the initiative in
22 regards to community engagement, but also assuring

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1 HUD that we were immediately responsive to their
2 audit finding that we allowed individuals in our
3 program that should not have been. They are
4 looking to us to see how is our Agency going to
5 respond when we recently had a negative audit
6 finding that there were individuals we let
7 self-certify. So being able to go back to them
8 and say that we went to our Board, that we have
9 the intention to do full background checks, that
10 we have gotten approval for a contract to do so,
11 and that we have a plan to roll it out to our
12 residents in due time, we believe, is responsive,
13 is necessary, and is a good reflection of our
14 Agency's commitment to abide by the federal rules
15 and regulations.

16 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Are there
17 certain time constraints for the corrective actions
18 to HUD? Have they given us a deadline? Has HUD
19 given a deadline to respond to the findings?

20 MS. JOHNSON: I'm unable, at this
21 particular point, say what that timeline is. I
22 can say that obviously, being a regulatory Agency,

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1 that we're constantly under scrutiny in regards
2 to how we respond. Wanting to maintain a positive
3 reputation and showing that we are being responsive
4 to any issues that are highlighted, this is the
5 step that we're taking. I can also just indicate
6 that as a whole, our Agency needs to maintain a
7 positive relationship. We need to show that we're
8 proactive. Quite frankly, it's hard to even go
9 back to HUD to indicate why we would not want to
10 make sure that there are no Class A sex offenders
11 in our program.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I would offer
13 that's not what we're saying. We're not saying
14 we don't want to do that part. What we're saying
15 is the wide-scoping authority is the issue. We're
16 not saying that, so don't say that. That's not
17 what we're saying.

18 What we're saying, again, is that there
19 are two things you've specified that HUD has
20 requested. You're requesting much more than that.

21 We want to understand what that means. Don't put
22 words in our mouth. We're not saying we don't want

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1 to do this.

2 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, I wasn't
3 putting words in your mouth.

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We're saying we
5 want to understand this.

6 MS. JOHNSON: I was just indicating
7 that it would be challenging to go back to indicate
8 why we would not be doing background checks. Let
9 me also just clarify, for the record, that we
10 currently do background checks to confirm that
11 individuals are eligible. We also, on an ongoing
12 basis, do fight-backs, which means that if we are
13 aware that an individual has committed a violent
14 criminal activity, we move forward with the
15 eviction process.

16 Let me also indicate that in moving
17 forward with the eviction process, any resident
18 has an opportunity to have counsel and, of course,
19 go before the court and contest and have due
20 process. The same holds true to any action we take
21 against a participant. There's due process.
22 Individuals have an opportunity to have counsel

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1 if they are unhappy with a decision that we're
2 taking, in terms of their participation in our
3 program.

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: When did you get
5 the request from HUD to do the screening?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, I don't
7 know the exact date. I do know that within the
8 last month is when we had to provide them with the
9 information.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: So you put this
11 proposal June 8, 2017.

12 PARTICIPANT: May 7th.

13 MS. JOHNSON: The proposal went out on
14 May 7th.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Whereas, June 8,
16 2017, DCHA received two proposals for evaluation.

17 MS. JOHNSON: That's the closing date.
18 We put it out May.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What day is it
20 today? It's a year later, right? You put this
21 out a year ago.

22 MS. JOHNSON: No, I think that's a

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1 typo.

2 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What am I missing?

3 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, that's a
4 typo. This should have been 2018, so let the record
5 reflect that.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: So all this 2017
7 is actually 2018?

8 MS. JOHNSON: It's a typo, yes,
9 Commissioner.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Hold on. I'm
11 sorry; when did you put out the proposal for these
12 contracts?

13 MS. JOHNSON: Brief indulgence. I can
14 get you that exact information. It appears as
15 though this resolution has the wrong date. But
16 either way, Commissioner, I can answer your
17 question in regards to when did we have to respond
18 to HUD. That would have been about a month ago,
19 we had to provide them with information. In
20 regards to when the solicitation went out, I have
21 to look back to my staff to ask about these dates.

22 MR. GARRETT: Commissioner Slover, may

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1 I make a comment, please?

2 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Sure.

3 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, one thing
4 I want everyone to be clear about and understand
5 is that we're not asking to do anything that we
6 are not required to do by HUD regulation.

7 In addition, the only change that we're
8 actually making is we're removing the opportunity
9 for residents to recertify themselves as not to
10 have been a Class A sex offender or a producer of
11 methamphetamines. If you look at it, take just
12 half of a step back, that's the difference. The
13 difference is we're not allowing individuals to
14 self-certify themselves. We're actually going to
15 do that certification.

16 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Director
17 Garrett, I understand that you're a new director.

18 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Hold on. With all
19 due respect --

20 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: However,
21 when I give my list of constituents, I expect for
22 them to be contacted. I may not agree with my

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1 constituents, but your constituents and my
2 constituents are not always the same constituents.

3 When you speak of the legal constituents, I know
4 who they are.

5 Patton (phonetic) trained me.
6 Therefore, I'm not going to play no games up here.

7 I'm going to listen to her, but that doesn't mean
8 I'm going to always agree with her. When you say
9 the advocacy group, three of them live in my ward.
10 They participate at my ANC.

11 When you say my constituents, your
12 constituents, I've given you a list of names. All
13 you have to do is find out their phone numbers,
14 call each and every one of them and just say how
15 do you feel on this matter? They're going to tell
16 you whatever. When I say have you contacted my
17 constituents, you'll say yes, Commissioner, I
18 contacted your constituents, and we move right
19 along. None of my constituents have been
20 contacted. That's all I'm saying. I'm not voting
21 on the resolution, and it still should pass.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'd like to get

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1 back to the proposal dates. They're confusing me.

2 Continue. May 7, 2017, with a closing date of
3 June 8, 2017, is not correct?

4 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, I do
5 apologize. It does appear as though there are
6 wrong dates. This actually also went before the
7 prior committees. Multiple eyes have looked at
8 it, but for some reason, we had --

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Mine are good.
10 Mine are really good, my eyes. I don't understand
11 -- when did the proposal go out?

12 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, if you'd
13 like to give a brief indulgence, I'm certain I can
14 get back to you in a few minutes. This isn't an
15 issue where anyone's trying to hide the ball.
16 That, quite frankly, is not the underlining ask.

17 I have asked my staff to get those dates, and I
18 can provide them. If you'd like to take a brief
19 break, move on to the next issue, I could come back,
20 or if we could just pause for a minute, allow me
21 to pull out my phone and make a phone call, I could
22 surely give you all the dates. Actually, it should

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1 be on our website. Hold on a second.

2 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: I just want
3 to say, just really, as a responsible Board member,
4 this is -- to me, it's about safety. I'm not sure
5 why it's an argument. This is a yes to me.

6 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

7 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: I just
8 wanted to say that. Thank you.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We appreciate
10 that.

11 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, I'm
12 looking on our website because they are posted --
13 all solicitations are posted on our website. If
14 you would give me a brief indulgence.
15 Commissioner, I'm actually going to defer to Ms.
16 Bonds to give some background in regards to the
17 date. It does suggest -- as a high level, it does
18 appear as though these dates are correct, that we
19 went out with the original solicitation quite some
20 time ago, which shows that we were actually being
21 more proactive than I thought. Prior to HUD's
22 requesting an audit, this was a policy that we

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1 wanted to change, but it appears as though we
2 recently were able to finalize the contract terms
3 with the Yardi, if there are additional questions
4 in regards to the procurement.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: The issue would be,
6 then, of course, why would we wait so long to engage
7 the residents and the advocates, when we went out
8 with the solicitation with the intention of doing
9 this over a year ago?

10 MS. SMYSER: Commissioners,
11 initially, when we issued the solicitation, again,
12 it was for the background screening checks for,
13 again, at eligibility. During that process and
14 over this process of time, the company was not
15 willing to work with us, with regard to our Section
16 3 requirements.

17 At that time, we were not willing to
18 go forward with the contract because of that. More
19 recently, during the request with regard to, again,
20 HUD's requirements for recertification
21 requirements, we've added that to, again, the
22 services. We went back to them, asked for a new

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1 price proposal. We did those negotiations during
2 this time, and then, again, worked with them through
3 our Office of Resident Services to be able to get
4 a Section 3 commitment. That's why we're only able
5 to come back to the Board at this time. That was
6 what caused the delay with regard to the service.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: So it was never the
8 original intent to do a full criminal background
9 check when you first out with the solicitation?

10 MS. SMYSER: Background checks was the
11 initial -- again, the whole point of the actual
12 solicitation, again, at the time of eligibility,
13 the same ones we do now. The addition was the
14 actual recertification. The time that we're doing
15 recertification, that's when we actually revised
16 the actual scope of service and asked for additional
17 price proposals for the additional services.

18 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can we be quiet,
19 please? Not you, everyone out there. Does
20 anybody have any further questions?

21 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: I just want
22 to say really, this is about families and children.

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1 To me, this is completely -- I don't understand
2 this whole -- it's simply about -- I'm definitely
3 a yes, 100 percent, just to put that out there.
4 I'm not sure about the argument here. It's simply
5 stating some facts here. That's, to me, that's
6 what it's about. It's about -- so just want to
7 bring that up.

8 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: I think the
9 unsaid here is that the more often we conduct
10 background checks, the more likely we are to find
11 issues that could limit people from public housing.

12 As we do that, I think we should also
13 be proactive about supports around alternatives
14 and options that people can have, so that they may
15 not make more choices to engage in criminal
16 activity. Certainly, education around the rules
17 changing, but also more, in terms of opportunities
18 and options and resources, so that people can
19 actually have some different choices.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Absolutely.

21 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: For Resolution
22 18-09, because it's for the ACBP folks, that I'm

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1 ultimately yes because it's to protect our families
2 and children. I don't know anything else for the
3 Resolution 18-10 for public housing.

4 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Chair, if
5 I may.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes.

7 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: I know
8 earlier, you asked if anybody had any comments at
9 that time, and I said no, I didn't. Then you just,
10 a moment ago, asked does anybody have any questions.
11 That's what I was waiting for, that comment. I'm
12 following protocol. I have a question at this
13 particular time. Did you have a report to us for
14 what the advocates had to say about this?

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: They haven't had
16 the meeting yet.

17 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: They haven't
18 had the meeting with them yet?

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: No.

20 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, our
21 meeting with the advocates is on May 24th. At that
22 time, we'll advise them that we are following HUD's

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1 rules to make sure that we do not have Class A sex
2 offenders and meth producers in our program.

3 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: So what I'm
4 hearing, then, is not until this goes public we'll
5 be hearing the comments from the advocates on this?

6 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, we
7 actually -- to abide by HUD's rules, it's really
8 non-negotiable, in terms of us making sure that
9 we do not have Class A sex offenders and meth
10 producers in our program. We don't have to get
11 any input from the public on that. We have to abide
12 by federal guidelines.

13 What we will do, as a common courtesy,
14 and because of our ongoing relationship with our
15 advocates, which we meet with on an ongoing regular
16 basis about any policy and procedure that we change
17 -- and I'm certain they can attest to the number
18 of meetings we've had recently, over the course
19 of the last few months, over other issues.

20 We will make sure that they are clear
21 that we do not plan to take any additional action.

22 We're not asking for any additional authority from

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1 the Board to take some kind of draconian action
2 towards anyone, as I mentioned before. The good
3 news is that if any resident, any participant, feels
4 as though we've taken an action they don't agree
5 with, there's a due process in place. They could
6 get an attorney. They could file a grievance.
7 They could go to D.C. Superior Court. They could
8 appeal all the way to Court of Appeals. There's
9 no way that we can take an action against anyone
10 that they can't seek counsel for and have a due
11 process process for, as well.

12 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: The language
13 to this is not quite clear, to me, that is, what
14 they're seeking and how they'll go about getting
15 it. It's not quite clear to me at this particular
16 moment. Unfortunately, this is a two resolutions
17 vote, and one vote covers both resolutions. That
18 makes it kind of complicated.

19 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, I think
20 that we can separate both resolutions.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We can separate
22 them out. We can vote them on separately. Maybe

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1 it would be helpful if you would, in your own words,
2 describe what the new admission and occupancy
3 policy is.

4 MS. JOHNSON: Commissioner, are you
5 referring to something in our resolution?

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes.

7 MS. JOHNSON: Brief indulgence.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: DCHA requires a
9 qualified firm to provide tenant screening services
10 to comply with the new admissions and occupancy
11 policy.

12 I think that's what's concerning people
13 is that you keep talking about these things that
14 we need to abide by, which no one would disagree
15 with; it's when we widen the scope, and then you
16 basically tell us you're not going to come back
17 to us for any more requests or approvals, so this
18 is our one chance to make sure we know what we're
19 doing or what we're approving. So what is the new
20 admission and occupancy policy?

21 MS. JOHNSON: As my colleagues just
22 assured me, this actually isn't anything new. It's

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1 our ongoing requirement to make sure that
2 individuals are eligible under HUD's rules and
3 under our rules. There's not any new policy.

4 Just let me also state, for the record,
5 because you put it out there, this is no way tied
6 to our development. This is in no way -- and I
7 just want to make sure the record is abundantly
8 clear -- any malintent or any intention to stop
9 anyone from being able to continue to be in our
10 programs. This is, in fact, geared more towards
11 the protection and safety of our residents, and
12 all the policies and procedures that this Agency
13 has invoked will be what we continue to do.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: But this is a new
15 policy because you're now adding these two things,
16 which we need to add, so it's a new policy. This
17 is where it gets confusing. I really don't know
18 what we're approving here.

19 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, if we
20 were not coming back to you for a contract, we would
21 still be doing these type of recertifications.
22 This would still be our process. We would still

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1 do a recertification and do a background check on
2 an individual resident.

3 The reason it's back before you is
4 because we have to utilize a company and have to
5 have a contract in order to do that background
6 check. But this would be normal course and a normal
7 process for us.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That's where
9 you're wrong, sir. It's not a normal course and
10 not a normal process because before, we were
11 allowing self-recertification, so we're changing,
12 which is okay. We just need to understand what
13 the change is. The advocate community hasn't
14 weighed in on it.

15 I understand they don't need to, but
16 it would be helpful, in terms of understanding what
17 we're doing. I think we've exhausted this
18 discussion. If I hear a motion to vote, then we'll
19 have a motion to vote, because that's how the Board
20 works. Do I have a motion to vote?

21 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: So moved.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Do I have a second?

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1 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Second.

2 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Roll call. We'll
3 do them individually, as per requested by
4 Commissioner Lancaster.

5 MS. MCNAIR: Okay, for Resolution
6 18-09, Commissioner Ortiz Gaud.

7 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: Yes.

8 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones.

9 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

10 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Lancaster.

11 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: I cannot say
12 -- I'm voting on the double because that's the way
13 it was brought to me. That's what the problem was.
14 I'm going to have to say no to both.

15 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Council.

16 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: Yes.

17 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner
18 Vann-Ghasri.

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: No.

20 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean.

21 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

22 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Slover.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: No.

2 MS. MCNAIR: Chairman Albert.

3 CHAIRMAN ALBERT: Yes.

4 MS. MCNAIR: Let the record reflect
5 that Chairman Albert said yes. You have five yes,
6 three no. The resolution is approved.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Okay, do I have a
8 motion to vote on Resolution 18-10? Do I hear --

9 CHAIRMAN ALBERT: So moved.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Do I get a second?

11 PARTICIPANT: Second.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Second.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Motion to vote.
14 Roll call, please.

15 MS. MCNAIR: For Resolution 18-10,
16 Commissioner Neal Jones.

17 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

18 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Lancaster.

19 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: No.

20 MS. MCNAIR: Let the record reflect
21 that Commissioner Lancaster said no. Commissioner
22 Council.

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1 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: Yes.

2 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner
3 Vann-Ghasri.

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: No.

5 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean.

6 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

7 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Ortiz Gaud.

8 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: Yes.

9 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Bill Slover.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: No.

11 MS. MCNAIR: Chairman Albert.

12 CHAIRMAN ALBERT: Yes.

13 MS. MCNAIR: Let the record reflect
14 that Chairman Albert said yes. You have five yes,
15 three no, the resolution is approved.

16 PARTICIPANT: Thank you, Commissioners.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Moving on to
18 Resolution 18-11, hopefully this will be quick.
19 Resolution 18-11 is to approve modifications of
20 the general legal services contract for Reno &
21 Cavanaugh, PLLC, Ballard Spahr, LLP, Beveridge &
22 Diamond, PC, and K&L Gates LLP.

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1 I would offer this to the Board. This
2 is not asking for new money. This is
3 redistributing money for a previously approved
4 contract, to put it to the firms who we need the
5 services from now. I would just offer that. I
6 appreciate the executive director bringing this
7 forward, and I appreciate the legal team bringing
8 this forward, but hopefully we can get through this
9 pretty quickly because it's really about them being
10 able to perform their job.

11 MR. SLAUGHTER: Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. You described our request accurately.
13 It is based on our actual experience that you first
14 approved the gross amount for several contracts.
15 We're just recognizing contracts that we're not
16 likely to use, and then contractors, legal firms
17 that we will use and we need more contract
18 authority. We thank you for your consideration
19 of this request.

20 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Are there any
21 questions or comments from the commissioners?

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Only a

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1 comment. I really like this resolution. Of
2 course, you know I like the Section 3 compliance.

3 Nevertheless, the environmental law component
4 with Beveridge & Diamond, PC, I think I made myself
5 very, very clear that I would like to see trends
6 of environmental trends.

7 It can be monitored through probably
8 the Operations Committee. It could be a separate
9 item, just so we could see where our trends are.

10 You do comprehend what I'm really saying?

11 MR. SLAUGHTER: Ms. Vann-Ghasri, thank
12 you for your question. Beveridge & Diamond is
13 probably the best environmental law firm in the
14 country. They have handled the wide variety of
15 trends in environmental compliance. That's why
16 we have added or requested that we add money to
17 their contract, so that we can make sure that we
18 identify any trends and be ahead of the curve.

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: One of the
20 trends I highly recommend them to look at with these
21 -- and I'm not being -- this is not a self-interest,
22 this is a profile interest. That's been in Ward

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1 6. I want them to just look at the outside trend.
2 My concern is not outdoors because we can't control
3 that.

4 My concern is for this law firm to look
5 at the trends of the inside of our buildings,
6 whether or not the trends of any type of
7 environmental issues are affecting all public
8 housing, in every ward of the city, because public
9 housing is in every ward of the city.

10 However, as the family commissioner,
11 as we know, there are no family commission
12 properties in Ward 3. I think that would serve
13 this Housing Authority very well, and then it would
14 also show some -- what's the word I'm really trying
15 to say, a really good legal word, Counselor, but
16 it would show some type of --

17 MR. SLAUGHTER: Precedent.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: --
19 accountability.

20 MR. SLAUGHTER: Ms. Vann-Ghasri, let
21 me assure you we selected this firm because of their
22 national presence, but they are very strong locally

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1 and have represented other District agencies,
2 including the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority and
3 the Department of Environment, so you're in good
4 hands on your local trend request.

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: The only
6 other thing I want is in the Office of Resident
7 Service, I mean on the Committee of Resident Service
8 Resident Initiative, our committee, being that we
9 have more commissioners on that committee than any
10 other committee, we want to monitor and track the
11 Section 3 compliance.

12 We may not necessarily know names, but
13 we want to see what Ward our clients, our
14 constituents are, and we want to see what
15 categories. Because I want to bring to your
16 attention, in the District of Columbia public
17 housing, off the shelf -- because many of us have
18 bachelor's degrees, AA degrees, certifications
19 that are on the shelf. They can come off the shelf
20 and be used in other aspects with these law firms,
21 and even as paralegals --

22 MR. SLAUGHTER: Yes, Ms. Vann-Ghasri.

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1 At your direction, we called special meetings with
2 all of our law firms to reiterate the requirement
3 for Section 3. We monitored that. We reported,
4 and we will continue to do that to your committee.

5 Thank you so much.

6 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Thank you
7 so much. After I win this election, I'll be sending
8 my resume to one of those law firms.

9 MR. SLAUGHTER: Thank you very much.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Any other
11 questions? Can I get a motion to vote?

12 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: So moved.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Second?

14 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Second.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Roll call.

16 MS. MCNAIR: Thank you. Commissioner
17 Lancaster.

18 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Yes.

19 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Council.

20 COMMISSIONER COUNCIL: Yes.

21 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner
22 Vann-Ghasri.

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1 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes.

2 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean.

3 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

4 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Ortiz Gaud.

5 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: Yes.

6 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones.

7 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

8 MS. MCNAIR: Commissioner Slover.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes.

10 MS. MCNAIR: Chairman Albert.

11 Chairman?

12 CHAIRMAN ALBERT: Yes.

13 MS. MCNAIR: Let the record reflect

14 Chairman Albert said yes. You have eight yes.

15 Resolution 18-11 is approved.

16 PARTICIPANT: Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That concludes the

18 business resolutions for the day, and now we'll

19 move on to the public comment period. The public

20 comment period permits the residents and Housing

21 Choice Voucher, HCVP participants who have signed

22 up today to be first to present to the Board for

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1 five minutes. People who are not residents have
2 three minutes to present.

3 Your name will be called in the order
4 in which you signed up. When your name is called,
5 please come to the table and speak directly into
6 the microphone. Remember that these meetings are
7 recorded, and the minutes are being -- Ms. Hicks.

8 Also, as a reminder, when you come to the table,
9 please announce yourself and which property you
10 are a resident of, or if you're in the Housing Choice
11 Voucher Program.

12 MS. HICKS: Hello, Board of
13 Commissioners. My name is Tangelia Hicks, and I'm
14 currently residing at 2400 Alabama Avenue. It's
15 under Urban Management, which is a rental property
16 that's been partnering with Housing Authority for,
17 what I was told, 20 plus years.

18 For years, I had nothing but great
19 things to say about Housing Authority. To be
20 honest with you all, I'm what you would call it
21 takes a village to raise a child kid. I had
22 parents, but they weren't -- they were good with

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1 kids, but just not their own.

2 In the early 1990s, Housing Authority
3 helped me overcome homelessness to help me find
4 a place to stay. Throughout the years, they helped
5 me with slum lords. Anything that I asked, they
6 were always there for me. Unfortunately, in 2014,
7 I became homeless again.

8 That rat race out there, trying to find
9 a place to stay was totally crazy, but I made sure
10 that I updated my information with Housing because
11 I was still on the list for the voucher program
12 and everything. In December 2018, I went and I
13 updated my -- made sure my information was straight.

14 Not even a week later, my emergency contact was
15 contacted, instead of me, and was told if I didn't
16 call the next morning, that I was going to lose
17 my spot on the voucher list. Right then, I was
18 like this might be crazy, so I called.

19 It was explained to me that the system
20 really badly needed to be updated. Remember I said
21 that. In April 2016, I received my housing
22 voucher. I was told that I had six months to use

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1 it, and if I didn't use it within six months, then
2 I would go through a period of extensions.

3 Throughout them six months -- I have
4 an autistic child, so his health and me working
5 and me going to these open houses where there's
6 hundreds and hundreds of people trying to apply
7 for the same places, and I'm paying out the pocket
8 for non-refundable application fees. It was
9 hectic, but I didn't give up.

10 Towards the six months, I had a housing
11 official refer me to Urban City Management, and
12 I found a unit. I was supposed to move in November
13 of 2016, but Housing kept having issues. They went
14 to the wrong unit. They said new rules and
15 regulations was coming about, so they had to keep
16 redoing inspections. I didn't wind up moving into
17 my unit until April 2017. When I moved into my
18 unit, my building was inherited by another rental
19 property. I called Housing, and I'm like my
20 building just got switched over with rental
21 management.

22 No one got in contact with me, as far

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1 as who my housing specialist is going to be. I
2 was told that at the end of April, my voucher got
3 terminated because I never used it. For a whole
4 year, I was back and forth in court fighting Housing
5 because they basically was like there's nothing
6 I could do for you.

7 Any time I went down to 1133, I was
8 shrugged, like there's nothing I could do for you.

9 So I had to go to legal aid to ask for
10 representation. I wound up having a hearing with
11 Housing and my lawyers. I had to agree to not come
12 at Housing for the \$16,000 of backed up rent that
13 was owed to management in order for me to get a
14 hearing.

15 When I did receive my hearing, only
16 evidence that Housing had of me was my voucher.
17 They didn't have anything else on file with me.
18 But being the person that I am and was taught to
19 keep certain things, I had over 100 and something
20 pieces of paper and evidence at my hearing. Being
21 as though I had that, and my lawyers was also able
22 to get from the management the visa packet, the

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1 full copies of the inspections done on the property,
2 the emails back and forth, I won my case, but even
3 when I won my case in hearing, the Housing lawyer
4 still was saying they were going to appeal the
5 process.

6 I'm in it now. I'm in my unit now.
7 I've been there ever since April 1st. Right now,
8 it's like I'm still in a loophole because with this
9 new property, I now owe \$2,067 in security deposit,
10 which I've got to find a way to pay.

11 There are ERAP programs in the
12 District, but each program I go to says we can give
13 you \$900, Ms. Hicks, but you've got to get a letter
14 from Salvation Army that says they're going to give
15 you this such-and-such amount, in order for me to
16 give you this such-and-such amount.

17 Then I go to Salvation Army and I say,
18 Catholic Church is going to give you me \$900 if
19 you can provide a letter that says -- nuh-uh. Each
20 one of them is topsy-turvy, sending me here, and
21 then sending me here, and sending me here. So now,
22 I have an issue with paying the security deposit

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1 because I'm going to have to get that paid so I
2 won't have to be back in the streets again. Other
3 than that, I can cover the rent and all that.

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'm sorry to
5 interrupt. Your time is up, but I want you to be
6 able to speak and ask for whatever assistance you're
7 looking for. Is the issue that you have at the
8 moment that you just can't pay your security
9 deposit? Is that the main reason you're here?

10 MS. HICKS: Yes, and also just to tell
11 you the situation that I went through because it
12 was depressing. I got an invite to participate
13 in the voucher program. I did everything that I
14 was told to do, and because there was a mistake
15 made by Housing, I was about to be back homeless
16 again.

17 Instead of Housing fixing the
18 situation, it basically was giving me a nonchalant
19 attitude, like you're just going to have to be back
20 in the streets. I had to prove myself. The only
21 thing that saved me was that I kept my paperwork
22 every time that I talked to an official, I went

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1 down to 1133. Today I had to go to Housing.

2 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can I ask -- Mr.
3 Garrett, could you look into maybe the history of
4 what happened here and see what we can possibly
5 learn from what happened here?

6 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir.

7 MS. HICKS: Could I say this one thing?
8 I'm still nervous that something else might pop
9 up because I've been in my unit since April 1st
10 --

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Now that you're
12 here, and now that you've testified, and now that
13 you've put yourself --

14 MS. HICKS: But they're still messing
15 my stuff up.

16 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We'll have someone
17 follow up.

18 MS. HICKS: April 24, 2018, this is an
19 invitation for the federal D.C. Housing voucher.

20 I had to get my lawyers to call Daphne Townsend
21 that's on here and Horace Currington (phonetic),
22 that's a part of the -- I guess he's a program

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1 specialist. I was still in the system as not even
2 having a voucher.

3 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All right. We'll
4 hopefully get a better understanding of what
5 happened. We apologize for that, and I hope we
6 get a better understanding of why these things are
7 happening. I appreciate your coming and
8 testifying and letting us know of this issue.
9 We'll do the best we can to help you out.

10 MS. HICKS: All right, thank you.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you for your
12 time. Next would be Rene Saunders.

13 MS. SAUNDERS: Hi, everybody. My name
14 is Rene Saunders Blunt, as Ms. Fruit Loops. You
15 all know me as Ms. Fruit Loops. My property complex
16 used to be solitary, but I'm over on Kennedy side.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Could I ask you to
18 --

19 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

20 MS. SAUNDERS: I moved in my house in
21 December 8, 2007. The issues I'm having with my
22 house now is the lights on the side and the back,

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1 the big high-beam lights that be out back and on
2 the side of my house. The AC washer, we have to
3 pay AC during the wintertime, not the summertime
4 coming. On my statement, I had my AC for winter,
5 not for summer. I have it for summer, not for
6 winter, so I would like to know why we're still
7 paying AC for the winter, not the summer.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can you clarify,
9 is that a charge for a window unit, is that what
10 you're talking about?

11 MS. SAUNDERS: Yes. My AC is being
12 charged since I moved in my new place. The second
13 one is I didn't ever get my outdoor and my back
14 door screen. The back door screen was already
15 broke when I got there. The other issue I'm having
16 is the private houses in the back of me are putting
17 stuff in the trash can behind me, where we live
18 at, on my side.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: These sound like
20 some maintenance issues, so we'll follow up with
21 those. Mr. Garrett will make sure that someone
22 works with you on that.

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1 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir.

2 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I appreciate your
3 coming down and testifying. Thank you very much.

4 MS. SAUNDERS: Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Next is Ruth
6 Dennis.

7 MS. DENNIS: Good afternoon. My name
8 is Ruth Dennis.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: You'll have to move
10 a little closer. Thank you.

11 MS. DENNIS: Good afternoon. My name
12 is Ruth Dennis, and I live on Fort DuPont/Stoddert.
13 The reason I'm here today is more about the kids
14 in the community. The reason I'm here today is
15 concerning the kids where I live and the people,
16 your guests.

17 We know everybody have guests, but not
18 seven days a week, the same guests. My concern
19 is now the kids are not really able to go really
20 play like they used to because we don't have no
21 playground out there or nothing. We usually do
22 things for our kids, but if you can't sit outside

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1 because one side is trying to take over, no.

2 I've been living there 16 years. We've
3 had faults. We've had problems. But we had a
4 community within our little section that we would
5 talk about it and try to work it out. Now you can't
6 talk to them, and I think it's wrong. Because if
7 you have guests, you're responsible for your
8 guests. If your guests keep coming and making
9 problems, I think someone should be able to do it.

10 If we call Housing police, they tell you to call
11 D.C. police. If we call D.C. police, they might
12 come, and they might not come because they said
13 they're getting tired of going to the same place.

14 I can understand that. I'm a resident, and I'm
15 tired of it.

16 When you've got to ask someone to move
17 or can you let me in, and you live there, I don't
18 think that's fair to us. That's my concern today,
19 that you get tired of asking people to move, or
20 they see you coming, they don't even move. Housing
21 do come past.

22 They never get out the car and walk in

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1 that complex to check our doors, see who's standing
2 in the hallways. No, they don't. But you could
3 see them riding, sitting over here in the parking
4 lot. So what's the harm of pulling up on the street
5 where we live and get out and walk down there?

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That sounds like
7 a safety patrol issue.

8 MS. DENNIS: Yes, it's very much a
9 safety issue. Plus, we don't have no locks on our
10 doors on the outside doors.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: On the outside
12 doors? How long has that been?

13 MS. DENNIS: They just fixed -- it was
14 fixed recently, but someone broke it. It's still
15 the same things that you try to talk to people.
16 We all live in the same area. We're just trying
17 to get along. We try to make it safe for the kids
18 and ourselves. Something needs to be done.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I hear you.

20 MR. GARRETT: We do have our summer
21 initiative that's coming up through Office of
22 Public Safety. We hope to be more visible

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1 throughout all our complexes. It's something that
2 Chief Maupin is working with MPD on.

3 MS. DENNIS: It's summertime. I grant
4 you all, you all are working on it, but where we
5 live it's summertime. Them kids cannot -- half
6 of the parents do not watch their kids when they're
7 outside, anyway. If you can't feel safe living
8 here -- we done had problems before up there, but
9 not as bad as they are now.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes, ma'am. We
11 appreciate your coming down.

12 MS. DENNIS: So I'm letting you all
13 know.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you. Next,
15 we have Velma Davis.

16 MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Good afternoon.

18 MS. DAVIS: Good afternoon. My name
19 is Velma Davis. I live at 328 Ridge Road,
20 Southeast, Apartment B-1, that I call the dungeon.
21 My issue is with the tenants above me. It's
22 supposed to be a single occupancy dwelling.

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1 I know it's two people residing there,
2 and it might be even more. Every day, I have to
3 go through pushing and pulling and bumping and
4 thumping, all types of noises. I even have to ask
5 my doctor to prescribe me a sleep aid because of
6 all the noise that goes on above me.

7 I can't watch television. I have to
8 increase my volume because it's so much noise going
9 on in the building. I just cut the TV off and put
10 earplugs in my ear and read. Three two eight needs
11 to be looked into. It's a lot of issues going on.

12 I don't care how much painting they do
13 or beautifying, the people are going to have to
14 change. That's the Apartment 11 above me. I'm
15 having a real bad issue for the past six years.
16 I'm over 60 years old. I can't do it. I have
17 issues with my eyes. I have a hip problem. I just
18 can't handle it anymore.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: So this has been
20 going on for six years?

21 MS. DAVIS: Six years. I've been
22 there for eight years.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Have you made
2 complaints before?

3 MS. DAVIS: Several complaints, yes,
4 I have.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: With property
6 management?

7 MS. DAVIS: Yes, I have.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: The result has
9 been?

10 MS. DAVIS: It's no results. I'm sure
11 that they are aware of what's going on in the
12 building. It's the worst building. Everybody
13 knows about what goes on on the front. We have
14 the worst building on this whole street. Everybody
15 gathers in the building, outside the building.
16 They smoke; they drink; they do whatever they want
17 to do. We call Housing Authority, they never show
18 up. The police will come; they take no names.
19 They don't ask for ID or anything.

20 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, I'll look
21 into it, and I'll speak to the manager in reference
22 to Ms. Davis's complaint.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: In particular to
2 the over-occupancy of the unit above.

3 MR. GARRETT: Yes --

4 (Simultaneous Speaking)

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can we just get
6 some clarification on that?

7 MR. GARRETT: Yes.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: As an immediate
9 remedy, and then -- immediately, the issue is --

10 MS. DAVIS: Are you talking to me?

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes, the immediate
12 issue is above. Let's find that occupancy up
13 there.

14 MR. GARRETT: We'll look into it.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Right?

16 MS. DAVIS: Yes, like I said, I live
17 in the basement. Most of the activity is going
18 on on the first floor. The tenants have family
19 that come over. It's a one-bedroom apartment.
20 Everybody tries to gather. There's not enough room
21 in that apartment. They gather out in the hallway,
22 out on the front, playing their music. I don't

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1 want to hear nobody's music 7:00 or 8:00 in the
2 morning or 3:00 in the morning.

3 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Okay.

4 MR. GARRETT: Thank you, Ms. Davis.
5 I'll look into it directly, personally.

6 MS. DAVIS: All right, thank you.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Appreciate you
8 coming down. Next is Antoinette Harshaw.
9 Hopefully I pronounced that right.

10 MS. HARSHAW: Good evening. I'm
11 Antoinette Harshaw, and I live at --

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: You have to move
13 closer to the microphone.

14 MS. HARSHAW: I live in 328 Ridge,
15 Apartment 22. Me and Ms. Davis, the lady that just
16 spoke, we're in the same building. We're the only
17 two tenants that come out and voice our opinion.

18 I've been in this whole complex over there now,
19 altogether, 20 years. Where I'm at now, it's just
20 -- I can't take no more. I'm 63 years old. I come
21 out and -- about two years, I used to ask them to
22 quiet down the noise. Could they leave out? Could

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1 they stop the drinking and all of this? They would
2 be like okay, but they continue to keep doing it.

3 When I started reporting it, the
4 manager say don't come out, just call 911. I
5 started calling the police. Housing don't come,
6 but MPD comes sometimes. Then I started becoming
7 bitches. I even got threatened a couple weeks ago
8 with guns and stuff that they're carrying. They
9 claim they're carrying guns.

10 That's telling me stop calling the
11 police. One even approached me and said don't call
12 the police because I be in the hall strapped. I
13 can go to jail. What do you do? I can't walk over
14 the top of -- when I come in -- yesterday, they
15 had a grill right in the walkway, barbecuing and
16 stuff.

17 Apartment 11, she has three sons that
18 you might say they live there. They're big guys.

19 They just do what they want. Like I said, they're
20 drinking beer, big cans all on the steps and
21 everything. They don't want you to say anything.

22 They look at the fact because we're women -- I'm

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1 by myself. I don't have a husband or man in the
2 house, so they figure who is she? You see what
3 I mean, by me being a female. I'm not scared of
4 them, but I can't -- I'm tired now because 2:00
5 in the morning, boom, boom, boom, they just start
6 playing this loud music.

7 When I came out, they got their
8 girlfriends sitting on their laps and everything
9 in the hall. I've even talked to Kenny and Matt,
10 everybody. He gives me advice. I did put in for
11 transfer papers to a senior building.

12 I was hoping I was out of here a few
13 years ago because I applied over there at Sheridan
14 Station, but they came and did a check in my
15 apartment and just moved my daughter. I was
16 supposed to go over there, but I guess because I
17 didn't have an income at that time, but now I do.

18 So that's my problem.

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I have a
20 question.

21 MS. HARSHAW: I'm hoping I can get
22 something done.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Go ahead.

2 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: This
3 applies to anybody who lives in public housing who
4 is considered a senior. That constitute if you're
5 usually over 62. No. 1, always update your medical
6 and give your medical records to your property
7 manager. No. 1, always update your medical records
8 and give it to your property manager.

9 MS. HARSHAW: They're updated.

10 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: No. 2, when
11 your property manager do not respond within 30 days,
12 feel free to call University Legal Services. Rule
13 No. 3 is this. The property manager, that's the
14 job for Mr. Bovellet, and Mr. Bovellet is right behind
15 you. You can always try by emailing because if
16 it's not in writing, I don't need to hear I told
17 so and so.

18 Tell me. Always get Ronald to write
19 for you, or someone in your family to write it for
20 you, to write it correctly, so that you can monitor
21 and track your correspondence. So now you're not
22 coming in front of me, telling me who say, you say.

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1 You're saying here's a letter. This is what
2 happened. No response.

3 MS. HARSHAW: I just spoke to him.

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Very good.

5 MS. HARSHAW: He said that he will.

6 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Mr.
7 Garrett, I think a good thing that we could start
8 now, from property to property, especially with
9 my constituents, the family property, go from
10 property to property and show us how many people
11 62 and over living in a two-bedroom by their self,
12 not in compliance with lease, or otherwise, who
13 are unhappy. Then you move them out, and then you
14 see who would like to be happy to move in. That's
15 an easy remedy, so I feel.

16 MS. HARSHAW: Thank you.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All right,
18 appreciate your coming down and testifying. Renee
19 Alston. She's gone? Okay, Mychelle McDonald.

20 MS. MCDONALD: Good afternoon. My
21 name is Mychelle McDonald. I'm the president of
22 Beacon Road Resident Council.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: You have to get a
2 little closer.

3 MS. MCDONALD: I'm Mychelle McDonald,
4 Beacon Row Resident Council president. It's a
5 little hard to say that I am the president of Beacon
6 Row Resident Council, due to the fact that my
7 navigator, I have not seen him since January 17th
8 of this year. It seems like he's having
9 conversations with everybody except me. I have
10 not seen Mr. Wilson. I have not talked to Mr.
11 Wilson. I haven't even had an email with Mr.
12 Wilson, but that's here nor there. My second
13 complaint is the fact that I had given some papers
14 to Mr. Jose Flora that was personal papers that
15 I got from my doctor to get me a support dog.

16 He told me that he had faxed the
17 paperwork in to the ADA's office. I did not want
18 them to be left in the office across the street
19 because they had some personal information in them.

20 When I sent them to him, he said that he had faxed
21 them in to the ADA's office. On the 23rd of
22 February, I asked him what was going on with my

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1 paperwork, did I need it to do anything else
2 concerning getting the support dog that I needed?

3 He told me that he didn't ever receive
4 the paperwork. He didn't know anything about the
5 paperwork. He also told me that I had to start
6 the process over again. He told me that my
7 paperwork was only good for six months. I called
8 the ADA's office when I got home. I left a message
9 with them. I still haven't gotten a phone call
10 back from the ADA's office. To start that
11 paperwork all over again, to me, it doesn't make
12 any sense because nobody has communicated with me
13 at all. I have the application here today because
14 I would like to get some kind of understanding as
15 to what is going on. But like I said, I've never,
16 ever gotten a phone call from nobody, at all.

17 MR. GARRETT: Ms. McDonald, I have the
18 director of Resident Services, Larry Williams, who
19 can talk to you about the navigator issue. He more
20 than likely can put you over into the ADA issue,
21 also, at the same time, with Mr. Bovellet.

22 MS. MCDONALD: Okay, thank you. I

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1 appreciate that. My other issue is the fact that
2 there's supposed to be a tenant -- not supposed
3 to be -- there's a person up in that building who
4 is not supposed to be on the property because of
5 some issues that happened in the past.

6 He is supposed to be a contractor.
7 Tenants have an issue, some tenants have an issue
8 with the gentleman being on the property because
9 he is not supposed to be there. Mr. Flora knows
10 that he is not supposed to be there, but again,
11 like I say, he is a contractor, so he is there doing
12 work on the building. He is residing in the
13 building, and he's doing things in the building
14 that people are not happy with. But again, this
15 is a friend of Mr. Flora, and we have to take it.

16 He is letting people wash cars in front of the
17 building and pretty much doing the same thing that
18 he used to do before he got fired. The people are
19 not happy with this.

20 MR. GARRETT: Thank you for bringing
21 that to my attention.

22 MS. MCDONALD: I'm sorry, sir?

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1 MR. GARRETT: I said thank you for
2 bringing that to my attention. Mr. Bovellev can
3 work on that issue with you, also.

4 MS. MCDONALD: All right. I
5 appreciate that.

6 MR. GARRETT: He's right behind you.

7 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We appreciate your
9 coming down and testifying, taking the time.

10 MS. MCDONALD: Thank you.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Mr. Lee.

12 MR. GARRETT: Ms. McDonald, don't
13 leave because they're going to --

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Let's hear what
15 you've got.

16 MR. LEE: God, Lord, Jesus Christ, the
17 Spirit of God and the Holy Ghost. God, Lord, Jesus
18 Christ, the Spirit of God, and the Holy Ghost This
19 upcoming Saturday, Zion/Sion, the Sabbath is
20 coming. This upcoming Saturday, Sabbath No. 19.

21 There's so many reasons why we all would
22 just stop on the seventh day, stay home on the

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1 seventh day, spend time with your family on the
2 seventh day and rest on the seventh day, so many
3 reasons, to save a life, prevent people from dying.

4 December, February, March -- no.

5 Yes, December, February, March, April,
6 ladies coming before this Board of Commissioners
7 and they're crying for help. Schyla, a very
8 beautiful person, if she's here, I met her years
9 -- in protest from the Wilkes Building, but I think
10 she has four children, but she's -- ladies coming
11 before these Commissioners, they're crying before
12 the Commissioners, crying for help. Then when I
13 seen Mr. Garrett down in City Council, lady coming
14 down the Wilkes Building crying for help. They
15 want to be treated fairly. Michael A. Lee, a
16 veteran, 58,000 soldiers died in the Vietnam War,
17 350,000 was wounded, 8,000 soldiers been killed
18 in Iraq and Afghanistan, way over there, 6,023,
19 50,000 were wounded, and we're having problems here
20 in Washington, D.C. helping our own residents,
21 citizens, and veterans.

22 I wanted to at least mention 8,000

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1 people with public assistance, 11,000 people with
2 the Housing Choice Voucher Program, about 50,000
3 people on the waiting list, as I learned from you
4 guys the last seven years, and 11,000 people below
5 the poverty level.

6 As I go through -- the deputy mayor for
7 public safety and justice, deputy mayor for health
8 and human services, deputy mayor for economic
9 development and the deputy of education, these
10 8,000 people -- 11,000 people, these people you've
11 got to try to help the best -- that same commitment
12 we're going to send someone to Iraq and Afghanistan
13 to be killed, and here in Washington, D.C., we're
14 blowing our minds trying to help. Then it's like
15 African-American slavery memorial, possibly in the
16 Mall, 250 years of free labor, 100 years from rides
17 on the bus, and still, these are residents who have
18 been here for years and years. Injustice,
19 wrongdoing, unfairness and corruption, but still,
20 ask this Commissioner here, you're getting paid
21 very well. I've been with this now for seven years,
22 but like I say, December, February, March, into

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1 April, Schyla's a beautiful person.

2 I think she has four children. Her and
3 her son, they got locked up. You all should be
4 very, very sensitive to this with the money that
5 you're making. We have between 200 to 600 people
6 sleeping in the streets. There's 1,000 young
7 people, Department of Schools, who are homeless,
8 and 6,000 homeless people. I'm at the bottom, 38
9 years, no tobacco, no alcohol, no drugs, not one
10 single drop.

11 United States Congress, No. 1, United
12 States Senate, No. 2, House of Representatives,
13 No. 3. There's standing committees, No. 4.
14 There's subcommittees, No. 5. Special selectman
15 and joint commission, No. 7. I've been doing this
16 for the last 26 years. The Department of Justice,
17 No. 1. Department of Health and Human Services,
18 No. 2. Department of Labor, No. 3. Department
19 of Housing and Urban Development, No. 4.
20 Department of Education and Treasury Department.

21 I've lived here 26 years, and I'm still at the
22 bottom. Intelligence, leadership, communication

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1 management, education, research, supervision and
2 instruction, professional responsibility, and
3 professional accountability, it's very, very poor.

4 I said that for one of the soldiers who
5 lost their life in Iraq/Afghanistan. But right
6 here in Washington, D.C., we're blowing our minds,
7 and those 8,000 homeless, the 8,000 people with
8 public assistance, these are the people you're
9 supposed to be helping, 11,000.

10 These are the people you're supposed
11 to be helping. Too much office crime, office
12 violence, office terrorism. There's too much
13 office crime in this town, but you all up there
14 are getting paid very, very well. How many times
15 have you called the Congress in the last 25 years?

16 I have walked down to the Department
17 of Justice so many times in the last 25 years.
18 Intelligence, leadership, communication and
19 management, education, research, supervision,
20 professional responsibility, professional ability
21 is very, very poor. I said that for my foreparents
22 who worked the fields of this country for free.

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1 African-American slavery memorial, just a small
2 memorial in the Nation's capital honoring all
3 slaves and all the free slaves who were wrongfully
4 killed.

5 During the '40s, out there in Virginia,
6 people just like you killed my dad. They beat him
7 to death. We have 100 senators and 435
8 representatives. It's pitiful and pathetic. Our
9 own residents, our own citizens, our own veterans,
10 low income is an ugly game.

11 There's so many reasons -- 19th
12 Sabbath, we all must just stop and rest on the
13 Sabbath. With these public schools, you can't talk
14 about God, and you can't talk -- we're riding the
15 backs of these young people. We're riding the
16 backs of the poor people. We're riding the backs
17 of the hungry people.

18 Sadly to say, we're riding the backs
19 of sick people, and that's pitiful and pathetic,
20 riding the backs of low-income senior citizens,
21 and riding the backs of poor homeless veterans.
22 The report on law. The report on health. The

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1 report on the workforce report, and the report on
2 homes. I say that for the peace of the poorest
3 little girls and the poorest little boys and the
4 poorest young people and the poorest families here
5 in my hometown. I was born here. Peace be with
6 you. May God and Jesus be with you all.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Appreciate your
8 comments. Patricia Malloy.

9 MS. MALLOY: Good afternoon,
10 Commissioners and Director Garrett.

11 MR. GARRETT: Good afternoon.

12 MS. MALLOY: Today, I'm here to voice
13 the concerns of Lincoln Heights. My name is
14 Patricia Malloy, resident council president. I
15 have three words, help, help, help. Security and
16 safety of residents, staff, contractors working
17 on our property.

18 The week of April 30, 2018 through May
19 4, 2018, there have been shootings every day,
20 starting as early as 8:50 in the morning. Children
21 walking to school having to run, nowhere to hide.

22 DCHA staff running, having to lay on the ground,

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1 roll down the hill. Residents panicking, trying
2 to get into buildings, only to be told you can't
3 come in here by the drug dealers. Laborers being
4 told you can't come in to clean the building today.

5 Our property has been taken over by open air drug
6 market. Direct residents are afraid for
7 themselves and their children. We are stressed
8 and depressed.

9 2017, I requested security cameras to
10 be put up in Lincoln Heights, still waiting on the
11 answer. On May 4th, I sent an email to Chief Maupin
12 and Deputy Chief Reeves. It reads this has been
13 a very depressing week in Lincoln Heights. There
14 have been shootings on 50th Street, starting as
15 early as 8:50 in the morning.

16 Around the basketball court, both
17 parking lots, from 3:04 to 3:16, 50th Street is
18 not safe for staff/contractors working out here.

19 Residents don't feel safe. They feel DCHA and
20 MPD care if we live or die. People have taken over
21 our hallways and not letting staff clean them.

22 I am so tired of hearing these

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1 complaints. What is being done about the safety
2 of our residents and want to do right and the safety
3 of the Lincoln Heights Staff? Does it take the
4 entire property to get killed before something is
5 put in place? DCHA police protect the workers at
6 1133. Why can't you protect the staff in the field
7 and help to protect your clients? Please save our
8 lives, our children, before it's too late. Within
9 one month, our summer program in Lincoln Heights
10 will start.

11 The safety of our children is our
12 concern, that their lives matter. In January 2018,
13 Director Garrett, you came to our resident council
14 meeting. Have any of the \$2.1 million approved
15 by the D.C. Council been spent in Lincoln Heights
16 yet?

17 What is the time frame on getting the
18 screen doors, the doors, the replacement of
19 appliances, among other things that was presented
20 to us? I have sent emails, trying to get answers.

21 People are even avoiding my emails. I want to
22 know why. My last question is for -- we're under

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1 relocation.

2 The numbers that's been provided to us,
3 when we call those numbers, these people no longer
4 work at the Housing Authority, and we aren't getting
5 a response, and we aren't getting through. There
6 should be some type of system in place. I have
7 a lot more concerns, but right now, safety and
8 security is our concern. I know some of you may
9 have seen me on the news last night. There's a
10 turf war. A young man got killed on a motorcycle.

11 All of this is Lincoln Heights residents, some
12 way, shape, or form. Tonight, there's going to
13 be another vigil.

14 Monday night, at my new community
15 meeting, we were literally terrified. When we left
16 out, the guys on the dirt bikes would not let some
17 of us cross the street. It was just disturbing.

18 But my concern is the Housing Authority and MPD
19 need to come together before innocent children and
20 your staff get killed.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you, Ms.
22 Malloy. Appreciate your coming in to testify.

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1 MS. MALLOY: No one has a comment on
2 how we're going to --

3 MR. GARRETT: Ms. Malloy, I know Chief
4 Maupin is working with the MPD on what we're going
5 to do, in terms of summer initiatives. In
6 reference to the new communities money for Lincoln
7 Heights, we have the scope of work, and we actually
8 sent over a draw down request to DMPED last week
9 for the money to be drawn down, or a portion of
10 the money to be drawn down, so we can complete some
11 of the work and get started on some of the work.
12 So the scope is already created. We're just
13 waiting for the draw down to be approved by DMPED.
14 Once that's done, we can start the work over there.
15 It's already been scoped out.

16 MS. MALLOY: Director Garrett, I hear
17 what you're saying. The residents of Lincoln
18 Heights have no faith in our commissioners.

19 MR. GARRETT: Understood.

20 MS. MALLOY: They're tired of me coming
21 back, telling them one thing, and they said Ms.
22 Malloy, until we see it, it has not happened.

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1 Security, I'm still saying security. When
2 something tragic happen in Lincoln Heights and the
3 first thing the police, or maybe you all, might
4 say is why didn't someone bring it to our attention
5 before now?

6 It's been brought to people's attention
7 too long. If we take matters into our own hands,
8 we will go to jail or be evicted. If this
9 continues, that's what's going to happen. We are
10 going to take matters in our own hands, and no one
11 is going to like it.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Ms.
13 Malloy, you know Ward 6, we just extremists. We
14 have that same problem, but this is what we did.
15 We just called it martial law. We had the whole
16 military because we're up the street from the Marine
17 barracks. This is what happened. Parents came
18 out and was seeing the same thing as you.

19 The moment that the military swarmed
20 Hopkins on Potomac, now there was another problem.
21 That problem was we're not in jail, da, da, da.
22 That's an option, isn't that, Chief? How do you

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1 go about doing that? You may need a drama impact
2 sometimes, where people know you're tired. Enough
3 is enough.

4 That's something you can go back, you
5 can research it, understand the impact and effect.

6 Because everything that you do, there's going to
7 be a cause, but there's going to be an impact and
8 effect.

9 MS. MALLOY: When we get killed, that's
10 going to be the cause.

11 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay, we'll
12 do martial law.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We're not
14 recommending martial law.

15 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: We did it
16 in Potomac Gardens, and guess what? We did that
17 before you came, Chief --

18 (Simultaneous Speaking)

19 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: I actually
20 had a couple of questions. Director Garrett --

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All right, moving
22 on.

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1 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: I actually
2 had a couple of questions. I wanted to know, one,
3 if someone could talk about what we do when we know
4 public housing communities are experiencing spikes
5 in violent crimes, like what Ms. Malloy described.
6 Then two, especially properties that we know
7 there's some relocation and vacancies, what are
8 we doing to address security concerns or things
9 that might arise that are specifically related to
10 those vacancies?

11 MR. GARRETT: I can have Chief Maupin
12 come to the microphone to explain exactly what steps
13 are being taken, but we've had a discussion about
14 some of the things that are going to happen next
15 week. Some things are going to happen in the future
16 at many of our sites.

17 CHIEF MAUPIN: Good afternoon. To
18 answer the Commissioner's question, when we observe
19 a spike in crime in diverse communities, we always
20 partner with MPD to deploy in that community.
21 Lincoln Heights, for example, is one of the summer
22 crime initiative areas. The summer crime

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1 initiative started May 1st.

2 It's actually encompassing seven of our
3 communities, along with a much larger part of that
4 particular PSA. Lincoln Heights and Richardson
5 Dwellings is being covered, this community,
6 Stoddert Terrace and Fort DuPont is also being
7 covered, along with our Woodland, Highland
8 Addition, Highland Dwellings, and our Terrace
9 communities.

10 Each one of those communities is going
11 to see an influx of officers, both MPD and D.C.
12 Housing Authority, along with judicial system and
13 other city agencies will converge to address both
14 the law enforcement and the different type of
15 concerns of those communities.

16 A lot of the information that's being
17 shared today is also being shared with the SCI
18 officials, so they know exactly what some of the
19 problems are in the communities that our residents
20 are talking about this afternoon, so we can
21 immediately address them. I texted out the issues
22 that some of the residents just mentioned about

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1 to the SCI lieutenants and to my officials, so they
2 can address them this evening and continue
3 addressing them throughout the summer.

4 PARTICIPANT: I've got a question for
5 you.

6 CHIEF MAUPIN: I was just reminded
7 about our Lincoln Heights and Richardson
8 Residential Program. Lincoln Heights and
9 Richardson are two of the communities that we also
10 have MPD officers and DCHA officers actually living
11 in the community to address a lot of the concerns
12 from what they see, report back to us, and report
13 back to the Metropolitan Police Department as a
14 way of getting intelligence on what's going on in
15 the community, also.

16 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Appreciate that,
17 thank you, Chief. Commissioner Vann-Ghasri.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Chief, I
19 really do -- I'm not trying to be facetious or
20 nothing. I'm really serious about this.
21 Constantly, I look at how much money you pay when
22 you say the same thing, same officers go out, the

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1 impact and the trends of that. I remember back
2 in the day, with -- then I remember -- I remember
3 so much to remember that I forgot to remember.
4 In Philadelphia and in Chicago and in a lot of major
5 cities, during our commissioners traveling,
6 there's the police monitoring, community
7 monitoring.

8 California had a model. What model is
9 the best model, or is there one? Because I'm going
10 to be honest with you and I'm going to say it again.

11 I ain't going back there. Potomac Gardens, back
12 in the day, was a murder capital.

13 Come up in the Gardens and you got boom,
14 bam until the military came up there and showed
15 us they wasn't playing. Right as we speak today,
16 as you know, I'm the president of Potomac Gardens.

17 I don't play games about the police because first
18 of all, I'm going to be honest, I'm the police.

19 First of all, I'm the police of my
20 house. First of all, my company is not going to
21 come visiting me, acting out of control. You're
22 going to come up there like you've got some sense.

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1 When you come up there acting out of control, then
2 what is the best solution? I'm really serious.
3 What is the best solution? Is there one? Your
4 officers are scared of us.

5 CHIEF MAUPIN: As you know, many
6 communities have adopted the community policing
7 philosophy. That's been adopted in District of
8 Columbia, and it's been in place since about 1990.
9 It's been very useful. When I was at MPD, it
10 worked out very well for us, and I think it works
11 out very well for the Housing Authority.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: The reason
13 why I'm saying this, because I have my credentials
14 here today to show you that not only have I completed
15 this course, but many residents of the District
16 of Columbia Housing Authority completed a model
17 under Ron Hampton.

18 At that time, that's what the gardens
19 of concern meant. That has been a nation and a
20 global model. Why are models that were working
21 in this city have dismantled and keep on getting
22 fresh money and the same people are complaining

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1 and the same people getting paid over and over.
2 I don't understand that.

3 CHIEF MAUPIN: That's been part of the
4 community policing model, also, is working with
5 not just the police enforcement, but bringing in
6 community members, bringing in private
7 organizations to do mediations, to do more than
8 just law enforcement. The SCI model, which is the
9 summer crime initiative, is a model that's been
10 mirrored throughout the country.

11 That's some of the things you talked,
12 maybe Boston and Chicago, what they were doing by
13 identifying offenders, identifying problem areas,
14 being proactive in putting officers in places that
15 has a historical basis of crime and trying to
16 prevent them from occurring and putting people on
17 notice who are normal perpetrators of crime that
18 it won't be tolerated.

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: There's
20 only one thing I request -- and I'm also on the
21 operation committee. I've been on that committee
22 for 12 years, so I have a good track record. I

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1 would like to see you coming back, reporting to
2 us the trends in the models that DCHA is using
3 because I've never seen no name of no trends.

4 I've never seen no names of no models
5 where you're conversing and saying at Lincoln
6 Heights, we have used so-and-so model, and the
7 results has been, but on the other hand, we have
8 used Boston model -- it's never -- we don't know
9 what model you're using, so how would we know?

10 CHIEF MAUPIN: I just expressed to you
11 that the (Simultaneous Speaking) utilizes the
12 community policing model of enforcement. That's
13 throughout -- we don't have a different model for
14 every community. We have one model that we utilize
15 in all the communities that we feel is beneficial
16 in assisting our residents in every community we
17 serve, that we are one city.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay, well
19 thank you. Starting today, since you're going to
20 go into Lincoln Heights, when you come to the
21 operation committee, you'll tell us what type of
22 model you done took into Lincoln Heights, so that

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1 we can monitor the model.

2 CHIEF MAUPIN: Whenever you invite me,
3 I'll be there.

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Chair, if
6 I may.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Appreciate your
8 coming up.

9 CHIEF MAUPIN: Thank you.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you.

11 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Just a
12 moment, Chief. Mr. Chair, if I may.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes, make it quick,
14 please.

15 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Okay. Back
16 when I was with REACH, the organization that the
17 Commissioner spoke of earlier, in another sitting,
18 we did a survey. You used to have patrolmen who'd
19 walk in the streets.

20 They'd go into businesses and say hello
21 and stop at people's houses and neighborhoods and
22 converse with people over the fence in the yard

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1 and whatever the case may be. When they started
2 putting them in the scouts, they sometimes sitting
3 out beside one another conversating while things
4 are going on around them.

5 We've got 42 police units in this city,
6 alone. How many of them, besides D.C.'s finest,
7 cooperate with you in networking to get some of
8 these situations squashed?

9 CHIEF MAUPIN: Within the SCI, there's
10 just about every local and federal agency in the
11 city becomes involved, the FBI, the ATF, Park
12 Police, Metro Transit Police, any of the agencies
13 that help patrol our neighborhoods are involved
14 in that. To mention to you about foot beats, it
15 didn't go back that far because I used to walk a
16 foot beat myself back in the day. We don't have
17 to go back too far at that, but we've re-established
18 many foot beats within the Housing Authority.

19 We have units walking the foot beats
20 in -- right now, they're in Potomac Gardens, but
21 we also have them at Park Morton. We just had them
22 do a month in --- where was it -- in Montana. We

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1 get some very favorable reactions through the
2 officers being out there.

3 Some of our residents are not used to
4 seeing them. Sometimes, they feel enforcement
5 should only be against visitors, not against
6 residents, but it goes both ways --

7 (Simultaneous Speaking)

8 We're getting more people out there in
9 different types of ways, getting them out of the
10 cars. Because one of the complaints we always get
11 is people just sitting in the cars. We're putting
12 them out by alternative means, so they have to
13 interact with the community.

14 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: It does make
15 a big difference when they see that they're visible;
16 that's for sure. Thank you, Chief.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you again for
18 coming forward.

19 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Thank you,
20 Mr. Chair.

21 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, as the
22 chief leaves and the next speaker comes up, I just

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1 want you to know, don't forget, we're doing a summer
2 initiative, also, where we're bringing on 15 more
3 security officers, which will allow our armed
4 officers to more visibility and be on the ground
5 and walk around or ride throughout the complexes.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you. Nicole
7 Odom, please. Nicole Odom. Renee Harris.

8 MS. HARRIS: Hello, my name is Renee
9 Harris. I reside at 101 Ridge Road Southeast.
10 My issues today is I've been living here since 2004.

11 Since I have been living here, with the utility
12 and things that had to be fixed in my unit, if I
13 was to rate it from 10 being the best and 0 being
14 terrible, I would give it a 0. I have a special
15 needs son. There are things that has been in my
16 unit since 2004 that still has not been fixed.
17 I just recently came into a mold situation, where
18 they weren't even telling me that I had mold there,
19 at first. I had to keep bombarding the office and
20 keep reaching out to different people. I was
21 accommodated \$200, but that was almost a month ago.

22 I have took out my expenses at my house,

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1 can't use my stove, can't use in my kitchen,
2 everything in my kitchen is in my living room.
3 I was also told that I would be compensated with
4 the rent, and that has not taken place yet. I am
5 trying my best. I have been there.

6 I have had a problem with rodents and
7 bug infestation, such as bed bugs, where I had to
8 throw out everything. This is ridiculous. My
9 children and I, I had to go to recuperate everything
10 that was basically lost because of bed bugs.

11 Once it comes, they come, and it come
12 in like a flood. I have been calling to the office,
13 have made several notes, as far as the infestations,
14 where they will come out and do a viper cleaning.

15 Why would you viper clean one unit, and not do
16 all? They're row houses that the pestilence will
17 run from one area to the other. I have an issue
18 with some of the maintenance, where they will come
19 in your unit, they just come and open your door
20 and not have the respect of them saying maintenance,
21 this is such-and-such, and I'm here to do.

22 Me and my children have been through

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1 a crisis, and I don't trust all people around me
2 or my children. I'm just saying I really feel like
3 a lot of people get disrespected because we are
4 in housing. Not everybody is receiving public
5 assistance. Not everybody wants to be wretched,
6 or not everybody wants to be rude.

7 They treat us as if we are animals, and
8 I don't like it. I have not -- this is my first
9 time ever testifying since 2004, but I am fed up.
10 I've put in a paper to move into a bigger unit.
11 The unit where I'm living, the cabinets are just
12 getting ready to fall apart.

13 You can smell -- I just got the roach
14 smell out of my kitchen. This is how bad the
15 infestation was. I had to throw my deep freezer
16 away because when I moved it, roaches poured out
17 of this deep freezer. If you don't deep clean your
18 house -- you could deep clean all you want to.
19 Certain problems just won't go away. They said
20 no animals. I have a cat. I had to get a cat
21 because if I did not have a cat, my bread, my
22 noodles, everything that's non-perishable will be

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1 eaten. This is my concern. I need help for my
2 unit, and if not help for the unit, some of these
3 units need to be gutted out, not new things being
4 placed over old things.

5 I'm just tired. I'm a young mother.
6 I'm a mother of six, and I'm doing it by myself.
7 I'm not married. I'm doing it by myself. By all
8 means, I would take whatever money that I have to
9 take, whether it come from the rent or whatever
10 the case may be, to make sure that me and my kids
11 are safe in my unit. I have spent thousands of
12 dollars to make sure that me and my children are
13 safe in my unit. That's all I have to stay. Thanks
14 for listening.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can you stay
16 seated? I appreciate your coming down and
17 testifying. It sounds like you've been through
18 a big ordeal, and I heard you say this is the first
19 time you've come down to testify, so I'm sure that
20 took a lot. Thank you for doing that. Thank you
21 for making us aware of the issue. I think the best
22 course of action here would be to proceed with

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1 Director Garrett working with you on the specific
2 issues around your unit and seeing if we can help
3 progress things along here.

4 MR. GARRETT: I have no problem doing
5 that. I was going to ask -- Brandy stepped out,
6 but there's a young lady -- if you stay right there
7 in that, I'll have Brandy come up, and she'll deal
8 with you. She'll take your information, and we'll
9 try to get down to the bottom of the issue. I want
10 to find out exactly how many work orders are still
11 open in your particular unit, and then go from
12 there, and also look at your transfer request.

13 MS. HARRIS: Thank you.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: So you know, we,
15 as a Board, get a follow up on all issues of all
16 the people that testified, so we will be able to
17 keep track of, hopefully, your progress here. So
18 again, thank you for coming down.

19 MS. HARRIS: Okay, thank you all for
20 listening.

21 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Mr. Chair, if
22 I may --

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: She's walking back
2 in now. Yes, go ahead.

3 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Excuse me,
4 ma'am.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner
6 Lancaster, we have 20 more people, so if you have
7 something to say, do it quickly, please.

8 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: I definitely
9 have something to say because the first thing she
10 said, she's been there since 2004 and has a problem
11 that has not been solved yet. 2004, that's 14 years
12 ago; 14 years, and the problem hasn't been solved?

13 She just mentioned a problem. She
14 didn't say how many, but it still hasn't been solved
15 yet. I have a problem with that. Please, make
16 her the top priority. Find out what that problem
17 is 14 years ago and get it taken care of. Thank
18 you.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Appreciate your
20 comments.

21 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Thank you,
22 ma'am.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Percellia
2 Montgomery.

3 MS. MONTGOMERY: How you doing, AMC.

4 My name's Percellia Montgomery. I am here today;
5 I want to know why I keep putting in applications
6 for Housing and they won't have me. I don't do
7 drugs. I've never been locked up. I need a job.

8 I think you all could give me my house. I came
9 to you all, you all helped me got my new house.
10 I thank you all for that. I need a job. I keep
11 putting in applications for Housing. I just want
12 to get hired. That's all I want. Thank you all.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What have you
14 applied for?

15 MS. MONTGOMERY: Labor. I spoke with
16 Steve Ferg (phonetic). I built that with him.

17 MR. GARRETT: I'll have you speak to
18 Mr. Williams in reference to the Resident Services
19 to see -- did you fill out an application before
20 for --

21 MS. MONTGOMERY: Yes, I put an
22 application in.

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1 MR. GARRETT: -- the ATP Program, or
2 was it just --

3 MS. MONTGOMERY: I put an application
4 in Human Resources and 1133.

5 MR. GARRETT: Okay, we'll look into it.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Appreciate your
7 coming down. Thank you. Linda Brown.

8 MS. BROWN: Good afternoon,
9 Commissioners.

10 PARTICIPANT: Good afternoon.

11 PARTICIPANT: Good afternoon, Ms.
12 Brown.

13 MS. BROWN: My name is Linda Brown, and
14 I live in Green Leaf Senior, and I live there with
15 my adult daughter, who has disabilities. I come
16 here today to talk about redevelopment because the
17 information that the community gets is not always
18 the correct information that is getting to the
19 resident, so I have a lot of anxiety around not
20 knowing when we're going to have to be displaced.

21 So far, what I've heard is that the
22 places that we have an option for is not something

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1 that I really want to expose my daughter to. We
2 don't really have a whole lot of options here.
3 I'd like to know what options are available up
4 front, so that I can make a sound decision about
5 me and my family. I would appreciate if the
6 information that we receive about redevelopment
7 is accurate, and not what we get from the other
8 residents.

9 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am, we're going
10 to continue to have meetings with the residents
11 as we move forward with Green Leaf. As far as
12 relocation, we haven't even gotten to that point
13 for Green Leaf, in terms of a relocation plan, just
14 yet.

15 When we do, we'll have public meetings.
16 We'll have discussions with the residents,
17 themselves, to discuss what the actual options are
18 and what the plan actually will be for relocation
19 of the residents. I think our next step is going
20 to be -- pardon me, someone correct me -- but I
21 think our next step is going to be a public meeting
22 with the developers who have submitted their

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1 qualifications.

2 That's the next step. At that
3 particular meeting, we'll be able to give everyone
4 a timeline going forward of the other stages that
5 we'll be going through. Relocation is not one of
6 the stages we're at yet.

7 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

8 MS. BROWN: The residents have options
9 of where they're going to be able to move? Will
10 they be able to decide, or is Housing Authority
11 going to --

12 (Simultaneous Speaking)

13 MR. GARRETT: No, we'll be able to
14 discuss that at that particular time because there
15 will be options that will be available to the
16 residents to make up their mind as to whether or
17 not they would like to utilize -- if we have vouchers
18 available, if we do, that may be an option. If
19 we don't, we'll have public housing units
20 available, but we're not there just yet.

21 MS. BROWN: Okay, because people are
22 transferring out now. They're going to other

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1 properties that are going to be redeveloped sooner
2 or later, so that's a problem.

3 MR. GARRETT: Each complex has its own
4 redevelopment plan. For Green Leaf right now,
5 there is no redevelopment plan that has been
6 unveiled, so anyone that's moving now, that's based
7 on a transfer. That's not based on a redevelopment
8 plan.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Who do you
10 think -- I'm serious about this because I'm
11 confused. I know you have meetings, and I want
12 to put it on the record. Who do you trust? Do
13 you trust Naomi Mitchell to give out right
14 information? Do you trust SWANA (phonetic) to give
15 out the right information? Or do you trust Sadia
16 Atheist? Because those are the three people I know
17 that normally controls -- and Ms. Monk (phonetic).

18 If you don't know those people, I'll tell you what
19 I will do.

20 I will contact Charles Allen's office
21 in the morning. I will catch the bus and go down
22 there. I will tell him to find you by your property

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1 manager, and then either Naomi going to be telling
2 the truth -- because when I talk to Naomi Mitchell,
3 who's always at your meetings -- because the last
4 meeting I had, I got put out the meeting, I really
5 did, because I was honest.

6 That was at Christine meeting, but you
7 was not at that meeting. They had only the resident
8 council presidents. If you tell me who you trust,
9 and these are the people -- I don't know about Ms.
10 Monk, but I can tell you this. Naomi Mitchell come
11 out of a D.C. agenda, so Naomi cannot play, and
12 she works for Charles Allen. She's supposed to
13 be our community liaison. Do you trust her?

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner
15 Vann-Ghasri, I think the answer to her question
16 is there is no redevelopment plan at this point.
17 What you're referring to --

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: But she
19 also said she don't really get information, and
20 she's really telling the truth.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Excuse me. What
22 you're talking about is not germane to her concern.

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1 Her concern is about where she might be relocated
2 as a result of the redevelopment. At this time,
3 the official response from the Housing Authority
4 is there is no redevelopment plan, so any other
5 discussion you would like to have with her, you
6 can have offline.

7 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay, I'll
8 have it with you offline. Do you have my number?

9 MS. BROWN: Yes.

10 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay, call
11 me by text. I don't answer the phone. You just
12 have to text me and say call me, and I'll call you
13 back. Everybody will tell you I do that, but I
14 no longer take calls at 12:00 or 1:00 in the morning.

15 MS. BROWN: Okay. I have one more
16 question that really concerns me. What I've heard
17 here today is that there has been policies or things
18 that have already been passed. Just when you
19 talked about one of the resolutions here, that had
20 already been passed, contracts have already been
21 signed.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Not accurate. No.

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1 That's not true. What we just talked about has
2 not been passed until today.

3 MS. BROWN: You're saying that before
4 these policies are enacted, the residents or the
5 population that you serve, which is us, will already
6 know about them before they are signed?

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: A lot of the
8 discussion today was about how we're going to inform
9 residents of these policies, meeting with
10 advocates. As you heard, some of the folks up here
11 had some consternation about the timing and the
12 process.

13 MS. BROWN: So you're saying that we
14 will be informed, but in a timely manner, where
15 we also can be prepared. Is that what you're
16 saying?

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Ask the question
18 again.

19 MS. BROWN: You're also going to inform
20 us, so that we can prepare for whatever is coming?

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: It was articulated
22 by the executive director that when and if this

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1 policy is changed or enacted, there will be a
2 disclosure or explanation to the residents.

3 MS. BROWN: Okay, thanks.

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Lakeisha
5 Chandless. Is she still here? No? Okay.
6 Constantina Harris. Going once. No? Donna
7 Smith. No. Monica Thompson. Next time, just
8 pretend like you're that person.

9 MS. THOMPSON: Good afternoon. My
10 name is Monica Thompson, and I live at 720 Langston
11 Terrace. I have two issues.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Could you move a
13 little closer? Thank you.

14 MS. THOMPSON: I have two issues. One
15 issue is they do a lot of shooting around where
16 I live at. I've been there since 2016. Before
17 I was there, I was at Kentucky Courts. I moved
18 over to Langston Terrace because of a public safety
19 issue. They do a lot of shooting over there. It's
20 been seven or eight shootings that I've seen since
21 I've been there. They do a lot of gang fighting.
22 They jumped a young lady the other day. She was

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1 pregnant. They kicked her in her stomach. They
2 pulled all her braids out. They had some kind of
3 gang fight going on just about two days ago right
4 out in front of my door. I live by myself. I don't
5 feel safe or comfortable there. I really, really
6 don't.

7 It's a terrible neighborhood. I
8 wouldn't suggest anybody to live there. My other
9 issue is I was approved for reasonable
10 accommodations in 2017. It has to do with my hip.

11 I'm having hip surgery. My surgery is schedule
12 for June 8th.

13 My doctor gave me this information
14 almost a year ago, or almost two years ago, until
15 I got approved, because I had a hip surgery on my
16 left side. Now I'm getting ready to have hip
17 surgery on my right side. What they're telling
18 me is it could take five to ten years before I can
19 move into a unit.

20 My thing is I want to get away from
21 Langston Terrace. I don't want to live there
22 anymore. I really don't. It's a terrible

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1 neighborhood. I can't go sit out on my front porch
2 because I'm afraid I'm going to get shot. I look
3 out the window, they're fighting. You open up the
4 windows, you've got weed coming, people smoking
5 different -- all kinds of things. I do not want
6 to live there. I want to move. I really do. I
7 don't know what you all can do to help me. I was
8 approved for my reasonable accommodations last
9 June, in 2017. I really can't do the steps. They
10 bother me. I would appreciate it if you all could
11 help me in some kind of way.

12 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am, we'll look
13 into it.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I just want to make
15 clear, you're asking for an accommodation because
16 of the steps and you have an issue with walking
17 up steps?

18 MS. THOMPSON: Yes.

19 MR. GARRETT: We'll do the best we can
20 to look into it. We do have other individuals that
21 have --

22 MS. THOMPSON: Say that again.

1 MR. GARRETT: We do have other
2 individual families who have asked for the same
3 thing, so we try to do it in order, as best as we
4 possibly can.

5 MS. THOMPSON: All right, thank you.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you for
7 coming in and testifying. I appreciate it.

8 MS. SMITH: Donna Smith.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'm sorry.

10 MS. SMITH: Donna Smith.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Ms. Smith, please
12 come up.

13 MS. SMITH: How you doing today? My
14 name is Donna Smith. I live in 326 Ridge Road.
15 I've been here since, I believe, 2010. My
16 apartment was never finished, never painted, never
17 done anything to because I was rushed here from
18 Lincoln Heights because they had to move me because
19 they closed my section down. When we had the
20 earthquake, my tub went to fall.

21 They were supposed to stabilize it and
22 waited a year to come back and do it. They left

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1 the wall open and all the mold kept seeping through
2 my house. The mold keeps coming through my tub
3 and my toilet. When I wake up, my hands and feet
4 are swollen because of the mold and the mildew.
5 My bronchitis is acting up really bad. I have a
6 tenant that lives in my floor. Him and his wife,
7 now, they come bang on my door and threaten to beat
8 me up. They came to my apartment. I've got two
9 police reports. Nothing's been done. Nothing's
10 been said. I told them numerous of times. It's
11 been going on for about a year and a half now.
12 I was court ordered to fix everything in my
13 apartment by June of last year.

14 Nothing has been fixed, except just
15 now, the pipe underneath the kitchen sink. The
16 kitchen cabinets are falling apart. There's no
17 doors in the drawers. There's wood paint
18 everywhere. They fixed some of the tiles, but
19 didn't fix all of them. They're coming up.

20 When I walk, they come up with my shoes.

21 Oh, the hill I live on, if you walk across the
22 street, you can't see over the hill. The cars come

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1 flying down. Maybe a speed hump might stop them
2 before one of them kids get killed or hit. It's
3 hard to really feel safe in your building because
4 there's no lock on the door.

5 Once they put the lock, it's broke back
6 off. I live all the way on the top floor. Like
7 I said, it's not safe. They're painting now.
8 We've got a window, but it's not a window; it's
9 Plexiglas, so we can't open it. The hallways never
10 get swept, never get mopped, probably once a month,
11 true, yes. Yes, it is because I do the mopping.
12 I do the sweeping. That's it.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That's a lot. Did
14 I hear you say that your apartment was never
15 finished when you moved in?

16 MS. SMITH: Never painted, nothing.
17 Ms. Marshall then told us to clean it, and you could
18 tell it wasn't painted because Comcast bangs and
19 put holes in the wall to hang the wires up, never
20 was painted over.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I would ask the
22 executive director to -- I hope we wrote all that

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1 down.

2 MR. GARRETT: Yes, we did.

3 MS. SMITH: My kitchen counter is
4 actually, literally falling. It's this far away
5 from the wall, and the thing is going down.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Maybe we can get
7 someone to come out --

8 MS. SMITH: After the earthquake, I
9 heard the building actually tore up and came back.

10 MR. GARRETT: We'll pull the work
11 orders and have someone go to the unit directly.

12 MS. SMITH: And my kitchen window is
13 not glass; it's Plexiglas. You can actually stick
14 your finger through it and there's a dumpster right
15 underneath of my window. Every time the man dumps
16 the trash, he leaves the flap open, so I've got
17 gnats in my apartment.

18 MR. GARRETT: We'll be able to report
19 back --

20 (Simultaneous Speaking)

21 MS. SMITH: And the mouses, literally,
22 I killed them with potato flakes, got rid of all

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1 of them, but now I left for two weeks to go to my
2 daughter-in-law's house; I come back, there's
3 nothing but piss on my cabinets, excuse my French,
4 and doo-doo everywhere. I've got the pictures of
5 it.

6 The maintenance man, he came up, he
7 fixed the floor, put new tiles down, bought a new
8 rug to put in there. The man came up, got mad
9 because he had to fix the pipe, left the pipe undone,
10 almost slipped and fell carrying the buckets of
11 water. Came back the next day, he pee-peed on that
12 rug, and you can see the stain of the pee on there.

13 I took pictures of the pee that was going on the
14 rug into the toilet.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Wait a minute.
16 You're saying the maintenance man --

17 (Simultaneous Speaking)

18 MS. SMITH: Yes, sir. The floor still
19 smells like urine. There's nothing I can do to
20 get it out.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That's pretty
22 tough.

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1 MS. SMITH: I know; it's a lot.

2 MR. GARRETT: I'll investigate that,
3 Commissioner.

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We'll see where we
5 get on that one.

6 MS. SMITH: Yes, sir. Thank you, sir.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you so much,
8 and I apologize for -- wow.

9 MR. GARRETT: I will investigate that.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes, let's
11 investigate that one. Wow. Okay. Getting back
12 in order here. James Brown. Excuse me? You're
13 not James Brown; you're just pretending to be?

14 (Off-mic comment.)

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: You shouldn't have
16 said anything because now you're caught. My advice
17 for the future is don't tell me. Rhonda
18 Edwards-Hines.

19 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Good afternoon.
20 My name is Rhonda Edwards-Hines, and I reside at
21 1142 Sumner Road Southeast, Barry Farms. I come
22 today to again be on the record. Two months ago,

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1 I came and talked in front of the Board about my
2 issues pertaining to relocation.

3 I don't know if residents coming here
4 to testify and sharing with you their concerns do
5 get answered. I, as a resident and a leader in
6 Barry Farms, no one has contacted me from this
7 Board. I just wanted to be put on record that --
8 is this redundant? I'm not understanding because
9 is it a joke that Barry Farms is going under
10 redevelopment? Because we had -- that is so
11 disrespectful.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What's that?

13 PARTICIPANT: I apologize.

14 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: I don't feel --

15 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I'm
16 listening, Rhonda (Simultaneous Speaking). I'm
17 listening.

18 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: It's really not
19 based to you.

20 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Continue
21 talking.

22 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: We had a meeting

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1 at the end of March about relocation, and the
2 developer was there. They said that they was going
3 to put up a fence in the mid-section of Sumner Road.

4 Here it is; we're in May. That has not happened
5 yet. I don't understand. Is it that you're just
6 saying that we're under redevelopment, or is
7 redevelopment really going to happen?

8 Because I'm not understanding.
9 Nothing has moved but boards going up,
10 refrigerators and stoves going out of the units
11 that's already boarded up. Are we honestly under
12 redevelopment? Is it going to happen? Because
13 I don't know. Because I just want to be able to
14 go back and tell the residents yes, it is. Because
15 they're asking me. I don't know. Being that
16 leader, I should have certainty what to tell the
17 residents. That's one question.

18 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We just lost a big
19 court case, if you're aware of, and so whatever
20 that -- the results of that court case is a delay
21 in the projects. We can't tell you with surety.

22 To answer your question, we don't have surety.

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1 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: My understanding
2 with that court case that you just had, that's a
3 zoning issue. Because we have five streets --

4 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That's how you
5 build the project. You have to get the zoning
6 approval. Therefore --

7 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: But you had
8 approval for the demolition.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Why would we demo
10 it? We may or may not, but to demo -- I can't talk
11 about this, but point being we've had a response
12 from the court, which is going to delay us, so we
13 can't tell you with surety when the project will
14 start.

15 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: But you still want
16 residents to move. You still want residents to
17 relocate, and you don't even know what date the
18 project is going to start. No actions have been
19 took in place. No one has come to even -- let me
20 finish, Mr. Garrett. No one has even -- after this
21 court case, you sent out a letter, but that letter
22 didn't state that you was going to have a meeting

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1 with the residents to inform them, to update them
2 as to what is going to happen. Now they're still
3 at Point A. Now the residents was like okay, we
4 have to go because this development is going to
5 happen. The majority of them, I'm not going to
6 say, 10 percent is going to stay fast.

7 With that being said, I'm looking for
8 someone, our executive director, as well -- because
9 he took upon himself to send those letters out to
10 the residents, why not enclosing in that letter
11 stating when you're going to meet with the residents
12 of what's the next step? You can go ahead and
13 answer that.

14 MR. GARRETT: Ms. Hines, if you recall,
15 between the last time you appeared at the Board
16 of Commissioners meeting, we held a meeting with
17 you and your constituency at Barry Farm to discuss
18 redevelopment, correct?

19 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Mm-hm.

20 MR. GARRETT: That's between, I think
21 it was, March and now. I guess we did that in April.
22 We had that Barry Farm meeting a couple of weeks

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1 ago, right?

2 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Yes.

3 MR. GARRETT: We discussed all of these
4 issues. We discussed relocation with you, and we
5 discussed the construction fence going up and the
6 particular timeline, did we not?

7 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Yes.

8 MR. GARRETT: Yes, we did.

9 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: But nothing has
10 happened. That's why I'm sitting here today.

11 MR. GARRETT: We're still moving
12 forward with putting up that construction fence.

13 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: That fence was
14 supposed to go up the third week of April. We're
15 in May now.

16 MR. GARRETT: Understood, but we're
17 still going to be moving forward with it. We'll
18 bear down on the exact date. In addition to having
19 an additional meeting with you, it's not because
20 we did not want to have an additional meeting with
21 the residents, it's just that we have to schedule
22 that meeting when we are permitted to be able to

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1 be there. Last week, when we sent out that letter
2 to the residents, I wasn't able to have another
3 resident meeting again between that date I sent
4 out that notice to all the residents and today.
5 I couldn't get another meeting in with the residents
6 between that time frame.

7 It doesn't mean that we're not going
8 to continue to engage you and be transparent about
9 exactly what's going on, in terms of the process.

10 As Commissioner Slover also said, we also have
11 to understand exactly what direction we're actually
12 going to be going in, based on what the court has
13 said.

14 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: So until you all
15 know what direction you all are going to go in,
16 I feel that the remaining residents should be able
17 to stay there and not be forced to leave and not
18 be given 90 days, 30 days, at the end of May you
19 should be gone, including myself.

20 Like I stated in the beginning, when
21 I came here two months ago and expressed -- to share
22 with the Board what I've been going through --

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1 because I speak for the residents and barely speak
2 for myself. I asked of the Commissioners and the
3 executive director, what's going to happen to the
4 units that I was promised? At first, when this
5 redevelopment came, I was offered 20 Riggs Road,
6 right across the street. They rented that one out
7 and to compensate me, they offered me 28. I accept.

8 I looked at it. I got pictures. I'm on social
9 media, live, with Mr. Council.

10 Mr. Council even asked me when was I
11 going to move in? This was the week before
12 Thanksgiving. I said being as though I'm a leader,
13 I had Thanksgiving and Christmas to take care of
14 for my residents. I will move in after the 1st
15 of the year.

16 What happened? My unit was given to
17 another resident. I had transferred my phone to
18 over here. I lost my house phone that I had for
19 30 years. My grandparents raised me very well.
20 I kept my same number. Now that's gone up in the
21 air. I can't get that back. That's another stress
22 to me.

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1 Like I stated two months ago, I'm losing
2 my hair. I know my time has passed, but I'm serious
3 about this because no one has contacted me. Mr.
4 Nathan has been very nice and tried to accommodate
5 me. You're not going to send me from a unit where
6 I don't have any rodents to a unit that has rodents
7 outside. I've seen six of them that's almost as
8 big as -- they're this big. That's not even
9 included the tail -- jumping in the backyard, and
10 you want me to move to that.

11 Then you offered me the unit in
12 Highland, which I could take that unit and put it
13 inside my house that I'm in now, so I have to put
14 all my stuff away just to accommodate. So I'm like
15 okay, I just can't -- I'm not even gone and I'm
16 waiting for two years to come so I can move back
17 to Barry.

18 That's not even considering that it's
19 not even nothing happening, so it'll probably be
20 five years from now. So why should I have to settle
21 for anything? No one has addressed these issues.

22 These are my issues, not residents, personally.

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1 I've been a leader in that community over 20 years.

2 I have not asked nothing of DCHA, nothing.

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Rhonda, I
4 cannot speak for everyone else, but the reason why
5 I've been on this Board successfully for 12 years,
6 because I know when I place myself in a conflict
7 of interest. This morning, I brought my
8 certification and my information to this Board,
9 so this Board to understand who they have sitting
10 on this Board. I have been trained by some of the
11 best lawyers from the District of Columbia. I know
12 when and when not to go in a conflict of interest.

13 You and I was trained by the same person, so,
14 therefore, I am in a conflict of interest with you.

15 You should know how to handle your business, so
16 handle it.

17 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: That's why I'm
18 here, to put this on the record. My next step --
19 I'm 100 percent woman. I'm not going to do anything
20 behind your guys' backs. I'm going to Anita Bonds
21 because she oversees this Board.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Good luck with

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1 that.

2 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: That's not right,
3 that nobody has addressed my issues. When I had
4 a meeting -- I'm going to also inform you that I
5 had a meeting with the executive director about
6 my issue with my two units. At the end of that
7 meeting --

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'm not trying to
9 cut you off, but I am.

10 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Yes, you are.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: You've been twice
12 as long. I appreciate your issues. I think you've
13 got them on the record. I think you should give
14 us a little time to figure out how we're going to
15 move forward.

16 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: A little time.
17 It's been two months, so what am I supposed to do?
18 You said that when you all take these, someone
19 reaches back out to you when we testify.

20 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Right.

21 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: No one has come and
22 reached out to me in two months. That's why I'm

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1 back here.

2 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That's apparently
3 -- I don't have the record in front of me because
4 we get them monthly. I don't know what was
5 responded to you from the previous month because
6 I only have last month's. I don't think you
7 testified last month.

8 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: No, I testified
9 the month before that.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Two months, right,
11 so I don't have that.

12 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: When you was at
13 1133.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Right. I know; I
15 was there; I remember. I would just ask you to
16 give us a little time. I know you don't want to
17 hear that, but that's all I can offer you right
18 now.

19 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Oh, okay. So I'm
20 going to stay in 1142 Sumner Road until someone
21 let me know something. This is directly to Mr.
22 Garrett.

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1 MR. GARRETT: So you didn't sign the
2 lease at Highland?

3 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Yes, I did,
4 because I was forced to.

5 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We'll just work
7 that out. All right, thank you.

8 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Because I had
9 nowhere else to go. You all was telling me we had
10 to go.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All right.

12 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: I'm still paying
13 rent at 1142.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Karen Settles.
15 Yes, Ms. Settles.

16 MS. SETTLES: I'm somewhat speechless,
17 at this mess that's going on, as far as residents'
18 concerns are. I'm trying to make some order out
19 of -- first of all, hello Mr. Garrett, hello
20 Commissioners. Thank you for being at
21 Stoddert/Fort DuPont.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Good afternoon.

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1 MS. SETTLES: I am so serious about the
2 way that -- all that's being delivered here today
3 and the way it's being received. This is almost
4 the only chance that residents have an opportunity
5 to come before this Board to be able to express
6 some of their issues and concerns.

7 I know that technology allows us to do
8 this in a better way, and I'm determined that it
9 will be done better than this. Our residents are
10 -- it's a lot of pain and suffering in housing.
11 Yes, most people say that it is all around safety,
12 and it is.

13 But safety and mental health and some
14 other things that drives you into this mental state
15 of mind is on the head of the Housing Authority.

16 You cannot do it by yourself. We have city
17 services here that are not being properly utilized
18 to inform and help residents get beyond some of
19 the barriers that they are facing. A lot of the
20 resolutions and things that were presented here
21 even today and in previous commissioner meetings
22 -- I'm very frustrated at this mess. We have an

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1 opportunity -- and I'm going to say this again,
2 because I said this before the City Council.

3 We have a new director with new
4 directions. We can't do business as usual anymore.

5 Information that is necessary for residents to
6 be able to make intelligent decisions pertaining
7 to their own lives, specifically, has to be issued
8 properly. We sat here today and listened to a
9 budget approval.

10 We listened to several approvals of
11 things that happened today and resolutions that
12 were approved of and waiting for comment. Who does
13 that? I'm telling you, I belong to other boards.

14 I'm not comparing them to you because all boards
15 are different, just like all properties are
16 different.

17 My expectations for this Board of
18 Commissioners is that the residents have to be first
19 and foremost. Some people would call it great
20 weight. The ANC's they call it great weight. This
21 is kind of, sort of backwards, to be frank with
22 you. The comments from -- comments pertaining to

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1 resolutions are extremely important for direction
2 because out of that can come some ideas or some
3 recommendations that will work. You pass a
4 resolution that is totally, totally against -- and
5 I'm speaking of all of them, but specifically one
6 of them about re-entry.

7 Half of the people in public housing
8 has been under arrest. I'm not slandering anybody.

9 All of our households have been touched with this,
10 or our neighbors and somebody close. You cannot
11 ignore a problem that's at this level in the city,
12 just like you can't ignore homelessness.

13 We need more instructions and more
14 education, by way of workshops, whatever,
15 pertaining so the residents can be a part of the
16 solution. You can't be a part of the solution
17 scattered all over the place. You're throwing
18 these summer blitz in Lincoln Heights, Richardson.

19 Stoddert Terrace and Fort DuPont are
20 included. What about a whole plan for all of the
21 properties? If you have a blitz for one or two,
22 they're going to move someplace else. We need to

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1 address the voice of our youth. We're not
2 addressing their needs at all. What we're getting
3 is the anger from them. If you think about the
4 news as it is right now and one of the motorcycle
5 people, we don't have a designated place for them
6 to play on their bikes.

7 At random, they're doing whatever they
8 want. I'm frustrated with them, to be frank with
9 you, but this is what happens when everybody trying
10 to act like it don't exist. These things exist.

11 There are maintenance issues that exist throughout
12 our Housing Authority.

13 They exist because they're not being
14 addressed properly. The proper addressing of it
15 is having the proper staff. Honestly speaking,
16 I'm not kicking nobody's butt in maintenance
17 because they don't have the proper staff. At
18 Stoddert Terrace/Fort DuPont, we have a skeleton
19 crew doing, in my view, the best they can with what
20 they have.

21 I refuse to be able -- I'd like to have
22 a maintenance man of the month, a resident of the

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1 month. We need to be able to extend those
2 courtesies to each other, acknowledging the work
3 put in. But all this scattered stuff just going
4 -- Mr. Garrett, I thank you for taking on this job,
5 but I also expect the best. We're not getting that,
6 sir. I don't believe in this notion that I'm going
7 to go and I'm going to fire people, and I'm going
8 to get rid of this, and I'm going to get rid of
9 that. What works?

10 We haven't weighed in on that. What
11 is working? Since you've been here, has there been
12 an assessment of what really has worked? No, it
13 has not, and you can't start from the low bottom,
14 at what didn't work. That's why we're dealing with
15 the Barry Farms stuff.

16 Nobody understands what a wonderful win
17 it was when Barry Farms won through the Zoning
18 Board. Nobody else could. Nobody else was there.

19 This is the Nation's capital. I expect the best
20 from us. We've got to do better than this.

21 I came up here to talk about windows
22 in Stoddert and Fort DuPont that we desperately

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1 need because most people can't even lock their
2 windows, except for the new residents who have moved
3 on the property, who have new windows. I came to
4 do it with all due respect. But I'm very full at
5 the fact that I'm a leader that feels the pain and
6 suffering of the residents that I represent or
7 serve. I take great offense at the fact that most
8 of these questions that are being -- these issues
9 that are being aroused here, this is not enough
10 time in the day to even address these things.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I appreciate your
12 testimony, and I would encourage you -- I think
13 I heard you say in there that you didn't have an
14 opportunity to weigh in on some of the resolutions.

15
16 MS. SETTLES: I didn't hear you.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I thought I heard
18 you say you didn't have an opportunity to weigh
19 in on the resolutions. Did you say that?

20 MS. SETTLES: Yes, I did.

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What I would
22 encourage you to do is testify on the resolutions.

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1 MS. SETTLES: What I did was not joined
2 the dog and pony show. I'm telling you, I don't
3 have a tolerance -- this is a dog and pony show
4 that's going on right now.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: If you want to --

6 MS. SETTLES: Sure, go ahead. Tell me
7 how I weigh in.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'm just saying
9 there's an opportunity, as Mr. Watson did, to weigh
10 in on resolutions. That's your opportunity to have
11 your voice heard. You talked about the resolutions
12 about policy, about the right to return, which some
13 of us voted for, some of us voted against. There
14 was a very long, heated discussion. You had the
15 opportunity to weigh in on that as part of this
16 process.

17 MS. SETTLES: That's not what I was
18 told. Let me tell you what my instructions was.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Hold on. Every
20 time we start, we (Simultaneous Speaking) you have
21 two opportunities. This is part of the thing.

22 MS. SETTLES: I heard it announced.

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1 By the way, when I heard it announced, I only filled
2 out for comments.

3 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All I'm saying is
4 this has been our policy for a long time.

5 MS. SETTLES: Is it both?

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes.

7 MS. SETTLES: I thought I heard you
8 announce that you had one sheet for comments and
9 one for resolutions. Is that what I heard?

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes, you have two
11 opportunities to weigh in.

12 MS. SETTLES: But I'm asking you a
13 specific. Did I hear it said that there's one sheet
14 for comments and one for resolutions?

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: You have two --

16 MS. SETTLES: I only signed one sheet.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What I'm trying to
18 say to you is you have two opportunities to weigh
19 in. One is on the resolutions, and one --

20 MS. PONDEXTER-MOORE: (Off-mic comments
21 from audience.)

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Schyla, come on.

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1 MS. PONDEXTER-MOORE: (Off-mic comments
2 from audience.)

3 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Schyla, come on.

4 MS. PONDEXTER-MOORE: (Off-mic comments
5 from audience.)

6 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Schyla, come on.

7 Anyway --

8 MS. SETTLES: Commissioner Slover.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Yes.

10 MS. SETTLES: In your redirect to me
11 that I had two opportunities, I'm going to be
12 specific at what I said. What I said is that the
13 resolutions, in order for residents to be able to
14 intelligently comment on the resolutions, we would
15 need to have the resolutions. I didn't have the
16 preview of that. I'm going to speak for us today
17 because I know that most people who testified
18 didn't.

19 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can you hold on one
20 moment?

21 MS. SETTLES: Sure.

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Here's a

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1 recommendation, Tyrone Garrett, because these have
2 been going on too much. No. 1, this is how this
3 can be settled. I know for a fact -- I'm the
4 president of Potomac Gardens. I have two ways to
5 get the resolution. I have a computer lab on
6 Fridays that the youngest person in my lab is 8
7 years old.

8 I let them get the resolution for me
9 and print it out. I let another child read it.
10 Other than that, I go down 1133 and I may get it,
11 but my resident council, we know about those
12 resolutions because it's a part of our agenda.
13 So No. 1, that falls on your president. If you
14 don't get it from your president --

15 MS. SETTLES: So my recommendation
16 right now -- excuse me, excuse me, excuse me.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Hold it, no.

18 MS. SETTLES: My recommendation is
19 that those resolutions be sent to our management
20 office, please.

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes,
22 that's what I'm going to say next. Can I finish,

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1 Ms. Settles?

2 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

3 MS. SETTLES: I'm not going through
4 that.

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I didn't
6 disrespect you at all.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Hold on.

8 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I didn't
9 disrespect you. You disrespected me very much.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Please, stop.

11 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Second,
12 you have a property manager meeting. That property
13 manager meeting, when that president and resident
14 council don't meet, then you have an ANC. What
15 I'm told, at your ANC meetings, at your commission
16 ANC meetings, that you have those resolutions
17 there, too. If that's not true, somebody needs
18 to let us know because that's three ways that a
19 person can know. If it's wrong, Ms. Settles, your
20 ANC commission -- do your commission get it?

21 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Commissioner
22 Vann-Ghasri, please stand down. Stand down.

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1 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes, sir.

2 MS. SETTLES: Commissioner Slover, let
3 me say this in final, please. When I come and make
4 comments or whatever that I make, I am not going
5 to be backed down. That's simply. I am due the
6 same respect that's wanted by me. You understand
7 what I'm saying? I'm not just coming up here just
8 because it's fun today. This is very, very
9 important.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I appreciate that.
11 It's my understanding that the resolutions are
12 available on the website prior to the meetings,
13 and that they're also emailed to resident council
14 presidents in advance. If there's another
15 reasonable way that we can get them to people, we'd
16 be welcome to that feedback, but they are available
17 on our website.

18 MS. SETTLES: I do recommend that you
19 have them placed in the management office, so all
20 residents will be able to view them. That's the
21 only recommendation.

22 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: That's a very --

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1 MS. SETTLES: I was just trying to get
2 to that part.

3 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I appreciate your
4 recommendation, and we will endeavor to see what
5 we can do on that front, but to offer that they're
6 not available, I think is inaccurate. I think they
7 are available; it's just that they may not be
8 getting to you. If that's the case, then we need
9 to work on that.

10 MS. SETTLES: I thank you for that.

11 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you.
12 Caroline Brown. No. Florence D. Thompson.

13 MR. GARRETT: She's gone. She left.

14 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Pamela Johnson.

15 MR. GARRETT: She's gone. She left.

16 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Annie Mayo. Since
17 we're going to be here a very long time, if you
18 wanted to testify, I'll give you a couple minutes,
19 okay? Just do it quick. Because you're dressed
20 so well. Can you just announce yourself and tell
21 us whether you're a resident?

22 MR. HALL: My name is Steven Coleman

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1 Hall, and I am a six-week resident of Syphax. On
2 the second week I was there, and it was a Saturday,
3 6:00, I had a pipe bust in my apartment. I called
4 the number that I was supposed to call. I had to
5 call 22 times before someone came out.

6 The gentleman that's the property --
7 not the property manager, but the maintenance guy,
8 he called me and told me to turn off a pipe. I
9 said sir, I don't know what pipe to turn off, so
10 someone from my building turned off the pipe for
11 me, but they turned off the wrong pipe. The water
12 was running.

13 I had to call 22 times. The 22nd time
14 I called, I told the lady, I said I'm tired of
15 calling. I'm tired of dumping water. I'm going
16 to let it run on the floor. I live on the first
17 floor. I said I'm going to let the water run
18 outside because I'm sick of it. In less than 15
19 minutes, someone came.

20 When he came, he told me that he has
21 a life after this job. I told him that he wouldn't
22 have a life if he didn't have this job. I told

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1 the property manager that, and he also told me that
2 a flood was not an emergency. To me, I want to
3 know what is an emergency, and also, what is his
4 record, as far as not coming to an emergency?
5 Because each tenant in that building told me, they
6 said he's not going to come. This was on a
7 Saturday. They said he's not going to come. This
8 was the holiday weekend. He didn't show up.

9 But he came that Monday, which was a
10 holiday. Then he told me I could have fixed it
11 myself. How could I have fixed it myself, when
12 he had to go to the truck to get a piece to fix
13 it? I want to know what is an emergency, as far
14 as the residents, after hours?

15 MR. GARRETT: That would have been
16 classified as an emergency. Could you give me the
17 individual's name?

18 MR. HALL: I don't know his name.

19 MR. GARRETT: We'll follow up on it.

20 PARTICIPANT: He used to work at Barry
21 Farms.

22 MR. GARRETT: We'll follow up on it.

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1 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can you provide
2 your name and information --

3 (Simultaneous Speaking)

4 MR. GARRETT: We'll look into it for
5 you. That gentleman right behind you, Mr. Bovellev,
6 Nathan Bovellev, he'll be able to take your
7 information, and we'll look into it.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you.

9 MR. HALL: Also, is this for all of the
10 residents, all of the people that got public
11 housing?

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Correct.

13 MR. HALL: Is this a standard practice
14 for everybody?

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: What are you
16 referring to?

17 MR. HALL: If you call after hours and
18 you don't get no service?

19 (Simultaneous Speaking.)

20 MR. GARRETT: You're supposed to get
21 service.

22 MR. HALL: I'm from Barry Farms. I

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1 never had that problem because even on a Sunday,
2 when I had an emergency, Ms. Watson made sure
3 somebody came out.

4 MR. GARRETT: Understood. No, that's
5 not customary for our staff, so we'll look into
6 further.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you very
8 much. I appreciate it. Paulette Matthews.

9 MS. MATTHEWS: Hello, everybody.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Good afternoon.

11 MS. MATTHEWS: It's been a very hectic
12 day just sitting in these rooms, and I know I'm
13 not going to have enough time to talk about
14 everything, but I want to start out by the opening
15 meeting. Every time we come, you all seem to give
16 out awards, monetary awards, certificates.

17 I thought that was the individual's
18 jobs. Then when I think of the monetary -- I could
19 be being selfish, who knows? But with all these
20 things going on with the rats and the roaches and
21 all of that, I think maybe that money could have
22 been used to get a better pest control service

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1 within the property, instead of issuing it out
2 throughout the staff, who actually comes to work
3 and those are the things that they're supposed to
4 do.

5 Maybe you might consider giving the
6 residents one for living in some of the conditions
7 that they live in. Getting to the police issues
8 that we're having, I hear people asking about
9 police. I hear people talking about the different
10 situations why they want police there. I've been
11 in Barry Farms for some time now, and now we have
12 Homeland Security.

13 Outside of the fact that 7D police
14 sometimes are very rude and they like to harass
15 people in their own neighborhood, just trying to
16 enjoy their own neighborhood, now we have Homeland
17 Security jumping out. We have 7D police jumping
18 out, sometimes for no reason, harassing people,
19 putting them in handcuffs, and then letting them
20 go, patting them down, the whole nine yards.

21 Sometimes you have to be careful what
22 you ask for. It's getting ready to be real hot,

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1 and there's going to be a lot of mess going on
2 throughout the city. There's a lot of people
3 angry, frustrated, and everything else. I see
4 where you all ask for all this different money.

5 People are asking for all this
6 different money to be able to do this, that, and
7 the other, recertification and this and that and
8 bringing the criminal thing and all that type of
9 stuff. At the end of the day, from what it sounds
10 like to me, people are going to have to try to figure
11 out how they're going to make some more bridges
12 for people to live under because all these different
13 criterias that people have to go through just to
14 be able to live is ridiculous. I understand safety
15 is important.

16 Then when we deal with the safety
17 license in the units, we know that a lot of units
18 don't have -- Barry Farms, for instance, there's
19 a lot of units where, though they're empty, people
20 can get in those lock boxes. We don't have good
21 lighting all the time, so those things are very
22 important.

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1 Someone needs to have a job of checking
2 on them regularly to make certain that these things
3 are done, at the end of the day, before they leave,
4 even though -- it may be you have the police roll
5 through there in the evening and check the ones
6 in abandoned buildings.

7 We're talking about safety here. If
8 you all can try to get all this money together to
9 do all this other stuff, maybe you all need to
10 consider that because these are human lives that
11 are being jeopardized. Mr. Garrett, I understand
12 you've been here seven months, I think you said,
13 but according to the way I look at this now,
14 everybody follows the same blueprint. You would
15 think with the fresh eyes that it would be something
16 different. It doesn't look like nothing
17 different. It looks like the same thing that's
18 been going on throughout time.

19 Given the decision of the Court of
20 Appeals with the D.C. Housing Authority -- I don't
21 know if this is lawyers because they don't say
22 anything, but I think the case is over, did, and

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1 done with.

2 We couldn't ask questions when the case
3 was open, but I have some questions. Given the
4 decision of the Court of Appeals, will the D.C.
5 Housing Authority be doing anything different in
6 regards to the Barry Farms redevelopment? That
7 gate situation would be one of them.

8 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: We haven't had time
9 to analyze the impact of the lawsuit yet.

10 MR. GARRETT: We're still doing that
11 now.

12 MS. MATTHEWS: Can I ask this one, and
13 maybe you can tell me that you can't answer that,
14 either. At this moment, are you moving forward
15 with the demolition action? That would be yes
16 because -- oh, you still -- that can't be answered?

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I'll refer that
18 question to Mr. Garrett.

19 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

20 MS. MATTHEWS: When do you plan to file
21 the second phase of the PUD for the first phase
22 parcel? Will it still be May of 2019?

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1 MR. GARRETT: Ms. Matthews, we're
2 still evaluating exactly where we go, based on the
3 court decision, where we go.

4 MS. MATTHEWS: Will you continue to ask
5 people to leave the property and go to worse
6 properties?

7 MR. GARRETT: We're still performing
8 the relocation and looking to do the demolition,
9 yes, ma'am.

10 MS. MATTHEWS: Will you still be
11 charging people -- for instance, people have lived
12 there 20 and 30 years. You have to go through a
13 lot of paper and stuff. A lot of people worked
14 hard for their stuff. I understand a lot of times,
15 you said give it away, throw it away, or whatever
16 the case may be. But once you sign off these papers
17 or get your key, do you have to -- I understand
18 from some people that they sign off, and then
19 they're given seven days. I don't know whether
20 it's true or not.

21 If, by chance, you don't move, every
22 day after whatever that number could be, ten, seven,

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1 or five, that they charge you for each day, for
2 rent. I already know about the part if you leave
3 anything in there, there's a \$300 fee. Then, just
4 out of curiosity, if, by chance, you leave the unit,
5 how much are these people being paid that move out
6 on their own?

7 MR. GARRETT: I don't have the exact
8 number for people moving out on their own, but I
9 can tell you for people who are moving and having
10 difficulty with removing all the things that they
11 would like, we're not doing it -- we're doing it
12 a case-by-case basis, trying to work with the
13 residents to ensure that they are able to take all
14 the things that they want to take. It's not one
15 of those situations where the clock stops here,
16 and we start charging, or we penalize those
17 particular residents. Because again, you've come
18 before us before and talked about the process of
19 moving for some people, how it can be difficult.
20 We're taking all of that into consideration when
21 an individual does decide that they're going to
22 be relocating.

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1 MS. MATTHEWS: I hear you saying that,
2 but I just recently heard these things, and that's
3 why I'm asking these particular questions.

4 MR. GARRETT: Understood. This is the
5 first time that --

6 MS. MATTHEWS: From the residents that
7 are leaving out.

8 MR. GARRETT: This is the first time
9 -- you saying it to me is the first time that I'm
10 hearing it in a different manner than what's been
11 conveyed to the staff, in terms of trying to assist
12 and work with residents in terms of relocation.

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: All right. I
14 appreciate your coming up to testify.

15 MS. MATTHEWS: You're more than
16 welcome.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Ms.
18 Pondexter-Moore.

19 MS. PONDEXTER-MOORE: Good afternoon,
20 everyone. My name is Schyla Pondexter-Moore. I'm
21 a resident of public housing. I live in Highland
22 Dwellings. I'm 41, and I live there with my family.

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1 First and foremost, I want to say congratulations
2 to the Barry Farms Tenants and Allies Association.

3 You organized. We fought. We got crapped on
4 every day.

5 We got crapped on every single day about
6 the exact thing that the highest court in D.C.
7 agreed with us about. We said that gentrification
8 was going to result from this project. Housing
9 Authority maintained no, it's not; no, it's not.

10 The highest court says that you never
11 even considered the gentrification pressures.
12 Also, about relocation, everybody is complaining
13 about relocations. Everybody is talking about how
14 terrible it was. D.C. Housing Authority says no,
15 it's no problem.

16 The highest court in D.C. says you never
17 even considered whether relocation was an issue
18 or not. Also, with the return, you maintain
19 everybody's going to have the right to return, and
20 we said no, you're lying. The Housing Authority
21 said no, we're not. The highest court in D.C.
22 agreed with us and said you are, in fact, lying.

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1 So I would like to congratulate the Barry Farms
2 Tenants and Allies Association for their hard work.

3 We pushed and we pushed, and we won. I want this
4 to be a message to all other properties that you
5 don't have to believe what these liars say.

6 Don't believe them. Do your own
7 research. Reach out to some organizations,
8 Empower D.C.; organize yourselves because all they
9 do is lie to you. That's all they do. Now, on
10 to the second thing. I live at Highland Dwellings,
11 where 80 cameras have been installed on our homes.

12 When I resisted these cameras, the
13 Housing Authority sent police to my home, and then
14 they called MPD 7D to come to my home, and they
15 arrested my son and I because we resisted against
16 them installing 80 cameras in our community.

17 I want this camera off my home, and I'm
18 going to keep on coming back here until it's off
19 my home. I'm talking to attorneys. I think you
20 know my track record, at this point. Every single
21 time I've sued the Housing Authority, we've won.

22 Highland, when you all tried to ban me from these

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1 meetings; we won Highland, I won that. Barry
2 Farms, won that. So you know my track record; I'm
3 not going to give up, and I'm going to get these
4 cameras off my house. When we first moved out to
5 Highland after the private money was put in, the
6 first thing you all told us was you can't have
7 company on your front porch.

8 You all told us that we cannot have
9 company on our front porch. We couldn't sit on
10 our front porches. Just listen to that. That's
11 what we were told when we moved back to Highland
12 after the renovations. We resisted against that.

13 No, you're not going to tell me I can't sit on
14 my own front porch. Then you came and told us we
15 can't cook out in our backyard. You can't have
16 a grill.

17 You sent police around to harass
18 everybody that was cooking out, who were having
19 graduation parties, celebrating our kids
20 graduating from school, college, baby showers,
21 birthdays, retirements. Everybody was having all
22 types of parties. For the police to come and say

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1 shut your grill down, shut your cookout done, we
2 resisted that. Then the third thing, you had
3 security come around and harass everybody about
4 just minding their businesses, kept harassing
5 people and harassing people, so we resisted against
6 that. So now you put these cameras up. Can't we
7 just live? Can't we just mind our business, live
8 in the pride of our homes, without you coming along,
9 keep trying to force stuff down our throats, and
10 then you ask for a public comment after the fact.

11 I think that's what Ms. Settles was
12 alluding to is that we don't have any privy to any
13 of these resolutions. We just come, you all mumble
14 about it up there, you vote about it, and then say
15 we'll take comment. That is A-S-S backwards, and
16 that is not a way to have a policy.

17 If you really care about our comments
18 and about how we feel about what you do to us and
19 decisions you make about us, then we would have
20 the public comment before. You would have the
21 resolutions in the office, mail it to our house.

22 You mail our rent bill every month. You mail

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1 everything else. Mail the resolutions. Let us
2 talk about it. We cannot comment on something you
3 mumbled about for ten minutes. That's ridiculous,
4 and it's wrong for you to ask us to do that. Do
5 you do that? When you go to your meetings, is that
6 how you want shit -- I'm sorry; I'm so sorry. Is
7 that how you want stuff? I want the cameras off
8 my home, and I want somebody to be held accountable
9 for arresting my son and I simply because we said
10 we didn't want the cameras, simply because I threw
11 a drill because the man kept coming to my house.

12 I want you all to understand. They
13 sent law enforcement to my house with guns twice
14 because we did not want security cameras put up
15 in our community after we didn't have any notice
16 about it, no meetings about it, no votes about it.

17 I don't know what the heck our resident council
18 president was doing, but she didn't even tell us
19 nothing about it.

20 So when we had the meeting about it,
21 after the fact, like you always do, you come and
22 ask how we feel after you do what you already did.

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1 How stupid do you think we are? It's just like
2 the lady said, you treat us like animals. You treat
3 us like nothing. It's a new day. It's lawsuit
4 after lawsuit after lawsuit's coming. It's gone
5 are the days where it's business as usual. It's
6 the blueprint that people don't matter. You never
7 even considered gentrification, relocation, none
8 of that. The only thing you considered was the
9 dollar, the money. We are people, with families.

10 If you really cared about how this is affecting
11 us, you would really engage and get how we feel
12 about it.

13 Talk to us. Don't just give us
14 instructions, sit down and take instructions.
15 We're grown people. Next time you think about
16 trying to pass some policy without getting input,
17 just know that people are standing up and rising
18 up. It's a new day. People are organizing.

19 Who would have thought Barry Farms
20 would have won. Who would have thought that, after
21 you all crapped on us. The whole city crapped on
22 us. The whole community crapped on us. The whole

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1 Ward 8 crapped on us, told us that we was nothing.

2 You don't have rights in public housing. You all
3 don't have no jobs.

4 You all don't pay no bills. You all
5 do this; you all do that. You all got to owe me
6 nothing. Okay, we showed you; we're something.
7 So it's a new day. You all need to get it together
8 and stop treating us like animals and like crap
9 and value our opinions. Because if it wasn't for
10 us, you all wouldn't have no job. If you have any
11 questions, I'm here, and I'm available.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Anybody have any
13 questions?

14 MS. PONDEXTER-MOORE: I want the
15 cameras off my house. I filed a grievance right
16 here. I never got a response to it. Isn't that
17 the law, that you have to respond to my grievance?

18 Nobody responded. You know what you all did?

19 I filed a grievance on a Tuesday; you
20 all sent the police to my house on a Wednesday,
21 the very next day. That's not a coincidence. That
22 was how you responded, by sending the police to

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1 my house to arrest me. I want the cameras off my
2 house, and I'm going to get them off my house.
3 If you don't want another lawsuit, you better get
4 off my house now.

5 MR. LEE: Norton got to go. Norton got
6 to go. Norton got to go.

7 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you, Mike.
8 Daniel. Michael, come on, bro.

9 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Good afternoon.

10 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Can we get some
11 quiet back there, please? Thank you.

12 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Good afternoon. My
13 name is Daniel Del Pielago --

14 COMMISSIONER LANCASTER: Good
15 afternoon.

16 MR. DEL PIELAGO: -- with Empower D.C.
17 Several of the questions I was going to ask today
18 have already been asked. It's my understanding
19 that you all cannot answer them. I understand that
20 we're still waiting on the Zoning Commission to,
21 I guess, give another opinion or explain why they
22 approved the first phase Barry Farm PUD.

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1 My big question right now is are people
2 still receiving 30-day notices to move? Has
3 anybody received a 30-day notice to move? Because
4 the plan has been vacated. At the moment, I
5 understand that they could respond and everything
6 could move forward again, but at the moment,
7 essentially, nothing exists, a plan.

8 Right now, we still hear residents --
9 Mr. Shumer just told me he felt pressured to move.

10 That's why he's at Syphax now. People are feeling
11 that way right now, so my question right now is
12 has anyone, or will anyone, receive a 30-day notice?

13 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I would ask
14 Director Garrett.

15 MR. GARRETT: To date, no one has
16 received a 30-day notice, no. We did send down
17 information to residents discussing that we were
18 going to be continuing with relocation efforts,
19 based on our demolition approval, demolition and
20 relocation approval from HUD.

21 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Let me ask a
22 question. Let's say you all get over this. That's

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1 happened, and we will appeal, and we're going to
2 keep fighting it, just to put that on the table.

3 In looking at all of this, the timeline -- this
4 is hopefully for the rest of the Commissioners to
5 know -- your second-stage PUD isn't due until May
6 2019.

7 That means you all can't build anything
8 until that's approved. You guys have up until 2019
9 to make that -- to get it approved. I guess you
10 could do it before that, but if you wait until then,
11 then you have to wait for permits from DCRA to build.

12 I'm getting at the point that this could take
13 years. You guys have been messaging, or Kimberly
14 Black-King has said -- and I looked at the
15 transcripts from two months ago -- that the first
16 units would come online in 2020. This timeline
17 doesn't appear that Barry Farm residents won't
18 return for several years. Is that true? What are
19 you guys doing? Is there a plan, and when will
20 the community see it?

21 MR. GARRETT: As Commissioner Slover
22 stated, and I stated, also, we're still evaluating

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1 exactly how the decision from the court will affect
2 our actual redevelopment plan.

3 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Has HUD given any
4 direction or anything?

5 MR. GARRETT: Not to my knowledge.

6 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Do they have to? Can
7 they say anything?

8 MR. GARRETT: No, they do not.

9 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: The process with
10 HUD, as I understand it, is their approval is done,
11 the dispo and relocation, and now the city side
12 is the part that's in dispute at the moment. Those
13 are -- HUD will not weigh in on that, as I
14 understand. It's not their jurisdiction. With
15 regards to what they have done, they've done their
16 part, and now it's just a question of working out
17 what the ultimate resolution will be, whether it
18 changes from where it is today, or whether it
19 remains. That's sort of the sticky situation that
20 we're in right now.

21 While it may not be music to anybody's
22 ears, we do need a moment to catch our breath here

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1 and figure out -- this is an enormous project, as
2 we all know, so we do need to figure out how to
3 proceed forward from where we are.

4 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Okay, thank you.

5 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you.
6 Appreciate your coming up. Herbert Wyndear.

7 MR. WYNDEAR: Good afternoon. I'm a
8 former resident of East Capitol Dwelling, then they
9 moved me to Lincoln Heights public housing. When
10 I moved over to Lincoln public housing, supposed
11 to come back to East Capitol Dwellings.

12 No one ever called me back to move up
13 on the property. As we've been waiting to move
14 back, I moved in over to Lincoln Heights. I moved
15 over to the property of Lincoln Heights because
16 someone broke in my unit twice while I was at work
17 in Lincoln Heights, so I moved off of the property,
18 waiting to go back. No one ever called me back.

19 My main concern is trying to find out why they
20 never reached me back, reached back out to me to
21 move back on my property for East Capitol Dwelling.

22 Me and my mom lived together. My mom, since then,

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1 passed away, waiting to move back. So --

2 MR. GARRETT: Mr. Watson -- I mean Mr.
3 -- I'm sorry.

4 MR. WYNDEAR: Wyndear.

5 MR. GARRETT: Mr. Wyndear, I
6 apologize. Mr. Bovellet, right behind you, and can
7 look into that for you, if you can take a moment
8 just to speak to him, and we'll see exactly what
9 transpired. Is that fair? I appreciate you
10 waiting to ask that -- waiting the entire meeting
11 to ask that question.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Mr. Watson. He's
13 already -- Margaret Dwyer.

14 MR. GARRETT: She left, also.

15 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Is that it?

16 MR. GARRETT: That's it.

17 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: I think that's the
18 --

19 MR. GARRETT: Conclusion?

20 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Very quick. For
21 the record, just state your name for us.

22 MS. WILLIAMS: Diane Williams, I'm

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1 from Stoddert Terrace. I received your letter.
2 I thank you for your letter. The thing that you
3 were saying how you're going to get all this done,
4 our backlogs all done before December 2018. I want
5 to know how is that possible because at the
6 maintenance meetings you have, you don't have that
7 many maintenance people.

8 MR. GARRETT: We're going to work as
9 we can, and we're also going to bring in
10 contractors, also, to do some work on our behalf.

11 MS. WILLIAMS: There's another thing.
12 I have a safety part. My problem is -- I don't
13 have a problem with the police doing their job.
14 Trust me; I don't have no problem with that. But
15 when you bring a drug dealer from one place to
16 another, I have a problem with it. I called the
17 police. I called Housing. I just informed them.

18 I want to know why -- police sits outside. Regular
19 police sits outside, in front of our doors. They
20 leave at a certain time. A year or two years, they
21 used to sit in my parking lot. Now we can't get
22 them to sit nowhere. Why we can't get them to be

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1 places where -- you see the drugs move.

2 You move from one place to another.
3 I have grandkids. I refuse to have my grandkids
4 in my house playing because we have the right to
5 be outside. All I'm asking is -- I have patience,
6 but you all need to do something about this safety
7 thing.

8 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. WILLIAMS: That's all I have to
10 say.

11 MR. GARRETT: Thank you.

12 VICE CHAIR SLOVER: Thank you. That's
13 the end of the people that signed up to testify.
14 Appreciate everybody taking the time to come to
15 the meeting today. The next Board of Commissioner
16 meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 13, 2018,
17 at 1:00 p.m., and will be at DCHA headquarters,
18 1133 North Capital Street, Northeast, Washington,
19 D.C. 20002. The meeting is adjourned. Thank you.

20 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter
21 went off the record at 4:54 p.m.)

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DRAFT