

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HOUSING AUTHORITY

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

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WEDNESDAY  
FEBRUARY 13, 2019

+ + + + +

The Board of Commissioners met in the Boardroom, 1133 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, D.C., at 1:00 p.m., Kenneth Council, Vice Chairman, presiding.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- KENNETH COUNCIL, Vice Chairman
- KEN GROSSINGER, Commissioner
- BRIAN KENNER, Commissioner
- NAKEISHA NEAL JONES, Commissioner
- JOSE ORTIZ GAUD, Commissioner\*
- WILLIAM SLOVER, Commissioner
- LEJUAN STRICKLAND, Commissioner\*
- FRANSELENE ST. JEAN, Commissioner
- AQUARIUS VANN-GHASRI, Commissioner
- ANTONIO TALIAFERRO, Commissioner

STAFF PRESENT:

- TYRONE GARRETT, Executive Director
- ALETHEA MCNAIR, Manager of Board Relations

COMMISSIONER(S) ABSENT:

- NEIL ALBERT, Chairman

\*Present via telephone

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

Call to Order, Moment of Silence and Quorum ... 3

Approval of Minutes ..... 6

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Resolutions

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

1:15 p.m.

VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Kenneth Council. I'm the Vice Chair of the Board of Commissioners. I'm calling this meeting to order. It is now 1:15.

This is our regular meeting of the District of Columbia Housing Authority being held today, February 13th, 2019 at D.C. Housing Authority Headquarters, 1133 North Capitol, Northeast.

Please silent all of your devices, please and I would like to make a moment -- or have a moment of silence.

(Moment of silence.)

VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you. As you all know, the Board of Commissioners have a public decorum meeting. There will be no outbursts, no cursing, no loud language. If you do, we will ask you to leave. If you don't leave, we will ask our public safety to remove you.

Right now we'll call -- ask for a roll

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1 call to determine that we have a quorum, please.

2 MS. McNAIR: Thank you. Commissioner  
3 Grossinger?

4 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: Here.

5 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Kenner?

6 COMMISSIONER KENNER: Here.

7 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones?

8 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Present.

9 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Ortiz Gaud?

10 COMMISSIONER ORTIZ GAUD: Here.

11 MS. McNAIR: Okay. Please let the  
12 record reflect that Commissioner Ortiz Gaud is with  
13 us via phone.

14 Commissioner Slover?

15 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Present.

16 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean?

17 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Present.

18 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Lejuan  
19 Strickland?

20 COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND: Present.

21 MS. McNAIR: Okay. Thank you.

22 Please let the record reflect Commissioner

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1 Strickland is with us via phone as well.

2 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Taliaferro?

3 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Present.

4 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner  
5 Vann-Ghasri?

6 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Present.

7 MS. McNAIR: Vice Chairman Council?

8 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Present.

9 MS. McNAIR: Chairman Albert?

10 (No response.)

11 MS. McNAIR: You have 10 Commissioners  
12 present. You have a quorum.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.

14 Today we will discuss some resolutions,  
15 and we have two sign-in sheets. One is for to speak  
16 on the resolution before we make a decision to vote  
17 and the other one is your personal for residents  
18 or non-residents to come and speak.  
19 Non-residents, there is three minutes. Residents  
20 have five.

21 Okay. We're going to start with Daniel  
22 for Resolution 19-04.

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1                   COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Mr. Chair,  
2                   are we going to read the minutes and approve them  
3                   into the records, the Board Members? Do we have  
4                   Board minutes to approve? I'm just asking a  
5                   question.

6                   VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Yes, okay.

7                   I would like the Commissioners to  
8                   consider the minutes of December 12th, 2018 and the  
9                   Board meeting of January 17th, the emergency Board  
10                  Member -- meeting. Are there any comments or  
11                  changes?

12                  (No audible response.)

13                  VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Do I hear a  
14                  motion?

15                  COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I have a  
16                  comment. I'm reading something where there is a  
17                  December minutes, and on page 69 Petya is spelled  
18                  incorrectly. It was spelled P-E-T-T-I. It's  
19                  spelled P-E-T-Y-A. So would the records reflect  
20                  that correction to the minutes of December the  
21                  12th, 2018? That was one thing that needed to be  
22                  corrected.

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1 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Noted.

2 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I move that  
3 the minutes of December the 12th, 2018 is moved into  
4 the record.

5 PARTICIPANT: Second.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Motion. All  
7 in favor, say aye?

8 (Chorus of ayes.)

9 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Ayes have it.

10 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Will we not  
11 do that -- will you please do a roll call so the  
12 minutes will reflect my name what Commissioners  
13 voted yes; what Commissioner voted no?

14 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I don't think we  
15 need to do a roll call for minutes.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Not for  
17 minutes.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay.  
19 Well, sometimes I think so because even with the  
20 roll call for the minute with Robin Rules of  
21 Order --

22 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Anybody vote no?

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1 (No response.)

2 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: All right.

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: No, but  
4 what I'm saying is being that they didn't do it like  
5 standardly and if you're going to follow Robin  
6 Rules of Order in the beginning, let's make sure  
7 we follow it and not being -- and not be not in  
8 compliance, for I have seen the star in the east.  
9 So as I said, are you actually -- do I accept them  
10 in? Yes, I do.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.

12 Okay. We next have our director's  
13 report.

14 MR. GARRETT: Okay. I'm going to ask  
15 that Cheryl Robinson come to the front, please.

16 (Pause.)

17 MR. GARRETT: Ms. Robinson is going to  
18 get us started with some employee recognition and  
19 then I'll finish up with a quick summary of where  
20 we are right now.

21 MS. ROBINSON: Good afternoon,  
22 everyone.

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1 ALL: Good afternoon.

2 MS. ROBINSON: I'll be recognizing our  
3 employee of the month for December 2018 and  
4 February -- I'm sorry, January 2019.

5 At DCHA we have a commitment to  
6 excellence. In my role as the Director of the  
7 Office of Customer Engagement I take pride in our  
8 core values that our executive director has set  
9 forth, which are integrity, responsibility and  
10 accountability.

11 For the past two months I have had the  
12 honor of recognizing two employees who have gone  
13 above and beyond in delivering outstanding service  
14 to our customers through the agency's monthly  
15 Employee Recognition and Awards Program.

16 In addition to the core values here at  
17 DCHA, the Office of Customer Engagement has a motto  
18 that says: We are obtaining customers through our  
19 service and retaining customers through their  
20 experiences. We are redefining how we serve our  
21 customers by offering exceptional customer  
22 experiences in addition to recognizing employees

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1 for outstanding delivery. This recognition also  
2 serves as a peer-to-peer motivation for other  
3 employees here at the Housing Authority.

4 I'm pleased to recognize the employee  
5 for the month of December 2018. This staff person  
6 is a customer service representative in the Office  
7 of Customer Engagement. Recently an HCVP client  
8 presented a letter of commendation expressing her  
9 sincere help and appreciation for our  
10 professional, courteous and helpful service this  
11 staff person displayed to her while she was working  
12 to meet the deadline of completing all the required  
13 paperwork in order to receive her housing voucher.

14 The client shared that she was  
15 undergoing a great deal of stress to meet a  
16 fast-approaching deadline and wasn't sure how to  
17 navigate through the HCVP process. This staff  
18 person worked with our client, providing her with  
19 exceptional service by contacting the HCVP  
20 specialist assigned to her case and they worked  
21 collectively as a team for two days until  
22 completion. This client's sentiment: The staff

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1 and the other team players eased my stress and made  
2 sure I had a happy Thanksgiving. Thanks again for  
3 the extremely hard work.

4 Please help me congratulate Ms. Tonia  
5 Parker for employee of the month of December 2018.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. ROBINSON: Next up, January 2019  
8 employee of the month.

9 This staff person is also a customer  
10 service representative in the Office of Customer  
11 Engagement. This staff person went above and  
12 beyond the call of duty to assist one of DCHA's VASH  
13 participants who contacted the call center in  
14 distress. She explained that she had two children  
15 and no heat for two days.

16 This staff person immediately assured  
17 the veteran that she would work diligently and  
18 expeditiously to assist her. While placing the  
19 veteran on a brief hold, this staff person  
20 contacted the manager in the HCVP's Inspection  
21 Division, explained the concern and connected the  
22 call to the manager who provided helpful and

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1 proficient attention to resolve her issue.

2 This staff person's remarkable level of  
3 accountability and responsibility is truly  
4 reflective of the Office of Customer Engagement's  
5 mission to work hard to obtain customers through  
6 their service while retaining customers through  
7 our experiences.

8 Please help me congratulate Ms.  
9 Valencia Gripper for a job well done.

10 (Applause.)

11 MR. GARRETT: Thank you, Cheryl.

12 Real quickly to the members of the  
13 public and to the Board of Commissioners, I just  
14 want to just discussion Resolution 19-01, which was  
15 approved in January by the Board of Commissioners.

16 I just want to point out that in  
17 discussing it further I just want to make it known  
18 and clear to everyone that no decisions have been  
19 made about the repositioning of the Housing  
20 Authority by any shape or -- any way, shape or form  
21 at this point in time.

22 What we are still doing is looking to

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1 model a clear spreadsheet that we will be able to  
2 present to not only the Board, but also the public  
3 at large to discuss exactly what the next steps the  
4 agency should actually take.

5 So I want to reiterate again that  
6 nothing has been decided. There have been no  
7 decisions made on our portfolio as it exists now.

8 And in addition, in going forward and  
9 having those discussions further with the  
10 stakeholders and the public, the advocacy  
11 community will be included and we'll continue those  
12 discussions and hopefully be able to supply and  
13 also educate when necessary exactly how the Housing  
14 Authority is going to proceed or why we need to  
15 proceed in certain directions.

16 But again, I just wanted to reassure  
17 everyone that there is no fait accompli that has  
18 been created by Resolution 19-01 at this point.

19 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: With that  
20 being said, do the Commissioners have any  
21 questions?

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes, I do.

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1 When we're looking at 1133 and the relocation, I  
2 really feel -- I really recommend that you give the  
3 real history of 1133. And the real history of  
4 1133; because remember, at one point this was a  
5 warehouse under Redevelopment Land Agency. The  
6 District of Columbia Housing Authority has never,  
7 ever owned anything. And it was the first time  
8 that this Housing Authority had the opportunity to  
9 own this building.

10 This building is a people's building.  
11 Many of you come here and see there's a enemy.  
12 Well, it's not. Under Redevelopment Land Agency  
13 when this building came about, it was -- came about  
14 because of our leaders of the past who couldn't  
15 read, couldn't write, but they could count. They  
16 had common sense. And the degrees that we have in  
17 2019 in comparance to the leaders in the past, I  
18 can cry.

19 I wear this wreath today to honor them  
20 for Afro-American History Month. Our leaders of  
21 the past is the one that advocated for the District  
22 of Columbia Housing Authority to own this building,

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1 as we own resident service. The only Housing  
2 Authority in the United State of America that has  
3 a resident service as we have today.

4 I don't know whether or not any of the  
5 Housing Authority own their building. You only  
6 got this opportunity because you're not a state,  
7 because you're a municipal corporation and you're  
8 in the District of Columbia. Now if you don't  
9 understand that, we will lose that as we're losing  
10 so many of our federal laws due to a lack of  
11 education, comprehension of leaders, and that is  
12 not our fault.

13 We are asking Tyrone Garrett as of  
14 today -- there will be a Commissioner's Learning  
15 Center, and that learning center is because of  
16 every Commissioner that set here before me and  
17 every Commissioner that will come here after so  
18 that the residents, not only the elect resident  
19 leaders, but residents who want to have the  
20 opportunity to sit where I sit or to be a president,  
21 a secretary, a vice president, a sergeant of arms,  
22 a recording secretary. You will have the skills

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1 in 2019 to be able to sit in front of any hearing  
2 and know the right terminology, the correct  
3 vocabulary and you will know how to make a plan.

4 Claudia and I will not tell you how to  
5 vote. We will only provide the tools. Let the  
6 record reflect.

7 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Commissioner?

8 (Applause.)

9 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Commissioner  
10 Slover?

11 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I would like to  
12 thank the Executive Director for reaffirming the  
13 intent and purpose of Resolution 19-01 and to  
14 hopefully bring some people to ease that really  
15 it's an attempt to dig into the real work of trying  
16 to reposition the portfolio, whatever that might  
17 be. And so there will be opportunity and a lot of  
18 work ahead and we hope that everybody will chose  
19 to participate in that process. And I want to  
20 again thank you for reaffirming that nothing has  
21 been made, no decisions have been made on how to  
22 move forward. Thank you.

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1 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.  
2 Okay.

3 We're now going to have testimony on the  
4 Resolution 19-01 by Daniel. I'm sorry, 19-04.

5 MR. DEL PIELAGO: If it pleases the  
6 Board, I'd like to give my time to Shon High, who's  
7 the president of the Park Morton Council.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay.

9 MR. DEL PIELAGO: And then I could go  
10 after, if that's okay. Or --

11 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Do you  
12 want to do a joint --

13 (Simultaneous speaking.)

14 MR. DEL PIELAGO: I would like to -- oh,  
15 no, I want to give her her time. She's the  
16 president. It is affecting her property.

17 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Thank you  
18 so much for giving her that respect.

19 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Yes, ma'am.

20 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Before she  
21 starts am I to understand that nobody else wants  
22 to testify on 19-02 or '3?

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1                   VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:     No, Debra  
2 Frazier's going to do 04 and 05.

3                   COMMISSIONER SLOVER:     Okay.     But  
4 we're onto 04.    I'm just wondering if anybody wants  
5 to testify on 02 or 03.

6                   PARTICIPANT:     Yes, I'm raising my  
7 hand.    I have signed and I put that I was going to  
8 give --

9                   COMMISSIONER SLOVER:     Okay.    I don't  
10 want --

11                  PARTICIPANT:     -- a summary.

12                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER:     All right.    I  
13 just wanted -- I apologize if I --

14                  MS. HIGH:     Good afternoon.    Thank you,  
15 Commissioners for having me, and thank you, Daniel,  
16 for allotting me this time.

17                  I am Ms. Shonta' High, president of the  
18 Council at Park Morton.    It is with great  
19 frustration and indignation that I am here to  
20 testify with regard to the DCHA Board of  
21 Commissioners' Resolution 19-04 to authorize a  
22 Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the

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1 Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development  
2 to provide funding for Park Morton interim  
3 controls.

4 I am asking the Board to postpone the  
5 consideration of Resolution 19-04 until the  
6 Commissioners March meeting for the following  
7 reasons: DCHA has not given the Council at Park  
8 Morton nor the residents ample time to consider the  
9 consequences of Resolution 19-04 to our health and  
10 safety. This is contrary to the commitment to keep  
11 us well informed.

12 We have concerns given Resolution 19-04  
13 seems to conflict with the urgency of Emergency  
14 Resolution 19-01 passed by this Board on January  
15 17th, 2019. This resolution would subject Park  
16 Morton residents to interim controls with no  
17 explanation as to the potential risk to safety and  
18 health of this approach.

19 We are further concerned with the logic  
20 of spending \$.5 million on interim controls for the  
21 next four to six years to maintain the buildings  
22 which DCHA plans to demolish. This without fully

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1 exploring other alternatives as suggested in  
2 Resolution 19-01. This seems to be a waste of  
3 taxpayer money. We may live in public housing,  
4 however, we are still taxpayers.

5 This is the third major shift with  
6 regards to the phased demolition and disposition  
7 of Park Morton since the summer of 2018 by this  
8 Board. None have occurred with prior consultation  
9 with the Council at Park Morton as envisioned in  
10 the DCHA Resolution 0433. Example: Board  
11 Resolution 1832 amended Resolution 1735  
12 authorizing the submission of applications to HUD  
13 for the phased demolition or disposition of Park  
14 Morton, further eroding the confidence of Park  
15 Morton residents beyond our breaking point with  
16 DCHA and DMPED.

17 Further, we ask that the Board  
18 postpones consideration for Resolution 19-04 to  
19 allow the Council at Park Morton to present a more  
20 fiscally-responsible proposal to DCHA, DMPED and  
21 other partners given the availability of \$4.5  
22 million.

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1                   We are still working through details as  
2 we urge the following approach: The Council at  
3 Park Morton has identified an alternative  
4 build-first site which would allow residents to  
5 begin relocation in 2020 instead of the likely 2023  
6 waiting on the Bruce Monroe site, which I may add  
7 is still in litigation. That's supposed to go back  
8 to court tomorrow.

9                   DMPED's 965 Florida Avenue, The Wren,  
10 site will include 129 affordable units. The  
11 Council at Park Morton proposes to work with DCHA  
12 to acquire approximately 70 of those units as our  
13 build-first location leveraging a portion of the  
14 \$4.5 million. We ask that the Resolution 19-04 be  
15 amended to allow this acquisition.

16                   We as well ask that NCI -- ask that the  
17 NCI phasing be adjusted to begin demolition and  
18 construction on the Park Morton footprint, parcels  
19 between Park Road and Morton Street, shifting Bruce  
20 Monroe to later phases, then moving into the next  
21 phase of Park Morton footprint on Morton Street and  
22 Lamont Street side. Shift Bruce Monroe into the

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1 final phase.

2 This approach has the benefit of  
3 lowering the timeline and cost of any required  
4 interim controls by two to three years effectively  
5 lowering health and safety risks to Park Morton  
6 residents. This approach removes and/or reduces  
7 legal and timeline risks related to the Bruce  
8 Monroe site, brings an end to the 10-year wait and  
9 anxiety related to the Park Morton NCI project, and  
10 it requires zoning could be resolved with a minimum  
11 impact of 965 Florida Avenue or Park Road, if any  
12 are required at all.

13 It minimizes any expenditures of the 4.5 million  
14 that would be utilized on units scheduled for  
15 immediate demolition and et cetera. For DCHA this  
16 process frees units at 965 Florida Avenue and Bruce  
17 Monroe after Park Morton phases for other potential  
18 DCHA projects in Ward 1.

19 In summary, we ask the DCHA Board of  
20 Commissioners to delay consideration of Resolution  
21 19-04 until March allowing the Council at Park  
22 Morton and the residents -- and the residents can

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1 be fully informed on the health and other risks  
2 related -- and other health risks related to the  
3 six years of interim controls. The Council at Park  
4 Morton is to present an alternative oppositions to  
5 be considered as amendments to Resolution 19-04.

6 And lastly, to restore confidence in  
7 the process by being transparent, having regularly  
8 scheduled meetings with the Council at Park Morton  
9 and its residents and informing the Council at Park  
10 Morton of any and all decisions that will affect  
11 the council and its residents.

12 And in closing I just want to make this  
13 clear once again because in November I believe I  
14 mentioned that you all had passed a resolution that  
15 did not -- you all didn't come to us at Park Morton  
16 to address that. So I want to make this clear  
17 again. Please, on this last line, restore  
18 confidence in the process by being transparent,  
19 because I'm a very honest person; I'm not going to  
20 lie to my residents, having regularly scheduled  
21 meeting with the Council at Park Morton and all of  
22 its residents.

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1           Mr. Garrett, you still haven't reached  
2 out to me to schedule that town hall, and you  
3 canceled that in August. I still await that.

4           And informing the Council at Park  
5 Morton of any and all decisions that will affect  
6 the council and all of its residents. Thank you.

7           VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.

8           (Applause.)

9           MS. HIGH: And I know I'm out of time,  
10 but I just want you all to know that I attached a  
11 Park Morton equity resolution. I had an emergency  
12 meeting on February the 6th. I had 31 residents  
13 come to my meeting. I had a quorum. We voted on  
14 it. All of my board members have signed it and you  
15 all have a copy. I'm also sending a letter to HUD  
16 to ask for a chance for the Park Morton residents  
17 to be able to purchase at the footprint when the  
18 opportunity avails itself.

19           COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Ms. High?

20           MS. HIGH: Yes, ma'am.

21           COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I would  
22 like to say this: I am very proud of you today.

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1 I met you at 2018 at a retreat.

2 MS. HIGH: Yes, ma'am.

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I  
4 sincerely appreciate the fact that the hours we've  
5 talked on the phone that you did your homework.  
6 You never played on my intelligence. Any time I  
7 gave you something to read or sent you read you did  
8 it. I want to say to you, sister, I'm proud of you  
9 today. You are one of the residents that started  
10 out with the 2018 Resident Council is going to be  
11 about. I salute you.

12 MS. HIGH: Thank you, ma'am.

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. HIGH: Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Can I ask you a  
16 quick question?

17 MS. HIGH: Yes.

18 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: What has your  
19 discussions been with the deputy mayor's office,  
20 in particular the New Communities folks, about the  
21 4.5 million, because the money seems to be coming  
22 from them. So my assumption would have been that

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1 you guys had some discussions with them about this  
2 prior, because it's -- because as I think you've  
3 referenced in here, we were moving in a different  
4 direction because of the hazards and now we're  
5 moving in another -- yet -- back towards another  
6 new direction. And I just want to understand what  
7 communications you've had about the 4.5 million.

8 MS. HIGH: Okay. I was just made aware  
9 of the 4.5 million and this is why I wrote my  
10 testimony the way I did. I've been in contact with  
11 Mr. Felder from DMPED's office and I've made my  
12 wishes clear to him. And he has written me back  
13 saying that DMPED will try to honor -- not with this  
14 money, because like I said, I just found out with  
15 this, but they're trying to honor the equity  
16 agreement.

17 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So you haven't  
18 had any discussions with --

19 MS. HIGH: Not about this money, no.

20 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: About interim  
21 controls?

22 MS. HIGH: No, I was just made aware of

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1 this and this is why I'm here today.

2 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Okay. That  
3 must be frustrating.

4 MS. HIGH: It is.

5 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Okay.

6 MS. HIGH: Any other questions that I  
7 can address? No? Thank you for having me. I hope  
8 you all have a good -- oh, Mr. Council?

9 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: No, thank you.

10 MS. HIGH: Okay. Thank you very much.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Daniel?

12 MR. DEL PIELAGO: Good afternoon,  
13 Board. I just -- to be honest, I did this as a place  
14 saver for Ms. High in case she was -- she has to  
15 run out and pick up her daughter, but I just want  
16 to echo her sentiments. There has been so much  
17 mistrust at all of these redevelopments that are  
18 happening around the city. And then, you know, we  
19 find out the day before by looking at the web site  
20 that, oh, there's a resolution that's going to  
21 impact our community. So we let Shon know and, you  
22 know, we've -- we're coming up with these plans that

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1 I think is the direction or a direction that we move  
2 in as we reposition, right?

3 I think she's coming up with something  
4 that is viable, that makes sense, and these type  
5 of plans have to be listened to by the Board. The  
6 Board -- really, Board, you are kind of the last  
7 line of defense in preserving traditional public  
8 housing as we know it. That may not be -- you know,  
9 that may be tough, but I think as long as resident  
10 voices are included in this process and listened  
11 to and not -- you know, they hear it afterwards,  
12 I think that's the wrong direction. So I just  
13 support what Shon is saying and I would hope that  
14 this Board would open up opportunities to really,  
15 you know, work in cooperation with residents and  
16 really be informed as you vote on repositioning  
17 this housing stock. So thank you.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.  
19 Thank you.

20 Our next person will be Debra Frazier  
21 on Resolution 19-04 and Resolution 19-05.

22 MS. FRAZIER: I'm Debra Frazier, a

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1 voucher holder. Hello, Board.

2 And hello, peers who came out in force.

3 Give yourselves a hand.

4 (Applause.)

5 MS. FRAZIER: The previous speaker  
6 was -- echoed my sentiments exactly. I cannot add  
7 anything to her testimony. I support that. My  
8 community supports that, all of her statements.

9 The two things that come to mind for us  
10 are, the same rhetorical question: Why fix a  
11 property if it's scheduled to be either demolished  
12 or a subject of build-first?

13 Twenty years ago, eighteen years ago at  
14 Arthur Capper Carrollsburg HOPE VI redevelopment  
15 we were in the same position. Two years before we  
16 were approached with the HOPE VI, there was a major  
17 renovation on our 700 units. We got new  
18 refrigerators and stoves and all sorts of things  
19 and two years later here comes a HOPE VI that's  
20 demolishing our community because it's distressed.

21 So we advocated and worked hard along  
22 with other partners to make sure that we had regular

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1 monthly, sometimes twice weekly meetings with the  
2 community to keep us abreast and aware of every step  
3 of the HOPE VI redevelopment.

4 What has happened to this Housing  
5 Authority that such things as happening at Park  
6 Morton can occur 15 years later? Have you  
7 forgotten; and I will remind you, that you do, at  
8 some point under some director somewhere, have a  
9 policy of transparency and including residents? I  
10 urge you and this Board and this director to return  
11 to those days of yesteryear where residents had a  
12 voice and an ongoing voice in what happens to their  
13 properties.

14 Second thing that's been in the minds  
15 of some of our activists for a long time is is there  
16 a conflict of interest with the DMPED being on the  
17 Board of the Housing Authority and the two entities  
18 sometimes have the same ideas about housing and  
19 sometimes different. New Communities may have  
20 emerged from the HOPE VI process. The mayor may  
21 have different ideas for housing, as she seeks, and  
22 probably so, to get revenue for the city. Housing

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1 Authority ought to have a different idea of policy  
2 as it supports the need for public housing for our  
3 residents. These two issues look to be in  
4 conflict.

5 Can I ask on behalf of the public, Mr.  
6 Council and this Board, if we can look into that?  
7 If maybe OGC can look into that conflict of  
8 interest, or maybe the Office of Attorney General  
9 may be interested in looking at that. Question  
10 mark.

11 (No audible response.)

12 MS. FRAZIER: That's a question.

13 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: It's a question  
14 that's been made many times, yes.

15 MS. FRAZIER: Okay. So making it  
16 again. We haven't heard anything back from that.

17 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Maybe they'll do  
18 it for you.

19 MS. FRAZIER: But they should do it for  
20 all of us, but we -- I'm going to do what our  
21 Commission says: Let the record show we made a ask  
22 about conflict of interest.

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1 I don't have much for 05. 05, I will  
2 say this: The -- let's see. You caught me off  
3 guard. Urgent need to -- okay. So on 05 we talk  
4 about the urgent need for housing options and to  
5 give folks the -- to go to project-based housing.  
6 What's the urgent need?

7 MR. GARRETT: Okay. It would be those  
8 residents that are impacted by environmental  
9 concern or an issue that mandates that they have  
10 a mandatory transfer out of their particular unit.  
11 If you recall a few months ago they Board, I believe  
12 it was in December -- I believe it was either  
13 November or December where we passed -- the Board  
14 passed a resolution to allocate 272 vouchers  
15 towards our environmental effort.

16 This is also to supplement that because  
17 in some cases we cannot offer -- we're not -- if  
18 we're not able to offer a voucher to a particular  
19 family for a reason, not able to find another public  
20 housing unit for that particular family, we wanted  
21 to have at least a last resort of a possibility of  
22 relocating that resident to a quality unit. And

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1 the use of a PVB unit might be that.

2 As we explained, it would be the last  
3 option for us. We already go through a process now  
4 of identifying units for residents who need to move  
5 due to the environmental concerns in their unit.  
6 And we also go through that same processes also with  
7 the use of the 200 -- of a voucher possibly. We  
8 go through a panel. This would be another process  
9 that we would just add as a unit that would be made  
10 available to a family.

11 It's different in terms of this  
12 relocation from what we might have done for the  
13 fire. And one reason I want to point that out is  
14 because we were dealing with residents that were  
15 single occupancy, meaning they either needed a  
16 studio or a one bedroom, whereas now in these  
17 particular situations we're dealing with families  
18 and it's harder for us to identify units within our  
19 portfolio for families along with the use of  
20 vouchers. It's the same thing.

21 So we're just trying to avail ourselves  
22 to every option that we might have to put residents

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1 in a safe and healthy environment.

2 MS. FRAZIER: So as we talk interim,  
3 it -- what are the parameters of project-based?  
4 Once you get a project-based unit you're kind of  
5 stuck there and you can't go unless you find another  
6 project-based unit. How -- what's the timing on  
7 that? If I'm a family --

8 MR. GARRETT: I don't think that's  
9 totally accurate.

10 MS. FRAZIER: Okay.

11 MR. GARRETT: I'll just let Ron just  
12 talk on that if you don't mind, Commissioners,  
13 because I don't -- that's not accurate about the  
14 PVB unit and them not being able to -- having to  
15 go into another PVB unit. Depending upon the  
16 reasoning that they're being relocated or need to  
17 move, there could be other options for them.

18 MS. FRAZIER: So interim would be case  
19 by case?

20 MR. GARRETT: I'll let Ron go into it.

21 MR. McCOY: Hi, how are you, Ms.

22 Frazier?

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1 MS. FRAZIER: I'm good.

2 MR. McCOY: The answer to that question  
3 is it is -- will be a case by case. Specifically  
4 because you reside in a project-based unit does not  
5 mean you are stuck. We transfer families from one  
6 project-based unit to other project -- we have over  
7 1,500 project-based units. So there is some -- a  
8 mobility aspect if families are in need, already  
9 in a project-based portfolio to move from one unit  
10 to another.

11 MS. FRAZIER: And would the folks be  
12 available to get -- this is a either/or,  
13 project-based or voucher?

14 MR. GARRETT: We've been exercising  
15 that option right now. It depends on that family  
16 and their composition and what their actual need  
17 is. So right now we only have the option to either  
18 offer a public housing unit or a quote/unquote  
19 "voucher" to them. But as another step we might  
20 be able to offer a PVB unit that better suits them.

21 MS. FRAZIER: And lastly, as voucher  
22 holders which -- who guard our things, we really

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1 guard it, are the -- where are these voucher units  
2 coming from?

3 MR. GARRETT: An example of a PVB unit  
4 that we have in our inventory would be Parkway  
5 Overlook that's coming online roughly April.  
6 There will be PVB units in that particular  
7 development that we have rehabbed over the last few  
8 months. So -- over the last year, actually. So  
9 residents would have the opportunity to go into  
10 those units if possible.

11 MS. FRAZIER: Okay.

12 MR. GARRETT: And then Ron has a list  
13 of other PVB units throughout the District.

14 MS. FRAZIER: Okay. That's all I can  
15 think of.

16 Oh, do residents have a choice? If I'm  
17 going to a -- I'm a family and I need to move and  
18 I got an environmental issue and -- from Mr. McCoy's  
19 list can I choose with PVB unit I get to go to?

20 MR. GARRETT: There is choice  
21 involved, but remember it does come down to a  
22 mandatory move at the end of the day. So we're

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1           trying to ensure that -- but we want to work with  
2           the family and PMO, Ms. Punter's, Carolyn Punter's  
3           department. They engage the resident in the  
4           beginning to try to identify what the actual needs  
5           are and then it moves down the line for us through  
6           the committee.

7                       MS. FRAZIER: All right. Good enough  
8           for the moment.

9                       MR. GARRETT: Okay.

10                      MS. FRAZIER: Thank you.

11                      MR. GARRETT: Thank you.

12                      Thank you, Ron.

13                      Thank you, Ms. Frazier.

14                      VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Next  
15           we're going to consider Resolution 19-02, the  
16           authorization --

17                      PARTICIPANT: Didn't you want to  
18           testify?

19                      MS. BARRIGAN: Yes, I signed up so  
20           that -- and I signed up for all of the resolutions.

21                      PARTICIPANT: What's your name?

22                      MS. BARRIGAN: Claudia Barrigan.

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1 Garfield Terrace is the --

2 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Come on up, but  
3 we don't have you on here.

4 MS. BARRIGAN: I'm on the list.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Yes, ma'am.

6 MS. BARRIGAN: All right. My name is  
7 Claudia Barrigan. I am the language access  
8 coordinator for the Resident Council at Garfield  
9 Terrace Senior. There are many seniors living in  
10 public housing that do not speak English. They are  
11 limited-English-proficient residents, District  
12 taxpayers. Many of them are non-native English  
13 speakers.

14 At the same time I'm here to  
15 specifically give a summary of what Garfield  
16 Terrace Resident Council wants for you -- for this  
17 Commission to consider in terms of all of the  
18 resolutions.

19 So I'll start with Resolution No.  
20 19-20. It's a no for the resident council. Funds  
21 can be used for direct resident needs, the funds  
22 for that -- for the legal firms. And the

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1 Commission and DCHA already has legal counsel  
2 sources within the agency, so the residents would  
3 like to make sure that those resources are first  
4 used before allocating such a large amount.

5 No. 2, Resolution 19-03. No response.  
6 Please postpone that particular resolution or  
7 voting on that resolution. Funds may be too  
8 excessive for that particular one, for that  
9 particular resolution.

10 No. 19-04, Resolution 19-04. Also  
11 postpone the vote on that. The funds have to be  
12 reported. As you heard from the directly impacted  
13 residents, they would like to postpone that vote.  
14 Garfield Terrace Seniors also agree in support that  
15 ask.

16 Transparency is important and DCHA has  
17 to be held accountable on how funds are allocated  
18 and this MOUs have to reviewed by the residents by  
19 law; federal, local, any type of law, at least 30  
20 days' notice of reviewing -- for District residents  
21 to review that. If the residents haven't been  
22 allowed that time to review it and been able to give

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1 their own feedback, then that should not be up for  
2 vote.

3 19-05. Resolution 19-05. No. Also  
4 postpone. Again, there needs to be at least 30 to  
5 60 days of outreach, especially when you're talking  
6 about removing residents, displacing residents.  
7 There is very little information about these  
8 transfers, even in the data that you provided, in  
9 the report that you provided on the language of the  
10 resolution. That language, again there are  
11 readers, there are residents, public housing  
12 residents who do not speak English. It is by  
13 federal law you have to translate those documents  
14 into at least five or six languages. You have not  
15 done that.

16 (Applause.)

17 MS. BARRIGAN: So you cannot displace  
18 residents without them even being able to read or  
19 come in front of you with an interpreter and a  
20 translator. I have privilege because I'm doing  
21 that.

22 You need to have meetings at each

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1 housing building about this particular  
2 definitions. Like Executive Director Garrett  
3 mentioned, there is clarity in the definitions.  
4 Well, he needs to go and provide those -- that  
5 clarity on those definitions. What does urgency  
6 mean in this particular case of the transfer?

7 The Tenant Selection Plan must be  
8 explained because no one knows what the Tenant  
9 Selection Plan is. Example: The privatization  
10 resolution that was passed last month. That was  
11 a very important resolution. And while you're  
12 not going to take any action at this moment, you  
13 should have followed all of the law by also  
14 translating that particular document on  
15 resolutions into at least five different languages  
16 of the people that you serve.

17 Overall all of these resolutions  
18 account in terms of funding in some sort of way \$12  
19 million. You are going to vote today on \$12  
20 million. And residents behind me have heard of  
21 these resolutions today. This is the first time  
22 that they heard about them. So you should not vote

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1 on it today. This is the first I'm hearing about  
2 them, so please don't vote on them.

3 Residents' voices must lead the  
4 resolutions. There is a difference between  
5 including and participation and voicing.  
6 Resident voices must lead and the resident councils  
7 are ready to lead.

8 In terms of environmental efforts, how  
9 about before displacing and relocating residents,  
10 what if you were to fix the problems before they  
11 even get to the point of becoming a public health  
12 issue?

13 (Applause.)

14 MS. BARRIGAN: And that is something  
15 that you need to please -- again, by law there is  
16 EPA law, environmental justice law that you have  
17 to follow if you're going to have public housing  
18 and public uses, and you are already mismanaging  
19 a lot of these possibilities to fix these problems.  
20 So please review that.

21 So please postpone on all, if not all --  
22 on all of these resolutions or on Resolution 19-02

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1 please vote no. Thank you. Gracias.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. BARRIGAN: Do you have any  
4 questions?

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Just one  
6 moment. First of all, I would like for the  
7 Director and the Co-Chair of the Board to recognize  
8 this is Claudia who will be helping me with doing  
9 these things throughout our public housing where  
10 I said that the Commissioners will have a learning  
11 institution.

12 And, Director Garrett, one of the  
13 recommendations we already have -- because Mr.  
14 Luther and I are already partners. And I don't  
15 want to place myself in a conflict of interest, so  
16 therefore Claudia will take the lead. And what we  
17 will be doing is we will be going around -- well,  
18 we already started on Facebook. We have several  
19 residents that are willing to take our class. And  
20 she's absolutely correct.

21 As we move in 2019 -- as I stated, this  
22 is my last term on the Board and I will serve my

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1 15 years. And it has been a pleasure exercising  
2 my experiences and my legal experiences and my  
3 educational experience. Now I'm ready to create  
4 the urban design fabric, and that is the 2018 --  
5 communities such as Park Morton with the 2018 elect  
6 resident councils.

7 I would like to also say, to put on  
8 notice, that this Board is not in compliance with  
9 the City-Wide Advisory Board. It is one year late  
10 for electing an advisory chair. And when that  
11 chair get elected, it will be hopefully that their  
12 bylaws will be reviewed and there will be a policy  
13 that if you chair the City-Wide Advisory Board, as  
14 the chair of the City Advisory Board one of your  
15 duties and responsibilities would be being that the  
16 advisory board chair meets once a month, or once  
17 every other month with the general body. The  
18 general body is all elected and appointed resident  
19 councils that are recognized by this Housing  
20 Authority.

21 And I further recommend as we move  
22 forward if there is an election you cannot force

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1 any resident to campaign. So if one person runs,  
2 I say and I'm requesting that all presidents in  
3 their bylaws state this: (A) The president of any  
4 DCHA resident council that does not have a full  
5 board have the right to appoint; (B) we have a right  
6 to run and campaign on a -- what is it called when  
7 you have a campaign --

8 PARTICIPANT: Slate.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: -- slate,  
10 because we were told you could only campaign  
11 individually, which have shown with the trends it  
12 causes confusion, it keeps division and it holds  
13 us back.

14 The second thing that we want to request  
15 that any resident council that has a CSC account  
16 that this Housing Authority take another look at  
17 their account and maybe we need a pot to support  
18 the learning center because the learning center is  
19 not just for elected resident council. It's for  
20 any resident who want to learn to be a resident  
21 council president with ethics, character,  
22 integrity.

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1 (Applause.)

2 MS. BARRIGAN: If I may add, on  
3 Resolution 19-02 you're spending \$6 million on five  
4 legal firms, giving them at least \$250,000 maximum.  
5 You can actually use some of those funds if you take  
6 one of those legal firms out and actually fund this  
7 particular much-needed -- much more needed center,  
8 education center. So that is why there should be  
9 a no vote on 19-02.

10 (Applause.)

11 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.  
12 Were there any questions?

13 (No response.)

14 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. All  
15 right. We're getting ready to do Resolution 19-02  
16 authorizing executive contract of general legal  
17 counsel.

18 Mr. Garrett?

19 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, I'm going  
20 to ask Lori Bonds to come up along with -- okay.  
21 Mary Grace is going to come up and also we have Larry  
22 Williams from Resident Services who will be

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1 available to discuss any Section III issues. And  
2 Mary Grace will be representing OGC.

3 MS. BONDS: Good afternoon,  
4 Commissioners. Lori Bonds, Director of Contracts  
5 and Procurement. The resolution before you is to  
6 authorize the execution of legal service contracts  
7 for the Housing Authority for a period of two years.

8 In addition to the work that the Office  
9 of the General Counsel does the Housing Authority  
10 does have needs for additional legal services that  
11 range from labor and employment general contracts  
12 to litigation, and as a result we issued a  
13 solicitation in October 2018 with a closing date  
14 in November.

15 We received nine proposals based on our  
16 advertisement in the *Washington Post*, the  
17 *Afro-American*, *District Chronicles*, *Washington*  
18 *Informer*, *El Tiempo Latin* and *East of the River* to  
19 make sure that firms did see our request for  
20 services. We also sent it directly to DHCD for  
21 Section III vendors, as well as sent directly to  
22 several firms. Again, we received nine proposals

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1 in response to our solicitation of which we had an  
2 evaluation panel that was from the Office of the  
3 General Counsel, as well as the Office of Capital  
4 Programs.

5 The request is for contracts for the  
6 seven highest scoring firms who were selected,  
7 which are Reno & Cavanaugh, Ballard Spahr, Saul  
8 Ewing, Butler Snow, Hawkins Delafield & Wood,  
9 Venable and K&L Gates LLC, in order to award  
10 contracts for those firms for an aggregate amount  
11 of \$6 million.

12 Each of the firms we have provided  
13 information with regard to their Section III  
14 commitment. Some of the firms were firms that we  
15 have utilized previously as far as contracts were  
16 concerned and provided their commitment that they  
17 made in the previous contract, as well as  
18 information on what they have proposed to do with  
19 regard to their services.

20 Any questions?

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: What is  
22 it -- I want you to explain specifically what is

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1 Section III?

2 MS. BONDS: Let me refer the Section  
3 III questions to Larry Williams, who is Director  
4 of Resident Services.

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Thank you.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon,  
7 Commissioners. Section III is the regulation  
8 where the -- any federal contracts have to comply  
9 with Section III as it relates to employment  
10 opportunities, training opportunities for public  
11 housing, immediate low income and HCVP  
12 participants.

13 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Of these  
14 companies listed, how many of these companies have  
15 either contracted, employed public housing, no  
16 housing choice voucher residents?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: Five of them that have  
18 previously had contracts with us have been a great  
19 partner as it relates to Section III and have  
20 hired -- either hired or provided training to our  
21 resident base. There is two of them that are new  
22 contractors that this is their first time

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1 complying, so they've proposed what they want to --  
2 well, they proposed a compliance plan that we've  
3 accepted.

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And what  
5 was that plan? Could you be specific so it could  
6 be in the record?

7 MR. WILLIAMS: So as it relates to the  
8 two firms that didn't have prior -- the three firms  
9 that didn't have prior Section III relationships  
10 with us, they have committed to a donation to the  
11 Section III Fund based on their billable hours as  
12 well as some of them have donated services for  
13 specifically for when we deal with resident council  
14 disputes and issues to appoint a moderator, and  
15 they will act as the moderator to work out the  
16 issues between the resident councils.

17 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: How many  
18 resident councils have used that route, if any?

19 MR. WILLIAMS: None at the moment.  
20 This is something that we have just recently  
21 started to see really become an issue, and so when  
22 we were meeting with the contractors to talk about

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1 the Section III Plan, it was our recommendation to  
2 get that service from the attorneys.

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Well, I'll  
4 tell you what I really like about this resolution,  
5 but I agree with Claudia, and maybe we may work  
6 something over, but then -- what I like about then  
7 the rule is that it is the only law firm who have  
8 given us as residents of the District of Columbia  
9 who have CSC contracts in which the resident  
10 council president is the authorized agent. That  
11 impacts every senior housing that has a CSC and it  
12 only impacts -- when it comes to family properties  
13 it impacts Potomac Gardens, it impacts Lincoln  
14 Road. And that may be it because you don't have  
15 too many family properties that actually have the  
16 laundry rooms. So when we do the math, if I voted  
17 no, I would hurt them.

18 However, if we rework this wherein  
19 these billable hours -- let me ask you a question:  
20 How will the billable hours work?

21 MS. FOLWELL: Commissioner, I can  
22 speak to that. So what they would do is they would

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1 figure out what the total amount they were going  
2 to bill to the Housing Authority and then they would  
3 make sure that three percent of that total amount  
4 that we paid them they gave back to us in total  
5 hours.

6 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And all  
7 these law firms, do you know each of them -- each  
8 one -- each law firm? Do you know their billable  
9 hours for specific work? Because in most law firms  
10 when you do billable hours it comes with a project.  
11 It's tagged to a project. Which means, if you're  
12 counting the math, I don't know what billable is  
13 this month up and down. It's like a CSC net check  
14 for those of us who operate a laundry room. They  
15 are the authorized agent. So that's not a good  
16 deal for residents.

17 Okay. So now -- but when we look at --  
18 and it's not. Now if the person who wanted to do  
19 the billable hours for us would like to work out  
20 some new figures to contribute to the community at  
21 large -- and you know I'm very territorial, so this  
22 is a treat for me to speak, because now what I'm

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1 seeing here is a way where we could bend -- and when  
2 I say "bend," I mean us because I also teach  
3 communities to be territorial, because you have to  
4 fabric design your own community.

5 So now if I -- now let's say if they gave  
6 up X amount of dollars, this would allow for all  
7 of the residents, whether -- all you have to do --  
8 you won't even have to be 18 and over on the lease.  
9 Claudia and I are really willing to educate from  
10 three years old, go to day care. So we want to  
11 educate public housing residents, whether you're  
12 on the lease or not, because if you're not on the  
13 lease, you still living in somebody's unit and that  
14 unit may be turned over to you. So that person  
15 should have opportunity, too.

16 So if you look at that and factor it in,  
17 we already have the location, 1229 G Street, and  
18 we also have Park -- Garfield Senior where we would  
19 rotate. And we're also willing to go around the  
20 properties. And we're not trying to cut out the  
21 work of your navigators, but what we're trying to  
22 do is empower residents as the city and the system

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1 with gentrification is dismantling us.

2 MS. BONDS: Commissioner, I just want  
3 to respond to your question with regard to the  
4 contracts. You're right, we issue our contracts  
5 based on task order. The task orders are not known  
6 until we know what the work may be. When the task  
7 orders are issued and signed, it's with a specific  
8 job that's required as well as an estimate of how  
9 much that may be. Once that work is done, then the  
10 Office of the General Counsel can provide that  
11 information to the Office of Resident Services.  
12 So they'll know how many hours it took, because it's  
13 itemized on their bills.

14 And then that's the way that we could  
15 be able to go back and be able to make sure the  
16 compliance is done based on the number of hours that  
17 were billed because we have to pay those bills.  
18 And then Resident Services actually makes sure  
19 again that they're setting up each of these  
20 commitments and then they're doing it based on the  
21 hours that were actually charged.

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: The

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1 question is: (A) If we pass this with an amendment  
2 saying that those billable hours dollars will be  
3 earmark or per-line item to the residents of the  
4 District of Columbia; we're already giving you a  
5 target age, from three up, to be able to be educated  
6 because we may need to recruit volunteers to go to  
7 the homes and knock on doors because we're at a  
8 crisis called gentrification in the District of  
9 Columbia.

10 And we could knock on doors and we would  
11 be able to talk and give residents the information  
12 just like they -- and model it after the Census  
13 Bureau. And when we go to your home, we won't have  
14 residents --

15 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Commissioner  
16 Vann-Ghasri, can we stay focused on the resolution  
17 in front of us?

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I am, but  
19 I'm also --

20 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: We have a lot of  
21 people here who want to testify.

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Excuse me,

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1 who is the chair?

2 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I'm asking you  
3 if you could --

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And I  
5 understand that, sir, but I know what I want to get  
6 on the record, like you do sometimes, too. So let  
7 me just finish this. This is my last three years  
8 after being here for 15.

9 (Applause.)

10 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: So all I'm  
11 saying, to put on the record, do you understand?  
12 Thank you so much. Because there's a lot of  
13 confusion and I'm here not to be confusion, but to  
14 solve problems. I'm a problem solver for real.  
15 And I'm done.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Any  
17 more questions from Commissioners?

18 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes. This  
19 just a basic question. Can you tell us more about  
20 what specific kinds of activities these lawyers  
21 perform, why our OGC doesn't have the capacity to  
22 do this work, and why it costs so much?

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1 MS. FOLWELL: Commissioner, there's  
2 two -- a couple of things I'd like to point out about  
3 these -- this resolution and the contracts. We --  
4 the amount of contract authority that we ask for  
5 is -- in this particular resolution is 6.6 million,  
6 and that is for specialized legal services. It's  
7 things like contracts and copyright things that we  
8 aren't specialized in, sometimes specialized  
9 litigation where we get sued and we don't have  
10 special environmental knowledge. So it's all  
11 things that are above and beyond our specialized  
12 capacity.

13 And one of the things that are the most  
14 expensive are real estate transactions and bond  
15 transactions. So it's good to farm those out to  
16 the legal firms. They take care of it more  
17 efficiently and more effectively than us. So it's  
18 specialized knowledge.

19 The other piece is we've asked for  
20 contract authority for 6.6 million and that's in  
21 case we get sued, that's in case all of our real  
22 estate deals go forward, but for example this past

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1 year we had 6.8 million in authority, but we only  
2 spent 2.3 million. So the actual contract  
3 authority that we ask for is sort of a worst case  
4 scenario. Unfortunately, we often spend much less  
5 than that because we don't have the problems that  
6 we fear that we have.

7 MR. SLAUGHTER: And in the real estate  
8 transactions we are asking for the Authority to  
9 spend --

10 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Excuse me,  
11 sir. Could you come to the -- and --

12 MR. SLAUGHTER: I'm sorry. I'm Ken  
13 Slaughter. I'm the general counsel. On the real  
14 estate transactions we're asking for authority to  
15 spend, but oftentimes, most times the contract  
16 amount is not the net payout by the Authority  
17 because the transaction itself pays for the legal  
18 fees. We have to advance those fees and then at  
19 closing we receive dollars out of the transaction  
20 to cover that. So it's a net.

21 Again, this amount over two years is our  
22 best guesstimate. We have four senior lawyers and

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1 about five junior, very junior, first and  
2 second-year lawyers, and the variety of matters  
3 that come before us are hard to predict. We have  
4 a lawsuit saying that the city is creating a  
5 creative class. We have day to day real estate  
6 transactions. We have government contracts. And  
7 my lawyers are excellent and they have a variety  
8 of skills, but there are specialties. Example is  
9 we're replacing the full computer system for the  
10 Authority and that's a very specialized  
11 negotiation between very sophisticated computer  
12 law firms and lawyers that represent us.

13 You should know that whatever you may  
14 think the lawyers are against us or lawyers  
15 bringing matters before us are from the most  
16 sophisticated law firms in the city who often take  
17 matters involving our residents in pro bono  
18 matters. We also have the full legal services  
19 advocacy community who we're also. So there are  
20 hundreds of lawyers on the other side at the same  
21 time.

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I just have

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1 two more questions.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: No, no.  
3 Commissioner Slover?

4 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I don't know,  
5 I'm -- can I just get an understanding of how much  
6 money we carry on the books for real estate deals?  
7 So I know we expend a lot of money on legal costs.  
8 Are we keeping track, I assume, of all that  
9 because --

10 MS. FOLWELL: Yes, Commissioner.

11 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So it's all  
12 really an effort to try to get people to understand  
13 that these dollars are not actually going out the  
14 door permanently, that they'll be coming back at  
15 some point? So these numbers of 6.6, while they  
16 seem big, in the grand scheme of the size of the  
17 entity to which we operate and the volume of real  
18 estate transactions they were involved in, hard to  
19 say but the numbers aren't as -- aren't really that  
20 big compared to what we're doing?

21 MS. FOLWELL: That's accurate, yes.

22 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: And so -- and

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1 again a fair amount of it does come back to the  
2 Authority at some point, so I appreciate your  
3 explanation.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Commissioner  
5 Grossinger?

6 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: Just wanted  
7 to make a short comment about the work that the OGC  
8 does. It's really quite extraordinary the team  
9 you lead, Ken, and we appreciate the work and time  
10 that you're putting into this. It doesn't detract  
11 from Aquarius' commentary about needing to  
12 strengthen the Section III Program; we all know we  
13 do, but your work and your capacities and your  
14 insight into where we need help are  
15 well-appreciated.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Commissioner  
17 St. Jean?

18 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: So how many  
19 people take advantage of Section III?

20 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, we exceeded our  
21 Section III goals from last year about 50 percent.  
22 I don't know the number offhand about how many

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1 people have participated in the pool because I  
2 didn't anticipate that question, but I can get that  
3 information to you.

4 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes, I would  
5 like that report for HCVP and public housing to make  
6 sure it's equal.

7 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Will do.

8 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: One  
10 question. What is it for the residents?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: I'm sorry?

12 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: What it's --  
13 we're doing all this for the lawyers on this, but  
14 what does the residents have to say about it?

15 MR. WILLIAMS: So they comply -- each  
16 firm has submitted the plan so it complies with  
17 Section III, so there's various different classes  
18 that they've proposed. They've proposed hiring of  
19 an intern. They have also -- they are contributing  
20 to the Section III Fund. And they also have a  
21 couple legal clinics. And earlier in my statement  
22 they also will be working directly with resident

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1 councils to resolve some of the disputes that they  
2 have on the council.

3 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Okay.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Is  
5 there a motion?

6 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: So moved.

7 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Second.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Roll  
9 call.

10 MS. McNAIR: Thank you. Commissioner  
11 Kenner?

12 COMMISSIONER KENNER: Yes.

13 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones?

14 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

15 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Bill Slover?

16 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Yes.

17 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean?

18 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

19 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Strickland?

20 COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND: Yes.

21 MS. McNAIR: Thank you. Let the  
22 record reflect that Commissioner Strickland voted

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1       yes.

2                   Commissioner Taliaferro?

3                   COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO:  No respond.

4                   MS. McNAIR:  You're abstaining?

5                   COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO:  Abstaining,

6       yes.

7                   MS.  McNAIR:  Okay.  Commissioner

8       Vann-Ghasri?

9                   COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI:  No.

10                  MS. McNAIR:  Commissioner Grossinger?

11                  COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER:  Yes.

12                  MS. McNAIR:  And lastly, Vice Chairman

13       Council?

14                  VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:  Yes.

15                  MS. McNAIR:  You have seven yes, one no

16       and one abstention.  The resolution is approved.

17                  MR. GARRETT:  Okay.  Thank you.  And

18       I'm going to ask for the next resolution,

19       Resolution 19-03 -- I'm also going to ask Mr. Bass

20       to come up and also Carolyn Punter, Mr. Bass from

21       the Office of Finance and Ms. Punter from Property

22       Management Operations.

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1           So we might have to pull up another  
2 chair, if we can find one.

3           And, Commissioners, this is case you  
4 have questions.

5           MS. BONDS:           Good    afternoon,  
6 Commissioners. This is Resolution 19-03. Again  
7 my name is Lori Bonds, Director of Contracts and  
8 Procurement, and we're requesting authorization to  
9 execute contract modifications for private  
10 management services.

11           The Housing Authority currently has  
12 contracts with two management companies: CT  
13 Management Services and CIH Properties,  
14 Incorporated.       These management companies  
15 currently manage seven of our properties. The  
16 request is to extend the contracts of both of those  
17 companies for a short period of time, one for CT  
18 Management who manages Potomac Gardens and Hopkins  
19 Apartments.       The request is to give the  
20 opportunity for a transition period for DCHA to  
21 manage those properties directly. The request for  
22 extension for CHI Properties is for us to be able

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1 to have the opportunity to issue a solicitation so  
2 that we can be able to have a competitive process  
3 for the management of those properties, which are  
4 Claridge Towers, Horizon House, Regency House,  
5 Sibley Plaza Family and Sibley Senior property.

6 Any questions?

7 MR. GARRETT: I just want to add,  
8 Commissioners, this is something that we  
9 originally talked -- I talked about it about 12  
10 months ago in reference to taking the opportunity  
11 for properties that were managed by third parties  
12 and the DCHA looking to transition those back into  
13 our management operations on a daily basis, and  
14 this is the step in that particular direction.

15 We're going to start out with two  
16 properties and then see where that goes, but we do  
17 have proposals that will be coming in for the  
18 remaining properties that are third-party managed.

19 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Could you  
20 explain that again? Two properties. Two  
21 property managers or two properties?

22 MR. GARRETT: Two properties. Right

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1 now CT -- the properties managed by CT, which are --  
2 Potomac and also Hopkins would be the two  
3 properties that we would transition back into our  
4 daily operational portfolio.

5 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: And what about  
6 the other properties?

7 MR. GARRETT: For the others what we  
8 would do is, as Lori mentioned and stated, we would  
9 be going out with an RFP for those particular  
10 properties. We haven't yet determined a time  
11 frame in which -- or how long that particular  
12 contract would be for, but that's something that  
13 would depend upon our actual transition on -- from  
14 the CT Properties to see how well we do and whether  
15 or not we have the actual capacity to continue  
16 moving forward.

17 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So what have you  
18 done to improve our internal capacity, because it  
19 seems to me that it would be in our best interest  
20 to: (1) have a topnotch property management  
21 apparatus; and (2) manage all of our properties.  
22 So I would think that by extending this by a year

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1 that you would be able to make that determination  
2 and not actually do an RFP to put these out to a  
3 third party, because I just wonder -- I thought the  
4 whole idea was to bring these back in.

5 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir, but I don't  
6 think -- at this point in time from my vantage point  
7 I don't think we have the ability just yet to bring  
8 on the other properties that are managed by CIH,  
9 all of those properties all at one time. So I  
10 wanted to take a step in that direction by doing  
11 the two properties that were maintained by CT right  
12 now.

13 As far as changes that we've made in  
14 terms of PMO and the ability -- we've brought in  
15 a new team. We have Ms. Punter as the Senior  
16 Director for Property Management Operations along  
17 with -- and we shuffle the deck in terms of our  
18 Maintenance Department and also on the PMO  
19 leadership for area managers and other individuals  
20 on their team. So we're moving in that direction.  
21 And we're also hiring individuals going forward  
22 that have the ability to take on mixed-income and

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1 mixed-use properties and understand what asset  
2 management really is. So we're taking those  
3 steps.

4 We understand that there is a dire need  
5 in order for us to be able to deliver services to  
6 our residents, so we're beefing up our staffing and  
7 trying to build that capacity by bringing people  
8 inside, but also by bringing people on board, but  
9 also by educating our staff, current staff through  
10 our HR Department and also through Ms. Punter who's  
11 set up a series of programs and educational  
12 components for the staff.

13 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So you think it  
14 will take seven months to transition the two  
15 properties?

16 MR. GARRETT: Well, yes, I think it's  
17 going to take seven months to transition the two  
18 properties. And Ms. Punter can go into detail. I  
19 can start it and if there's anything that I miss,  
20 she'll jump on.

21 But there was one piece that we found  
22 in terms of our oversight, Commissioners. We were

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1 somewhat deficient in some areas when we were  
2 dealing with information that was supposed to be  
3 transmitted to us from CT. So it's going to take  
4 some time for us to get that information from  
5 them. And also remember, we're going through a new  
6 software process, so we have a migration going on.  
7 So because some of that information wasn't  
8 originally uploaded, now moving in that direction,  
9 it may take us some time. I just believe that seven  
10 months would be most beneficial to us.

11 I don't know, Carolyn, you could add.

12 I did ask for a shorter period of time,  
13 but I was pushed back by --

14 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: By?

15 MR. GARRETT: By Ms. Punter --

16 MS. PUNTER: Absolutely --

17 MR. GARRETT: -- just to give us more  
18 time.

19 MS. PUNTER: -- because we want to have  
20 a seamless transition. And so our thought process  
21 is to go in gradually, assess the portfolio, make  
22 sure our ITD division comes in and wire the

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1       propers -- properly so that we could come in again.  
2       The residents, we want to make sure that they are  
3       aware of the transition.   And we walked them  
4       through the process.

5               We want to be transparent.   We are  
6       re-branding what we're doing in PMO, and so we are  
7       very hands-on.   I am myself with residents.   And  
8       so it wouldn't be a quick turnaround.   More so it  
9       will be a seamless transition.

10              MR. GARRETT:   And, Commissioners, we  
11       want to make sure we get it right.   And so it may  
12       seem -- in the future we may be able to do it much  
13       quicker, but for this first step I agree that --  
14       I didn't at first agree, but I do understand what  
15       we're dealing with and why we might do -- take --  
16       need seven months to transition.

17              COMMISSIONER SLOVER:   What I would ask  
18       is that you take another look at the secondary  
19       piece --

20              MR. GARRETT:   Okay.

21              COMMISSIONER SLOVER:   -- about doing  
22       the RFP, because I would hope that -- and I have

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1 faith in you that you will be able to build an  
2 apparatus that will be able to accept those other  
3 properties back into our own management system.  
4 So I would hope that we could not close the door  
5 to that.

6 MR. GARRETT: Understood.

7 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: With that I  
8 move to vote.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I have  
10 something to say. First of all, I want to put on  
11 record about Potomac Gardens and Hopkins, and I'm  
12 not going to be interrupted because I've lived  
13 there for 40-some years.

14 At Potomac Gardens, as I stated, I  
15 represented the minority. The majority of the  
16 residents in Potomac Gardens requested change and  
17 they understood what change meant. If you are  
18 already under one management and you understood it  
19 was private and you keep wanting change, change  
20 meant they wanted to go back to DCHA. I can't speak  
21 for Hopkins, but I can speak for Potomac Gardens.

22 And as a matter of fact, Director

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1 Garrett, I'm more than sure that Director Williams  
2 informed you that there was a meeting in regards  
3 to me in Potomac Gardens because I'm for access  
4 management. And there was approximately 20  
5 residents there. And I want it on record.

6 One of the avenues I have recommended  
7 to the director is this: If we go back to DCHA,  
8 we're going to think out the box because Potomac  
9 Gardens is not going to go down any differently,  
10 and I sat here for 15 years. So that's a change.  
11 In 2009 Adrian Fenty gave me the change agent, and  
12 being a change agent I have to accept that change  
13 in my community, and I do. But I'm going to extend  
14 it a little further.

15 Being that this is going to be a model,  
16 and Potomac Gardens have always been the model  
17 community, we are asking for us to have more than  
18 one resident council as we gentrify in the next 10  
19 years. The residents of Potomac Gardens  
20 understand that they just got a new roof and that  
21 roof history is 20 years. Do any of you think that  
22 Potomac Gardens is going to be up 20 years as it

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1 is today under DCHA?

2 I'm following suit with Ms. High and I'm  
3 not going to put myself in a conflict of interest.  
4 And that's why Claudia will be training residents  
5 in Potomac Gardens as we move towards  
6 gentrification. I know my single member district  
7 very well. I also know my Council member who I  
8 respect highly very well. I know my single member  
9 district and my ward.

10 But let me tell you what I'm asking you  
11 to know. Seven hundred will have its own resident  
12 council. Ms. Petya has come in front of you many  
13 times. Let Ms. Petya have a council on 13th  
14 Street. There is a vacant unit in Community Row  
15 in which Total Family Care is presently using. The  
16 13th Street corridor can have that office.

17 Stephanie Van ran against me, testified  
18 against me, but she did get 15 votes. She lives  
19 on the 12th Street side. Let her, too, be her  
20 president.

21 And then we have a third person. And  
22 our community is already divided up and you already

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1 have Ms. Carlson. Because if you keep us together  
2 you're making the same mistake that was made in  
3 Barry Farms. You don't -- you'll make the same  
4 mistake because we will be dismantled.

5 But 700 and the senior building are the two  
6 buildings in that 6B-07 Single Member District that  
7 has been up there and have allow for Jenkins Square  
8 and all of the other gentrifying zoning buildings  
9 to have its height based on Potomac Gardens.

10 So I'm asking the Chair and the Vice  
11 Chair and the Director of the Housing Authority,  
12 who has the ultimate power -- I'm requesting that  
13 you give that some thought so that you can make us  
14 a model as we think ourself out the box.

15 So by the time you tear down Potomac  
16 Gardens either two things will -- that's what I  
17 think about Trump. If you watched *The Apprentice*,  
18 because that's what we're going to have to do for  
19 the 2018 Resident Council. You're going to have  
20 to understand your land, you're going to have to  
21 divide it, if you have to, and you're going to have  
22 to allow your opponents to take a piece of that land

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1 like the city and DCHA. We're using that model in  
2 Potomac Gardens with the 2019 Move to Work. Thank  
3 you so much. And it's on the record.

4 (Applause.)

5 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Is there a  
6 motion?

7 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: I made one  
8 quite a while ago.

9 COMMISSIONER KENNER: Second.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Can I get a  
11 roll call, please?

12 MS. you McNAIR: Thank you.

13 Commissioner Neal Jones?

14 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

15 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Slover?

16 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Yes.

17 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner St. Jean?

18 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

19 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Strickland?

20 COMMISSIONER Yes.

21 MS. McNAIR: Thank you. Let the  
22 record reflect Commissioner Strickland voted yes.

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1 Commissioner Taliaferro?

2 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Yes.

3 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner  
4 Vann-Ghasri?

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes.

6 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Grossinger?

7 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: Yes.

8 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Kenner?

9 COMMISSIONER KENNER: Yes.

10 MS. McNAIR: Vice Chairman Council?

11 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Yes.

12 MS. McNAIR: You have nine yes. The  
13 resolution is approved.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay.

15 Resolution 19-04 authorizing Memorandum of  
16 Understanding with the Office of Deputy Mayor for  
17 Planning and Economic Development.

18 MR. GARRETT: Commissioners, I'm going  
19 to ask Deputy Executive Director Chelsea Johnson  
20 to come up in case you have some specific questions  
21 in reference to environmental.

22 There is one thing I do want to point

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1 out about this particular resolution,  
2 Commissioners, in accepting funding from DMPED  
3 for \$4.5 million. I know that we've been bouncing  
4 around, and as Commissioner Slover indicated,  
5 ideas and concepts about how to handle the interim  
6 controls that are necessary at the site in addition  
7 to preparing for upcoming redevelopment --  
8 relocation, demolition and redevelopment of the  
9 site and the return of the residents.

10 There is one caveat to this which is  
11 also we do have a time frame on which we have to  
12 perform interim controls. So, and that would be  
13 no later than June 30th -- I believe June 30th,  
14 2019, of this year, interim controls would actually  
15 have to be performed. So in our estimation we  
16 would need to begin those interim controls no later  
17 than March.

18 One other piece, when we originally did  
19 this and Ms. Johnson spoke to the public and the  
20 residents about the risk assessments and the  
21 findings, I believe she also discussed about  
22 exactly what actions we needed to take regarding

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1 interim controls or full abatement. So there have  
2 been discussions.

3 I'm not saying that we're perfect by any  
4 stretch of the imagination. And we do need to work  
5 on our communication with residents as we move  
6 forward. But this particular step, accepting  
7 money from DMPED, is a step and an action to protect  
8 the safety of the residents as it exists now.

9 Other options that might be available  
10 to us we want to pursue those at the same time. So  
11 this doesn't mean that there wouldn't be the  
12 opportunity for a possible relocation of  
13 residents, but we do know that interim controls  
14 have to be performed in the remaining units that  
15 have not been completed by June 30th. So trying  
16 to relocate during this time frame still would  
17 require some funding to be given to us or accepted  
18 from DMPED. Thank you.

19 If you have any questions, I'll try my  
20 best to answer them.

21 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I'll go first,  
22 unless someone else wants to go.

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1           The resolution, you know, this thing  
2           has bounced around quite a bit. We've gone in a  
3           couple different directions, but in response to the  
4           resolution in front of us there's a reference in  
5           the resolution to an MOU with DMPED. Has that MOU  
6           been signed?

7           MR. GARRETT: No, it has not.

8           COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So you're asking  
9           us to approve a resolution for an MOU that hasn't  
10          been signed? So we really don't know what the MOU  
11          will say in it ultimately, specifically  
12          whether the funds are a grant, a loan, or do we have  
13          to pay them back, are they a gift, do they have to  
14          be used a certain way, do they require us to commit  
15          to a certain strategy phase versus multi-phase  
16          versus single phase? It references in there it's  
17          to support the Build First goals. So as far as  
18          Commissioner for me to approve this resolution,  
19          because I haven't -- I'm actually approving  
20          something that I haven't seen or do not understand  
21          the ramifications of.

22          MR. GARRETT: Okay. Commissioner

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1 Slover, the MOU was not signed specifically because  
2 we -- I did not want to take the liberty of accepting  
3 money or looking to accept money prior to your  
4 approval.

5 As far as the MOU itself there are no  
6 contingencies in reference to how we move forward.  
7 We do need to use the money specifically for interim  
8 controls. There is no -- nothing tied to how we  
9 redevelop the site or what those steps are. Those  
10 things were not included in the MOU itself. It was  
11 just accepting the money as a grant. It is not --  
12 there is no repayment required. And us proceeding  
13 with interim controls as quickly as possible and  
14 then moving forward with any other redevelopment  
15 plans that we possibly have.

16 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: But as a point of  
17 reference it says that the money is specifically  
18 for completion of interim controls with the support  
19 of the NCI Build First goal --

20 MR. GARRETT: Right, and we --

21 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- which would  
22 lend one to believe that it is being given to

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1 support the Build First goal, which would mean it  
2 has strings attached to it. Maybe the deputy mayor  
3 can tell us what his thoughts are.

4 COMMISSIONER KENNER: Well, so my  
5 thoughts are that -- and I think that from the  
6 city's perspective we're trying to be helpful here.  
7 I think the Housing Authority has identified what  
8 is a portfolio issue that they did in their interim  
9 controls.

10 Sort of for me this sort of also brings  
11 to light I think a growing question that this  
12 Housing Authority Board is going to have to  
13 continue to ask itself, which is; and I think we'll  
14 talk about this a little bit later, the portfolio  
15 issues that have been identified by the Housing  
16 Authority and written about in publications I think  
17 are going to be a significant financial burden, a  
18 significant financial cost for this Housing  
19 Authority to bear. And so additional costs,  
20 things like taking on 100 percent of the management  
21 of all the properties -- which I'm agnostic to as  
22 a Commissioner, but those are additional costs this

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1 Housing Authority is going to have to consider.

2 And there's only I think so much money  
3 that the Housing Authority has. And so I just want  
4 for the Housing Authority to be -- for the  
5 Commissioners to be cognizant that there's only a  
6 certain amount of money that the Housing Authority  
7 or frankly the city has to be able to support some  
8 things. And so I think that in this case we were  
9 trying to be helpful with the identified need for  
10 about \$42 million worth of interim control  
11 improvements. As the Executive Director has  
12 stated, HUD has said that there's sort of a ticking  
13 timeline for when these repairs need to be made.

14 The MOU that was referenced in the  
15 resolution is completely separate from our \$42  
16 million. And so from that perspective the city has  
17 pledged this as a -- 100 percent as a grant, that  
18 there is no loan, there's no repayment for the  
19 Housing Authority. If the Housing Authority wants  
20 to revisit that and wants it to be a loan, or if  
21 you don't want the money, we're obviously -- we're  
22 open to that suggestion, but it seems like the

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1 Housing Authority has an intent for how this money  
2 would go to critically needed urgent repairs for  
3 this property and we were trying to help fill that  
4 gap.

5 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So I'm sorry,  
6 the MOU and the 4.5 are not interconnected?

7 COMMISSIONER KENNER: They are not  
8 interconnected in that we're -- as I believe the  
9 Housing Authority right now is just considering  
10 approving the \$42 million.

11 MS. JOHNSON: There's an MOU to accept  
12 the \$4.5 million. And that's what's before the  
13 Board in regards to --

14 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Right.

15 MS. JOHNSON: -- seeking approval.

16 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: That's what I  
17 assumed. It was the acceptance of the MOU.

18 MS. JOHNSON: There's another -- I  
19 think that there is a little bit of confusion, but  
20 yes, the MOU that we're referring to that's before  
21 the Board right now pertains to allowing this  
22 agency to accept \$4.5 million for interim controls

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1 at Park Morton. And for the record, I'm Chelsea  
2 Johnson. Thank you.

3 MR. GARRETT: And just one piece I just  
4 want to mention, Commissioner Kenner, just in terms  
5 of our idea and our strategy for transitioning some  
6 units back to us. In the case of Hopkins and  
7 Potomac Gardens it was actually a half a million  
8 dollars in savings. So in some cases, in some  
9 instances it could work in reverse for us.

10 COMMISSIONER KENNER: Which is great  
11 because I think that that is a question that this  
12 Housing Authority is going to continue to and  
13 should be asking it for every single transaction  
14 or resolution that comes up how much additional  
15 money: Is this Housing Authority -- is it going  
16 to cost the Housing Authority, because there are  
17 significant costs coming down the road.

18 MR. GARRETT: Right.

19 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Well, I figured  
20 everybody was -- the assumption was that the  
21 property management would be a profit center,  
22 otherwise we wouldn't do it. So thank you for that

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1 clarification.

2 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Do we have  
3 limited questions? What is the process of asking  
4 questions? Do each Commissioner ask one question  
5 or two questions, so I can follow protocol

6 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: It depends on  
7 the subject matter. It depends upon the subject  
8 matter.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Well,  
10 we're on the same subject matter. I'm sure you  
11 would feel the same way if they were discussing  
12 your -- VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Do  
13 you have any questions, Commissioner?

14 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes,  
15 because what I really want to know is -- we are on  
16 19-04, correct?

17 MR. GARRETT: Good morning.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: So on 19-04  
19 the question I need to ask in regards with my  
20 constituents was this, too: (A) With Park Morton,  
21 the human capital piece, Section III is a human  
22 capital piece for them as well. So (A) did you take

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1 into consideration that if there will be anything  
2 in place for Park Morton that Park Morton residents  
3 will be the first to be accepted?

4 And here's what I'm saying: You have  
5 Howard University right in Park Morton's back yard.  
6 You also have Howard University as a provider. Now  
7 whether or not Ms. High requests Howard University,  
8 I don't know. But what I would like to know is  
9 being that Howard University is in Park Morton's  
10 back yard, whether or not anybody in Resident  
11 Service sought out any type of technical assistance  
12 or any other assistance that Howard University  
13 could give Ms. High?

14 MS. JOHNSON: Related to the --

15 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay. Now  
16 here's what I'm saying:

17 MS. JOHNSON: -- environmental or  
18 just --

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I'm  
20 talking about environmental.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Because

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1 see environmental it's quite obvious that it's very  
2 hard to do it alone. So if you have Howard  
3 University in the back of you and you have students  
4 who are getting degrees in environmental studies,  
5 that would be one of the vehicles that the Housing  
6 Authority could use so that your residents could  
7 be fully educated about the environmental history  
8 issues. Not only with Park Morton. The  
9 recommendation would be any public housing that is  
10 near any university, especially if you have one  
11 on-site provider.

12 I would think that the MOU with that  
13 university as a part of the human capital would see  
14 whether or not you could have negotiated, get some  
15 residents from Park Morton to take environmental  
16 courses and use -- and you put them together as a  
17 team.

18 And the reason why I'm saying it,  
19 there's already a model. And I can bring you a  
20 book. And Potomac Gardens did it with UDC and  
21 they gave us a book of how to do things  
22 environmental. So it's obvious some of the

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1 residents of Potomac Gardens have kept that skill  
2 set, because we didn't have too many environmental  
3 issues, did we? I'm asking you a question. Did  
4 we?

5 MS. JOHNSON: I honestly can't speak to  
6 that at this particular point. I don't recall what  
7 the outcome was.

8 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Because  
9 the issue here, we are talking about environmental,  
10 correct?

11 MS. JOHNSON: Right.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay. So  
13 I wanted to --

14 MS. JOHNSON: And so, Commissioner,  
15 that's a great --

16 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: -- bring  
17 that up as a good idea --

18 MS. JOHNSON: -- that's a wonderful  
19 point.

20 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: -- a  
21 recommendation.

22 MS. JOHNSON: I will talk to my

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1 colleague Mr. Williams about it.

2 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes, could  
3 we -- they do that every -- especially a university  
4 that's in walking distance with us -- with -- to --  
5 with us. And being that you already have a  
6 partnership with UDC at your Southwest Enhancement  
7 Center, then maybe we could also talk with them and  
8 they could teach something down there called  
9 environmental.

10 MS. JOHNSON: Okay. I will definitely  
11 speak with Mr. Williams about that. And just so  
12 that the Board is aware, we do have the partnership  
13 with Green and Healthy Homes.

14 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes.

15 MS. JOHNSON: They're the leading  
16 experts in the --

17 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes.

18 MS. JOHNSON: -- nation on this issue  
19 and they have been a wonderful resource for our  
20 residents and will continue to be through this  
21 process.

22 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: That's

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1 good.

2 MS. JOHNSON: But I will also talk to  
3 Mr. Williams about your recommendation as well.

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And I  
5 strongly suggest with Park Morton that we cross our  
6 Is and dot our Ts --

7 MS. JOHNSON: Okay.

8 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: -- because  
9 I'm asking Ms. High to do an audit, and the audit  
10 is for the previous human capital pieces. You have  
11 a collaborative that got paid off of Park Morton.  
12 We have on-site providers that's supposed to  
13 provide human capital, which every time I say that  
14 nobody in DCHA look at me like I'm lost. But  
15 whenever there is a property that's going to be  
16 dismantled, I know for a fact you have a human  
17 capital piece. And let me tell you what that means  
18 for the record, if you don't know.

19 It means that there is a component and  
20 you have your residents already know that they are  
21 ready to be dismantled. So the process of  
22 dismantlement is getting the residents to a

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1 self-sufficient position. That was one of the  
2 reasons why we have on-site providers.

3 Now once again I'm saying with Park  
4 Morton we have an opportunity to revisit that human  
5 capital piece because now since nobody followed my  
6 instruction, didn't care about my  
7 recommendation -- I did my research at the  
8 Committee on Resident Service Resident Initiative,  
9 and we had that collaborative in front of us. And  
10 I looked like a fool because the collaboratives no  
11 longer provide that human capital piece. And if  
12 we would have done it five years ago, they would  
13 have received grants. Collaboratives are no  
14 longer giving grants to the public housing  
15 presidents. So that's something we need to look  
16 into.

17 The human capital piece carries money.  
18 You keep giving non-profit money to come in our  
19 communities. Now no one is checking, tracking or  
20 monitoring the human capital piece. Barry Farm's  
21 human capital piece was Perry Munes' community.  
22 My collaborative is Edgewood. So a good exercise

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1 for the Housing Authority is to look at every public  
2 housing, find out who our collaborative is, and Mr.  
3 Williams will have those notes, because we only had  
4 two that wasn't present. They need to be  
5 revisited.

6 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: Mr. Chair?

7 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: That's  
8 all.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: May I? I  
11 sure wouldn't want to be in a position to -- not  
12 to accept \$4.5 million from the city without any  
13 strings attached. I think we -- the Housing  
14 Authority would be crazy to do that. In fact, we  
15 ought to be applauding the city for their  
16 willingness to give us another 4.5 million knowing  
17 we're going to go back to the city and we're going  
18 to need more money. So I'd like to move that we  
19 vote on this issue.

20 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I agree  
21 with you, but what I'm also saying, in the past --  
22 because we rush, and that's why Mr. Kenner who

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1 cannot always say what I want to say because New  
2 Communities does that human capital piece and the  
3 city has put it in. But he can't say that. I did  
4 my research and I'm saying it.

5 COMMISSIONER KENNER: I guess I can  
6 just for that point and then I'd want to second  
7 Commissioner Grossinger's -- you right, on the  
8 human capital piece for the New Communities we  
9 are -- we have our folks here. We're happy to give  
10 you a tracking of how we spent the money, who and  
11 what our outcomes have been because we could ask  
12 that question at our oversight hearing by many  
13 council members, so we are used to that.

14 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Was I out  
15 of place? Was I out of -- spoken at this crucial  
16 time to put it on record?

17 COMMISSIONER KENNER: So I will just  
18 say that we appreciate your passion around this and  
19 we're happy to --

20 (Simultaneous speaking.)

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And I'm  
22 glad that first you -- the first time that you ever

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1           been on the record and said more than a sentence.

2           I thank you for --

3                       COMMISSIONER KENNER:   Absolutely.

4                       COMMISSIONER       VANN-GHASRI:       --

5           stepping out of your line and collaborating with

6           me.

7                       (Laughter.)

8                       VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:       With that

9           being said, can I get a motion?

10                      PARTICIPANT:   There was a --

11                      VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:   Second?

12                      PARTICIPANT:   -- motion and a second.

13           It was seconded by Commissioner Kenner.

14                      VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:   Roll call,

15           please?

16                      MS. McNAIR:   Thank you.

17                      Commissioner Kenner?

18                      COMMISSIONER KENNER:   Yes.

19                      MS. McNAIR:   Commissioner St. Jean?

20                      COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN:   Yes.

21                      MS. McNAIR:   Commissioner Strickland?

22                      COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND:   Yes.

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1 MS. McNAIR: Let the record reflect  
2 that Commissioner Strickland voted yes.

3 Commissioner Taliaferro?

4 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Yes.

5 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner  
6 Vann-Ghasri?

7 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes.

8 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones?

9 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

10 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Bill Slover?

11 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I'm going to  
12 abstain. I just don't have enough information to  
13 make an accurate vote.

14 MS. McNAIR: Thank you.

15 Commissioner Grossinger?

16 COMMISSIONER GROSSINGER: Yes.

17 MS. McNAIR: And Vice Chairman  
18 Council?

19 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Yes.

20 MS. McNAIR: You have eight yes, one  
21 abstention. The resolution is approved.

22 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Resolution

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1 19-05.

2 MR. GARRETT: That's going to be both  
3 Andrea and Mr. McCoy from Housing Choice Voucher  
4 and Andrea from OGC.

5 MS. POWELL: Good afternoon,  
6 Commissioners and the public. My name is Andrea  
7 Powell from the Office of the General Counsel. I'm  
8 here with Ron McCoy to present Resolution 19-05,  
9 which is a resolution to adopt emergency  
10 regulations to amend the housing choice voucher  
11 local preferences in order to provide a way to offer  
12 a person in the Public Housing Program a unit in  
13 a project-based unit when there's a need for a  
14 mandatory transfer.

15 So for some background, we've been  
16 working -- staff has been working to place people  
17 in public housing who have a need for a mandatory  
18 transfer. A lot of times these are the  
19 environmental issues that we were speaking of.  
20 They also may be a public safety transfer and in  
21 some events it may be a relocation.

22 Staff is looking at all options to be

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1 able to find an appropriate unit for the person  
2 currently in public housing. And this resolution  
3 would permit the Housing Authority to offer a  
4 person in public housing who needs a mandatory  
5 transfer a unit that's currently under a  
6 project-based contract. So that's a contract  
7 that's with the Voucher Program where we would  
8 enter into a contract with an order for a certain  
9 number of units for 10 or 15 or 20 years.

10 We would be able to match the person who  
11 needs that mandatory transfer when we are not able  
12 to find another unit in our portfolio and provide  
13 them with an opportunity to move into a unit that's  
14 already under a contract. So this is what this  
15 resolution would permit, the ability to allow a  
16 person to be referred to a unit in a project-based  
17 unit in order to satisfy a need for a mandatory  
18 transfer move for environmental, public safety and  
19 other necessary relocations.

20 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: I had a  
21 question.

22 MS. POWELL: Sure.

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1                   COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: You all are  
2 talking about the vouchers and so forth. You have  
3 some of your residents that's complaining about  
4 when they go to the management, the management  
5 telling them they can't -- they are not allowed for  
6 a transfer. And I hear that from my residents.  
7 And I want to know what is you all doing. What's  
8 going on?

9                   MR. GARRETT: Commissioner  
10 Taliaferro --

11                   COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: I would like  
12 to know.

13                   MR. GARRETT: Commissioner  
14 Taliaferro, what we're talking about we're talking  
15 about a different scenario. We're talking about  
16 mandatory transfers where residents are --

17                   COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Oh, they're  
18 mandatory?

19                   MR. GARRETT: These are situations not  
20 with -- this is different from what your  
21 constituents may be talking about. What we're  
22 talking about are residents that have to have a

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1 mandatory transfer because of an environmental  
2 issue: that unit is unsafe or --

3 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: I  
4 understand. Okay.

5 MR. GARRETT: That's what we're  
6 talking about in this particular instance.

7 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Okay.

8 MR. GARRETT: We're not talking about  
9 the -- a resident that just -- that feels  
10 uncomfortable --

11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

12 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Right, it's  
13 more than one residence, but I understand that.

14 MR. GARRETT: Yes. Yes, this goes  
15 well beyond just the normal day-to-day transfer.  
16 this is really driven by our environmental issue.

17 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: This is  
18 mandatory?

19 MR. GARRETT: Yes, and driven -- but  
20 driven by environmental. It may also be driven  
21 by -- as Andrea said, it might be a public safety  
22 issue that we might have to deal with and we don't

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1 have any other unit to put that resident in also.

2 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Okay. I  
3 understand. Thank you.

4 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I have a  
6 hypothetical. So if I'm a resident council  
7 president and I have to move for environmental  
8 reasons -- and from what I understand that's a  
9 temporary movement because it's a possibility that  
10 you can remedy the problem, correct?

11 MR. GARRETT: IN these particular  
12 instances, Commissioner, we aren't returning  
13 residents to those units. Those units are being  
14 taken off line because of the extent of the  
15 environmental issue.

16 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay. So  
17 what I'm saying is -- so I'm a public housing  
18 resident and I'm the president of my resident  
19 council. So now I have to move, not for public  
20 safety, but I'm going to move for environmental.  
21 So once I move for -- move due to environmental  
22 issues, am I still the president of my resident

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1 council? That's a yes or no answer.

2 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

3 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I got to  
5 hear that from the Authority, not from the  
6 audience.

7 MS. POWELL: So once the person is  
8 moved out of the public housing unit, they would  
9 no longer be a public housing resident, so  
10 therefore they would not be the resident council  
11 president.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Now let me  
13 ask you this question: If I move for environmental  
14 reasons -- I'm a resident council president. I'm  
15 the authorized agent on your CSC contract. I'm  
16 also the authorized agent because at the present  
17 time it's a possibility that my unit -- maybe it  
18 was going to be a RAD, or the majority of the  
19 residents, they want to dismantle and it's a  
20 well-known fact. And I'm the president and I'm  
21 moved off the property to a voucher community.

22 So with those contracts what do you do?

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1 Do you remove my name off of the contracts? And  
2 if so, is there a policy to say how many days? Am  
3 I -- do I still have keys to my resident council  
4 office? Do I still have the right to communicate  
5 and find out information with the resident council  
6 president as any other elect resident council  
7 president? When I move to this environmental  
8 situation, do I have a letter that's telling me that  
9 I'm no longer the president, A, B and C? That's  
10 a yes or no answer.

11 MS. BONDS: So what would need to be  
12 done is through the resident council bylaws the  
13 next person who was elected to the president would  
14 take on those responsibilities. They would then  
15 become the president. There would need to be a  
16 transition probably working through the resident  
17 council, also through Barry Williams' office,  
18 Resident Services. So there would be a transition  
19 to make sure the keys got turned over and the proper  
20 next person took over the responsibilities.

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: So at no  
22 time you're going to -- at no time I can still remain

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1 the president?

2 MS. POWELL: Once you move to the new  
3 unit or that person moves they're not the president  
4 any longer. They are now a resident in the new  
5 unit.

6 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: How many  
7 public safety transfers do we have? How many have  
8 you accommodated and how many are still waiting and  
9 how do you know -- what is the priority of how do  
10 I get a public safety transfer? Based on your  
11 regulation how many days would you have to remove  
12 me from one location to another?

13 MR. GARRETT: Commissioner  
14 Vann-Ghasri, we would have to get you that  
15 information, but I do want to say one thing that  
16 did come up towards the end of the year and it was  
17 part of our overall look at how we were moving  
18 residential transfers was we had another scrub of  
19 the public safety transfers. Ms. Johnson headed  
20 that up where she went with Public Safety. Public  
21 Safety pulled all their records and they went back  
22 out to those individuals who had made those

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1 requests for transfers to find out whether or not  
2 those transfers were needed and still necessary.  
3 So we've done that. We can get you the total  
4 numbers within a couple of days.

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

7 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: How would this  
8 impact our waiting list, HCVP waiting list?

9 MR. McCOY: The hierarchy would be  
10 still families already that are -- have emergency  
11 situations that are already in our project-based  
12 portfolio. By that regulation they have the first  
13 right, but that very rarely ever happens to those  
14 units, to those vacant units. The next tier  
15 normally would be to go to our waiting list to  
16 refer -- get someone off our waiting list to refer.

17 Because of the sense of urgency for our  
18 ability to move families that are impacted by  
19 environmental, our waiting list would not be pulled  
20 as a second tier. That second tier will be  
21 families who need those units that are matched in  
22 our public housing portfolio to get them out of

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1 harm's way into a unit that meets our compliance.

2 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Okay. And  
3 then do we have anything in place to recognize  
4 environmental hazards?

5 MR. McCOY: Yes.

6 MR. GARRETT: Yes, through the  
7 inspections that we started last year going into  
8 the units we have a checklist that is utilized by  
9 the inspectors for each unit that we go into to  
10 identify exactly what the issues might be and then  
11 the team gets together and they create a process  
12 of escalating it to a point where repairs can't be  
13 made and where residents actually have to be moved.

14 Now I have to say in some other  
15 instances though, Commissioners, we have then gone  
16 in remediated the unit, meaning that there might  
17 have been mold or mildew and we felt that we had  
18 the ability to rectify that particular situation.  
19 But there are some extreme cases that we do run into  
20 sometimes that just -- it's just not effective to  
21 do it that way and we need to actually move  
22 residents to another unit or to allow them to

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1 utilize a voucher.

2 MR. McCOY: And to piggyback on the  
3 executive director, the executive director has  
4 asked that we expand our HELP to be able to  
5 accommodate those types of ongoing training and  
6 education to allow both our public housing and our  
7 Housing Choice Voucher participants on how to  
8 recognize things ongoing, like hazards and things  
9 like that. And so we will be ruling that out in  
10 sort order as quickly as we can to on the public  
11 housing residents that are now over in the larger  
12 side as well as the entire portfolio.

13 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: So can you  
14 elaborate what HELP means?

15 MR. McCOY: HELP is our Housing  
16 Enjoyable Livings Program where we work with our  
17 program participants to train them on how to be a  
18 good neighbor as well as some of the basic  
19 housekeeping trainings and things that they need  
20 to maintain their units to be in compliance with  
21 both our rules and whatever rules that they may have  
22 for housekeeping with their private landlord.

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1 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Okay. Thank  
2 you.

3 MR. GARRETT: Any more questions?  
4 (No audible response.)

5 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Is there a  
6 motion?

7 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Moved.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Second?

9 PARTICIPANT: Second.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Roll call,  
11 please?

12 MS. McNAIR: Thank you.

13 Commissioner St. Jean?

14 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes.

15 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Strickland?

16 COMMISSIONER STRICKLAND: Yes.

17 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Taliaferro?

18 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Yes.

19 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner  
20 Vann-Ghasri?

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Yes.

22 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Kenner?

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1 COMMISSIONER KENNER: Yes.

2 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Neal Jones?

3 COMMISSIONER NEAL JONES: Yes.

4 MS. McNAIR: Commissioner Slover?

5 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Yes.

6 MS. McNAIR: Vice Chairman Council?

7 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Yes.

8 MS. McNAIR: You have eight yes. The  
9 resolution is approved.

10 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Here's  
11 the part where we're going to go into our -- I guess  
12 you can tall it testimony or come before us and  
13 speak.

14 First I have is Ms. McGill. Can you  
15 state your name and the site that you're from?

16 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Can I make a  
17 request before we start? Can you provide the  
18 MOU --

19 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir.

20 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- that we  
21 just -- through the approval of 19-04 as soon as  
22 it's signed to the Board?

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1 MR. GARRETT: Yes, sir.

2 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Thank you.

3 MS. MCGILL: I'm Sheena McGill and I'm  
4 from Colorado Senior Apartment. I was down here  
5 before. I was at Ontario Road. I was your  
6 president of Ontario Road.

7 I just came down here today to  
8 personally thank the Board of Commissioners for  
9 taking the time out to listen to me and solve my  
10 matter within a timely manner. It was done within  
11 the proper time frame.

12 I also want to thank you all also for  
13 providing an awesome property manager, Ms. Dorothy  
14 Glynn. And we have an awesome HMA, Ms. Terri  
15 Goodwin.

16 I also want to take time out to thank  
17 maintenance because maintenance has been working  
18 wonders. Mr. Ezell Little and my former mechanic  
19 Mr. Tim Parker, they're awesome as well.

20 I want to thank Ms. Dawn Boyd for  
21 answering the phone. Ms. Brandy Lynch and Ms.  
22 Sponser. These young ladies has reached out to me

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1 on a Saturday/Sunday. They have picked up -- even  
2 Ms. Debra Jackson has picked up their phones if I  
3 needed them on a Saturday or a Sunday or reached  
4 out to me in an email on a Saturday or a Sunday,  
5 whether it was 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00 at night.

6 So I had to personally come down here  
7 and make sure I put that on record that you all knew  
8 about these staff members that you all have.  
9 They're awesome. And I think that I want to stand  
10 and give my own applause to all of them.

11 (Applause.)

12 MS. MCGILL: And that's all I came down  
13 here to say and just to say thank you.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.

15 Ms. Edwards?

16 MS. EDWARDS: Happy Wednesday,  
17 everyone.

18 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Hey, good  
19 afternoon.

20 MS. EDWARDS: Good evening. Good  
21 afternoon, Commissioners and Director Garrett.  
22 The purpose of me being here today is to get

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1 clarification on the way special election resident  
2 council voting procedures was done for Stoddert  
3 Terrace.

4 It was a week before election in April  
5 2018. Mr. Frakella Tyler came to Stoddert so that  
6 the residents could meet the candidates, which I  
7 was one of the residents running for vice  
8 president. He went over the dos and don'ts of the  
9 election and asked did everyone understand the  
10 election package that we had signed. It was a yes.  
11 Mr. Tyler then closed out this meeting and said it's  
12 in your hands to introduce ourselves to each other.

13 Well, on Thursday, April the 26th, 2018  
14 at 11:58 a.m., which was election day, I saw one  
15 of the candidates, Kanika Brown, still passing out  
16 flyers with the whole board members on it saying  
17 we run as one. Vote yes.

18 According to ORS Campaigning Rules 3,  
19 6, 8 and 9, on page 4, it states: Any complaint  
20 regarding violation of campaigning rules and  
21 regulations must be submitted to ORS in writing  
22 with supporting documents. I have with me today

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1 documents to support what it states.

2 My point is I submitted my grievancy  
3 with proof to ORS on May 1st, 2018. I could not  
4 understand why it was taking ORS so long to render  
5 a decision that matters so much to the residents  
6 and I.

7 On Tuesday, September the 18th, 2018 I  
8 emailed Mr. Larry Williams to get updates on my  
9 grievancy. What a surprise, when I came home from  
10 work an old card was in my door with stretched out  
11 words such as Chief of Staff, Office of Executive  
12 Director from Mr. Knox.

13 I called him to see what he wanted with  
14 me. He replied he wanted to come by to find out  
15 about what took place with the election. Mr. Knox  
16 came by a week before Christmas and stated he worked  
17 for GCO. I guess that's General Counsel Office.

18 PARTICIPANT: Yes.

19 MR. EDWARDS: I kindly told him what  
20 took place. He told me that he knew the  
21 candidate's mother Karen Settles. His words was  
22 I've been knowing Karen for a long time. I'm going

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1 to pay her daughter Kanika a visit.

2 Mr. Knox had a copy of the flyer I  
3 emailed, but it was dark so he came back to get a  
4 clear copy. Mr. Knox said Kanika Brown admit to  
5 him she was passing out flyers with all the board  
6 members' name on it on election day. I again  
7 reached back out to Mr. Williams on December 23rd,  
8 2018 to get status on my grievancy process. His  
9 words were, Ms. Edwards, the matter is still being  
10 sorted out.

11 ORS is not responding to making a  
12 decision in this matter. As a concerned resident  
13 I feel I have been dis-respected for 10 months my  
14 grievancy is still on mute waiting for OGs to hold  
15 my grievancy in a professional manner and it's  
16 almost May 2019.

17 Question: Is this how Department of Housing  
18 Authority handle business with their concerned  
19 residents daily?

20 Lastly, I have dedicated my service to  
21 Stoddert/Fort Dupont and I will continue because  
22 I am a part of the village and the patience and

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1 passion I have for children -- if I can repeat,  
2 children and their families. I spare no pain to  
3 do anything possible for the good of the people in  
4 our community. Thanks everyone for your time.  
5 Frieda Edwards.

6 (Applause.)

7 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Are there any  
8 questions?

9 MR. GARRETT: I do have a comment.  
10 Commissioners, I believe this is with the OGC and  
11 they are investigating exactly what the next steps  
12 should be. I don't know whether or not Mr.  
13 Slaughter or Mr. Williams want to -- if they would  
14 like to offer any comments on the status, but we  
15 do know that it is being looked into by OGC  
16 currently.

17 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Do we have a  
18 timeline on how long it's going to take?

19 MR. GARRETT: I have to defer to Mr.  
20 Slaughter on that.

21 MR. SLAUGHTER: Yes, we did a  
22 preliminary pass and we should be able to finish

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1 our second pass later this week.

2 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. All  
3 right. Thank you, Ms. Edwards.

4 MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Ms. Carroll?

6 (No response.)

7 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Mary Carroll?

8 (No response.)

9 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Ms. Belt?

10 MS. BELT: All righty.

11 MS. CARROLL: I was kind of asleep back  
12 there, but good afternoon.

13 I moved from -- I'm Detrice Belt. I'm  
14 the chair of the Barry Farms Tenants and Allies.  
15 I just recently move from Barry Farms about two  
16 weeks or more. The move was very hard for me. I'm  
17 still -- I still have things in my unit because I  
18 was rushed to move. We had to move into my unit  
19 by a specific time all the way on another side of  
20 town. I'm a different -- now I'm in a different  
21 ward, so I'm very upset about that. That I was Ward  
22 8, and now I don't even know what ward I am now.

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1 I still consider myself Ward 8.

2 But we had to move at a specific time.  
3 We had to be at my place. Then we had to put things  
4 in storage. The movers were -- I was told that HOU  
5 was going to move me, was going to put things in  
6 storage and we were going to be able to trash  
7 whatever. They would be able to get rid of  
8 everything else and put it in the trash, do a bulk  
9 trash. We were not able to do the bulk trash  
10 because we had to rush and get into my new place  
11 at a specific time, all this in one day.

12 So that was very hard, very stressful  
13 for me because I didn't want to move. I still feel  
14 that the -- everything could have been done a  
15 different way. I feel that we should have been  
16 able to just move on the property. It was very  
17 hard.

18 So talking with my property like  
19 receptionist and just expressing that -- because  
20 we had to do like a walk-through after the fact and  
21 I still have things in my house. So she's like  
22 there's going to be a charge. And I'm saying the

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1 maintenance men that's at Barry Farm property are  
2 not doing any daily maintenance calls or having  
3 issues going on with other residents, why can't  
4 they move the remaining little teeny bit of things  
5 that are left in my house?

6 Why am I going to be charged a \$300 fee  
7 for the rest of the things that were -- that was  
8 told to me that in this move it will be so smooth.  
9 You'll be able to move your things. They'll be  
10 able to trash things and you'll be able to go to  
11 storage? We were not able to do all of those  
12 things.

13 So I don't know how I'm going to be able  
14 to afford to pay or it's going to go on my ledger.  
15 I already owe enough to the Housing Authority,  
16 which I think is unfair for me living in those  
17 conditions in Barry Farms for so long.

18 Then our mail -- once I moved there's  
19 a mail system issue. The mail is not being  
20 delivered at Barry Farms no longer. I called all  
21 these places and they said that -- no one's there.  
22 Nobody's -- I called like the Postal Service and

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1 they're like no one's there so that mail person is  
2 not going to be delivering anymore mail there. I  
3 think that's unfair. A lot of residents were still  
4 coming back to check their mailbox even if they were  
5 gone. So they're like we'll try to -- you know,  
6 whatever I had to do with the Postal Service.

7 I only received like two pieces of mail.  
8 I'm waiting on my -- all my information to be  
9 transferred over to my new place. It has not been  
10 done yet. I think that's very concerning. And  
11 there are still residents there. I had to tell the  
12 Postal Service that everybody has not moved,  
13 because even if you've taken a place and chose to  
14 go somewhere, it's still a process and there are  
15 still residents there. My mom still lives on the  
16 property.

17 So all of this is just very concerning.  
18 I don't want this charge. If you could talk to the  
19 people in Barry Farms. I don't know. They should  
20 not charge me because I was told that HOU or  
21 whatever, the relocation team will be able to --  
22 it's still there. My apartment -- my place is

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1 still open and it's just a little bit of things.  
2 I know residents who have left before this whole  
3 forced move-out thing took place over two years  
4 ago. There was families that moved on their own  
5 and they have left their whole unit and I know they  
6 were not charged \$300.

7 MR. GARRETT: Ms. Belt, there won't be  
8 a charge.

9 MS. BELT: Okay. And then so I just  
10 want to know now like what's going on. What's  
11 happening. We haven't heard anything as far as  
12 what's the next steps, what's going on. I'm  
13 worried. You all had an emergency meeting I didn't  
14 know about last month. I'm very concerned of the  
15 future of Barry Farm. I want to get back as soon  
16 as possible. I'm not comfortable living in  
17 another part of DC.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Commissioner?

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Director  
20 Garrett, here's my recommendation for the mail:  
21 When this happens again maybe we can have a list  
22 of all the names. But we're going to have one

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1       problem: I guess we won't, because if you have the  
2       list of all the names who relocated in that  
3       community and you give their address -- then with  
4       the United States Postal Service you can call the  
5       master general office. And being that residents  
6       may not want to take the responsibility, or they  
7       may not even know how to move from one place to  
8       another and that you have to do it through the  
9       Postal Service. So I think -- and then you have --  
10      like I said, you have residents who don't know the  
11      system.

12                    So the District of Columbia Housing  
13      Authority through maybe the Office of Resident  
14      Service, being that you already know the names, you  
15      already know where the person going to live, just  
16      give the United States Postal Service a master  
17      list. So that would cover the DCHA and it would  
18      cover whether a person knew the process or didn't,  
19      because that's what's holding this up. And I don't  
20      want to see Park Morton and nobody else be hold up  
21      like Barry Farms.

22                    So we have learned from our mistakes.

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1 We're going to always make some mistakes, Ms. Belt,  
2 but I can assure you they will be new ones.

3 Now once we take your advice; and we may  
4 do this, but if a resident ask you why it's being  
5 done because they didn't want somebody to do it,  
6 I would appreciate it you'd tell them that you came  
7 to the Board meeting and it impact Barry Farms.  
8 And it would become a policy. That's how it become  
9 policy.

10 Because let me tell you what I'm finding  
11 out as a Commissioner. I find out that people find  
12 something that impact them. This Board vote in  
13 your favor. I don't know whether you know whether  
14 we vote in your favor or not, but when you -- when  
15 everybody is around DC, nobody says, well, you  
16 know, duh, duh, duh, duh, duh, duh, duh.

17 I really started that. Like I tell  
18 people -- I get blamed all the time with communities  
19 saying Commissioner Vann-Ghasri don't work  
20 together with other communities. She's  
21 territorial. I don't lie. I tell them, yes, I'm  
22 territorial. I tell the resident community be

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1 territorial. Identify your own issues. So  
2 that's not blamed on the Housing Authority. The  
3 Housing Authority is not territorial.  
4 Commissioner Vann-Ghasri is. So I make that very  
5 clear so you don't blame all of us.

6 And I really appreciate you coming here  
7 sharing that about the United States Postal  
8 Service. Thank you so much.

9 And I hope you take that into  
10 consideration. And we also may have people in  
11 Barry Farms that here help so. They could be  
12 hearing-impaired as well. So we may need to do  
13 that.

14 Thank you, Ms. Belt.

15 MR. GARRETT: So what we'll do is  
16 Commissioners -- I don't know if I made you aware,  
17 but we did internally start to create a -- we've  
18 created our own relocation unit now that will deal  
19 specifically with these situations, especially  
20 with the environmental coming up. So we have an  
21 internal unit that's going to deal with relocation.  
22 So I'm glad Ms. Belt brought that up about the mail

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1 delivery. So through our mobility counseling  
2 where we engage residents that might be something  
3 that we add to make sure that -- and ensure that  
4 they complete a forwarding mail address or  
5 something like that so that their mail can be  
6 delivered to them. I don't know whether or not the  
7 postmaster will accept a master list or not.

8 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: We don't  
9 know. All you have to do is --

10 MR. GARRETT: But we'll do that. But  
11 we'll make sure that each resident knows how to ask  
12 for mail forwarding if that's what --COMMISSIONER  
13 VANN-GHASRI: And not only Ms. Belt. I'm going to  
14 speak for the rest of the constituents. Just like  
15 you told Ms. Belt she won't have to pay \$300, make  
16 sure that nobody else do either.

17 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Thank you  
19 so much.

20 MS. BELT: It wasn't just about the  
21 forwarding, Tyrone. It just would have been very  
22 helpful that if like the postal or somebody, the

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1 Housing Authority, should have sent out notice to  
2 residents that your mail was no longer going to be  
3 there. Now I'm not -- I don't have any of my mail.  
4 Just two pieces of mail. So I'm very worried that  
5 I won't get orders. And I have my orders luckily  
6 to my new place, but I'm just -- and even with the  
7 new place they have a whole way of -- it's  
8 different.

9 At Barry Farm we were able to get our  
10 packages put at our door and it was safe. For me.  
11 I know I got packages delivered. Now and it's like  
12 a whole situation where they may not deliver some  
13 things at the new place. I'll have to -- they don't  
14 even know -- I said, okay, well, where do I pick  
15 it up at? And they said, oh, that's a good  
16 question. We don't know yet. And it's nothing in  
17 my mail that says come -- like you normally get like  
18 a little card that says pick it up at this location.  
19 So I'm just very worried. And this whole move is  
20 just very hard and that's why we really were just  
21 trying to keep it --

22 (Simultaneous speaking.)

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1 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Ms. Belt, if I  
2 may --

3 MS. BELT: -- hard for other --  
4 (Simultaneous speaking.)

5 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: -- if I may  
6 suggest something. Did you do a change of address?

7 MS. BELT: Yes. Yes. After the fact.

8 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: If they're not  
9 delivering anymore mail --

10 MS. BELT: Yes.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: -- wherever  
12 your main post office is at Barry Farms --

13 MS. BELT: Yes.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: -- that's  
15 where they will hold your mail until they get that  
16 change of address. So that's where everything  
17 should be waiting for you.

18 MS. BELT: Right, that's what happened  
19 to even -- it was a woman that talked -- she -- they  
20 were going to do that. Then I went up there to get  
21 it and she had to call somebody and she's like now  
22 it's going to be sent to your other place. And I'm

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1 like I would prefer to pick it up here because when  
2 you go send it somewhere else, things can get messed  
3 up. And so far I only got two pieces of mail. And  
4 I know I have a bulk of mail. And I -- it's tax  
5 time. I want my W-2s.

6 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: I got a  
7 question for you. What property are you at again?

8 MS. BELT: Now I'm at Hayes.

9 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Hayes?

10 MS. BELT: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: 5201?

12 MS. BELT: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: Okay. One  
14 think about the post office -- and I did a transfer  
15 saying forward --

16 MS. BELT: Yes.

17 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: -- the best  
18 thing to do, when you get that letter, you should  
19 be doing your transfer at the post office at that  
20 time, because if you wait --

21 MS. BELT: Yes.

22 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: -- two,

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1 three months later after they give you that letter  
2 and you're ready to move --

3 MS. BELT: Yes.

4 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: -- you  
5 might -- you're going to have a hard time.

6 MS. BELT: No, the thing was Barry  
7 Farms should've had gave residents saying like you  
8 like -- or it was nothing. We were still able to  
9 check our mail. And then all of a sudden just  
10 nothing was in the mailbox. And then I just -- and  
11 it was like nobody told -- informed residents, hey,  
12 your mail will not be delivered here anymore.

13 COMMISSIONER TALIAFERRO: I got you.  
14 Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Are there any  
16 more questions?

17 (No response.)

18 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay.

19 PARTICIPANT: The lady from Garfield  
20 wanted -- the one on this list that wanted -- they  
21 got a ride. They want to know can you get them  
22 next?

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1                   COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI:     Sure Ms.  
2 Mitchell could come next.

3                   VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:     Who's Ms.  
4 Mitchell?

5                   MR. GARRETT:     Ye, she sure can.   Come  
6 on, Ms. Mitchell.

7                   VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:     Come on, Ms.  
8 Mitchell.   Then after that everybody else come on  
9 up.

10                  MS. MITCHELL:     Hello, everybody.

11                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER:     Hey,   good  
12 afternoon.

13                  MS. MITCHELL:     I'm about to go to  
14 sleep.

15                                 (Laughter.)

16                  MS. MITCHELL:     Taking you all so long.  
17 And, Mr. Council, I heard what you said.   If I lays  
18 in the sand, you were going to put me up.   Now, I  
19 mean, you didn't say it exactly like  
20 that --

21                  VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:     Right.

22                  MS. MITCHELL:     -- but that's what you

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1 meant. But don't try it with me.

2 (Laughter.)

3 MS. MITCHELL: Okay? Hold on. This  
4 is the new secretary of the Resident Council at  
5 Garfield.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. MITCHELL: Mr. Garrett --

8 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

9 MS. MITCHELL: -- I really want to  
10 thank you for making it so that we could have a new  
11 election.

12 MR. GARRETT: Thank you.

13 MS. MITCHELL: Thank you.

14 MR. GARRETT: You're welcome.

15 MS. MITCHELL: Give him a hand.

16 MR. GARRETT: Thank you.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. MITCHELL: And I want to bring my  
19 new president up with me. Now I'm going to let them  
20 talk. I'm not going to say nothing.

21 MS. NORMAN: Actually, no, I am the new  
22 secretary of Garfield Terrace Resident Council.

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1                   VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL:    State your  
2 name and the site.

3                   MS. NORMAN:    Okay.  My name is Angela  
4 Norman and I am the new secretary at Garfield  
5 Terrace Resident Council.

6                   Commissioners   and   Director   Tyrone  
7 Garrett, we would like to thank the Commission for  
8 the opportunity to present the needs and requests  
9 of Garfield Terrace residents.  We would also like  
10 to acknowledge Larry Williams for providing some  
11 of the items requested for an appropriate  
12 transition and leadership of your resident  
13 council.

14                   The following demands are a result of  
15 evidence-based finding of an equity financial  
16 transaction by our former vice president,  
17 treasurer, and poor financial management by DC  
18 Housing Authority staff from Office of Resident  
19 Services.

20                   DCHA ORS staff under the supervision of  
21 Director Garrett did not have accurate control over  
22 granted funds, did not establish appropriate

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1 financial aid and project management logs of the  
2 vendors and orders, did not retain adequate  
3 accounting records, did not follow proper  
4 procedures and paid vendors for services not  
5 performed and/or of low quality.

6 For the reasons above we seniors and  
7 residents are here to demand immediate special  
8 election for vice president and treasurer to  
9 transfer all the remaining funds, 29,040 --  
10 29 --40 -- 29 thousand 40 -- 6.68 cents from the  
11 Niles Bolton Association Community Agreement,  
12 57,558 directly to Garfield Resident Council.  
13 Four unit -- (3) four unit to be put off-line. We  
14 assessed that likely over 30 units are available  
15 to be used for training on workforce and economic  
16 development programs. (4) For management to  
17 provide us with a written policy for parking and  
18 that we want them reserved with the resident  
19 council at the table and addressing our needs. (5)  
20 An audit of the 2.5 million spent by Department of  
21 Energy and Environment two-year weatherization and  
22 solar installation project at Garfield Terrace.

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1           The demands above will guarantee that  
2           our resident council/Garfield Terrace residents  
3           have the ability to manage our own housing project,  
4           provide for our own opportunity for economic  
5           development grants, grants us self-sufficiency and  
6           self-determination, improve our living conditions  
7           and enhance direct services for our seniors and  
8           residents.

9           MR. UMAR:       Sincerely, Mr. Umar,  
10          president of Garfield Terrace.

11          We got sworn in the last of November and  
12          it was not a smooth transition at all by resident  
13          manager. At all by Mr. Tyler. It was not a  
14          transition at all. We had a dinner that I asked  
15          you yourself to come to our property because it was  
16          all messed up. Everything is messed up at our  
17          property. I asked personally Mr. Garrett. I gave  
18          you a document of what we sent to Mr. Tyler. You  
19          never replied. You gave a promise that you would  
20          come there. You didn't. I spoke to you -- I tried  
21          to talk to you several times. Always got diverted  
22          by Mr. Williams or somebody else to talk directly

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1 to you about our problems.

2 For one, we had got, not a grant, a  
3 donation for \$67,558. At our first meeting I asked  
4 them to bring the paperwork of how much money was  
5 spent for that. When they -- we got this from Mr.  
6 Williams. It ain't even really a statement. It's  
7 not signed by anybody. It doesn't anything but  
8 Garfield Terrace. It said that we had 11 -- from  
9 \$67,558 they told us all we had was \$11,800 -- 900 --  
10 I mean, 11,893.93 left. I said that's wrong. We  
11 need to audit it now. Right now.

12 You know what happened the next week?  
13 They came back and told us, correction, we now have  
14 \$29,040.68.

15 (Applause.)

16 MR. UMAR: Now also -- I didn't -- well,  
17 my folder right there, but it's cool. I don't need  
18 to break for that because we're already late. But  
19 my thing is is this: The information that Mr.  
20 Williams sent us was all discombobulated. It was  
21 all mixed up with Park Morton property and it said  
22 68,000. It was \$67,000. When I added it up, it

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1 was discombobulated because all of the count came  
2 to \$82,000. How it got that a way, y'all fault.

3 My thing is that even the equipment  
4 that you ordered -- this is a senior citizen  
5 building. Why would you order office supply for  
6 a senior citizen building? We have a -- we have  
7 two televisions in there that costed \$4,200. They  
8 are not televisions. They are monitors. They are  
9 monitors. We have furniture in there that -- they  
10 pay for outside benches. If Ms. Mitchell sit in  
11 it, it's going to break. They that cheap. We have  
12 a microwave that you pay -- a commercial microwave  
13 you paid \$302 for? A microwave for a senior  
14 citizen place?

15 You also stated a lot of stuff that you  
16 did that could have been done with housing that you  
17 charged. I have all the documents because Mr.  
18 Williams sent them to me. Right?

19 And also the stuff that you supposed to  
20 have done in our unit was not done properly.

21 Right now we are requesting -- since you lied  
22 about our money, immediately we want a check today

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1 for \$29,040.68 today before we leave this building  
2 because Mr. Williams told me and written me an email  
3 when I told him we need that money before Wednesday,  
4 before we got here. He prolonged again. We'll  
5 talk to you Thursday. Thursday is too late. We  
6 need our money today before we leave here.

7 (Applause.)

8 MR. UMAR: We want a vote on it. If  
9 not, we're taking it to the media. We're taking  
10 it to the media. Straight to the media. Because  
11 all this information is inaccurate. We got  
12 documents from Howard University say one thing.  
13 Y'all say one thing. Is not right. You overspent  
14 our money.

15 Besides that, you -- we also found out  
16 from y'all opening up a can of worms we went  
17 fishing. Two point seven -- two point five million  
18 dollars signed by you, Mr. Garrett, that you  
19 completed in September, September the 17th, 2018,  
20 where you said that you installed solar paneling  
21 successfully on Garfield Terrace senior citizen  
22 building. For one, I'm going to ask any of

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1 y'all -- do any of y'all know about solar?  
2 Probably not. We read it. Installed it. You  
3 haven't told the resident manager, the president,  
4 nobody how that solar is install, how it operate.  
5 We know how it do.

6 You -- I don't understand how you spent  
7 \$2.5 million on some shower heads that government  
8 give us already. I don't know how you spent on  
9 the thermostats that don't work in our building at  
10 all. They are not compatible with the system.  
11 They run on two levels: hot or cold. That's it.  
12 You have to turn it off at a certain because you  
13 will get a nosebleed. And you get too cold. See,  
14 my sergeant at arms couldn't make it today because  
15 she's sick from the heat because she couldn't turn  
16 it off. They got trouble turning it on and off.

17 And also we would like for you, all of  
18 you all to come in our building, and everyone else  
19 to come in our building and walk from the 10th floor  
20 down and you show us how you spent 2.5 million that  
21 don't exist.

22 (Applause.)

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1                   MR. UMAR: But you're saying that we --  
2                   you sit there and saying that the housing is in  
3                   trouble. I done been in your office. It's pimped  
4                   out. I done seen the new trucks you got. It's  
5                   pimped out. We need stuff done for housing. I  
6                   know you can answer to that part real quick, but  
7                   what I am saying today when we leave here we want  
8                   a check for \$29,000. If not, we will meet the media  
9                   out front because we want our money. We know how  
10                  to manage it. And it's proven that you lied and  
11                  said that it was 11,000, but when I said audit that,  
12                  but it's 29,000.

13                  And for the record to reflect, Mr.  
14                  Taliaferro, you are the senior over the seniors.  
15                  For the record I need you to help us get every single  
16                  minute for our 250 -- for our \$2.5 million. If you  
17                  audit records on us, we want them audit on you every  
18                  single minute, every minute for this two -- and if  
19                  you come up on the roof; you said you fixed the  
20                  solar, it's leaking. It's leaking. It's  
21                  leaking. It's leaking. It was leaking when you  
22                  finished it and you sit there and signed it and said

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1 that it was complete. It's incomplete, out of  
2 compliance, mismanage of money. And we want to see  
3 it. We want to see all of it.

4 And that -- and with that, that \$2.5  
5 million was dedicated to Garfield Terrace. Guess  
6 what? When y'all finish this audit that we want,  
7 we want the remaining dollars spent on us. We  
8 would like to be able to govern our own money  
9 because it's evident that the money has been  
10 misappropriated. And if you need the proof, it's  
11 all right here. I got it from you all. Mr.  
12 Williams his self.

13 And I'm tired of you telling us to keep  
14 waiting. I've been in office since December.  
15 December. And excuse me for being loud. That's  
16 just the way I am. That's just the tone of my  
17 voice. So don't get that misconstrued at all.

18 But what I am saying once again for the  
19 record if we do not -- somebody come down and give  
20 us a check today, guess what, y'all will be on the  
21 news tomorrow. Whatever channel take it with all  
22 the information right here. Every single thing.

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1           Because, Mr. Garrett, you are out of  
2 compliance. I asked you several times to come up  
3 there. Several times. Now the water -- if you go  
4 out -- not only that, if you look on top of that  
5 roof, they said they spent a million dollars. It's  
6 a disaster. The bricks ain't done right. And it  
7 wasn't even power washed when they was finished.  
8 And the rails are still weak. And they knocked  
9 down one light from up there that wasn't replaced.  
10 And you -- and they said they charged us a million  
11 dollars.

12           We don't want to sit here and keep  
13 waiting on no check that you keep saying that you  
14 got to go through another service and it's in the  
15 same building right after you sit there and told  
16 me that you had already had -- you had already  
17 talked to them. I'm going into a meeting right now  
18 to talk about this. Then I get a email wait until  
19 Thursday. We don't want to wait until Thursday.  
20 We don't want wait to no other days. We want our --  
21 stop passing the buck. You opened up a can of  
22 worms, we fishing. We want to know about this and

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1 these other grants.

2 And for the record I would like for  
3 everybody that's on these properties, senior and  
4 the families, check your web site. Go online to  
5 Facebook and type in grants for your property. I  
6 trust and believe you, they done put -- they done  
7 got grants on your property because they got one  
8 with us mixed up with Park Morton -- I mean Ledroit  
9 Park. So apparently you don't mixed up money with  
10 Ledroit Park, too, because this is more than enough  
11 that we supposedly had gotten. And then you mixed  
12 it up. So we want our money today. If not, like  
13 I told you, the news media will hear about all of  
14 y'all.

15 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Mr. Umar,  
16 may I ask you a question?

17 MR. UMAR: Yes, ma'am.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: First and  
19 foremost, I want to thank Larry Williams of the  
20 District of Columbia Housing Authority, Office of  
21 Resident Service. I chair that committee. And I  
22 appreciate the fact that you sit before us today

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1 and you tell us that we have a director of resident  
2 service who actually gave you all the information.  
3 Let's give Mr. Williams a clap.

4 (Applause.)

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Is this the  
6 first time that you experienced that you finally  
7 got documents that you requested under -- for  
8 Office of Resident Service?

9 MR. UMAR: Say again?

10 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Is this the  
11 first time you requested information on the Office  
12 of Resident Service prior to Mr. Garrett coming  
13 here? Have you ever?

14 MR. UMAR: Well, no, first -- when we  
15 first had the problem I spoke to -- I tried to speak  
16 to Mr. Garrett, but I got being diverted back to  
17 everybody else. But Mr. -- like you say, Mr.  
18 Williams did do his diligent job.

19 I commend you on that, Mr. Williams. I  
20 can't knock you for that. Just that you got caught  
21 in the mix of what was going on. But I appreciate  
22 that. But no.

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1                   COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: That's all  
2 I wanted for the record, to make the record reflect  
3 correctly. Thank you so much.

4                   (Applause.)

5                   MR. UMAR: Now could I get a reply back  
6 about our money?

7                   COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Can I ask a quick  
8 question, if that's okay?

9                   MR. UMAR: Yes.

10                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Can you tell me  
11 what the \$67,558 grant from the Niles Bolton  
12 Association -- what was the original intent for it?  
13 What was the money supposed to be used for? Why  
14 was it granted to you?

15                  MR. UMAR: Well, it wasn't a grant.  
16 Actually it was a donation, right? It wasn't a  
17 grant. But it was -- I wasn't the president at the  
18 time, but I lived in the building. It was for --  
19 to fix the ninth floor community room. Also the  
20 second floor community room. And our ninth floor  
21 outside porch deck, our outside community room  
22 off -- outside.

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1                   COMMISSIONER SLOVER: And who was the  
2 money given to? In other words, it was given from  
3 this association to whom?

4                   MR. UMAR: It was never given to us at  
5 all. It was always directed by them. It should  
6 have -- it's supposed --

7                   COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Who is them?

8                   MR. UMAR: Mr. Garrett. His name is on  
9 this.

10                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Okay.

11                  MR. UMAR: Him and Mr. Fasad Taylor.  
12 They directed this.

13                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Okay. So, Mr.  
14 Garrett, can you explain to me -- the money was  
15 never given to the Garfield Resident council?

16                  MR. UMAR: No, not at all.

17                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Or was it never  
18 intended to be given to them?

19                  MR. UMAR: It should have been.

20                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER: But why?

21                  MR. UMAR: Ask them.

22                  COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I'm asking you.

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1 MR. UMAR: Well, I don't know why. I  
2 wasn't the president at the time, but it should have  
3 been.

4 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Well, you're  
5 coming and you're asking for the money, so --

6 MR. UMAR: Yes, well, I'm asking for  
7 the money because they lied and said it was six --  
8 I mean, \$11,000, but it's 26,000. We can govern  
9 our own money.

10 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: But I'm  
11 wondering --

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI:  
13 Commissioner Slover, he's the 2018 elect council.

14 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: What I'm asking  
15 is --

16 (Simultaneous speaking.)

17 MR. UMAR: It was a special election.

18 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I'll get -- I'm  
19 interested more in how the money was awarded, to  
20 whom it was awarded and for what it was awarded for.

21 MR. GARRETT: Both Mr. Slaughter and  
22 Mr. Williams can talk about the funding allocation,

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1 Commissioner Slover.

2 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Because you're  
3 demanding us give you a check and I'm just wondering  
4 what authority you would have to do that.

5 MR. SLAUGHTER: Ken Slaughter, general  
6 counsel. In fact I negotiated the transfer, the  
7 support of the community room improvements at  
8 Garfield with the lawyer for the developer.  
9 There's a new building across the street from  
10 Garfield and as a part of their effort to support --  
11 gain community support certainly from the tenant  
12 group at Garfield they also secured support from  
13 the Ledroit Park tenant group and that's why you  
14 see expenditures from both -- for both enterprises.

15 The monies were never intended to go  
16 directly to the tenant group. They were directed  
17 to the Housing Authority to make the improvements,  
18 and it included furniture and some capital  
19 improvements to that area. I didn't know about the  
20 second floor. I certainly knew about the ninth  
21 floor. And so there is no -- whatever may have been  
22 an accounting discrepancy discovered by Mr.

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1 Williams is after the fact. He was not here nor  
2 involved in any expenditures, nor was Mr. Slover.

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: That's  
4 correct.

5 MR. SLAUGHTER: So these all -- this  
6 all predated, except me, the current regime. And  
7 the effort of course is to make sure that we're  
8 fully accounting for all expenditures and that --  
9 more importantly that the improvements are done as  
10 contemplated in the arrangement.

11 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Absolutely.  
12 I'm just trying to get to the bottom of the thought  
13 or the feeling that there should be a check written  
14 to the Garfield Resident Council Association --

15 MR. SLAUGHTER: That's not the intent.

16 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- because --  
17 and the reason I asked when the money was given by  
18 the developer, it was -- sounds like it was given  
19 to DCHA on behalf of doing these improvements. So  
20 as the controller of the money we really don't have  
21 the right --

22 MR. SLAUGHTER: We do not.

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1           COMMISSIONER SLOVER:  -- to give the  
2 money to anybody else.  And so really what it  
3 sounds like is we have to sit down and make sure  
4 that the resident council feels like we have spent  
5 the money efficiently and effectively and  
6 exhausted all those resources and just really not  
7 an accounting situation.  And then whatever monies  
8 are left over, make sure they're directed to what  
9 they were given for.

10           COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI:  And, Mr.  
11 Umar, please, may I say something, because you're  
12 not on the record, right?  Beau Luther is the 2018  
13 elect resident council president who has the right  
14 with the transition to acquire all monies, all door  
15 keys from the previous council, because they were  
16 just taught that at the 2018 resident retreat.  So  
17 what he did was exercise his rights, but he didn't  
18 just say 2018.  And so we was confused.  A lot of --  
19 the Commissioners was confused whether or not  
20 you -- the previous president or the present.  So  
21 in your testimony always say you the 2018 elect  
22 president so that would clear that.  Thank you.

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1 MR. UMAR: Yes, ma'am. Thank you.

2 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And that's  
3 all I wanted to say --

4 MR. UMAR: Thank you.

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: --  
6 Commissioner Slover because I know your mind like  
7 you know mine.

8 (Laughter.)

9 MR. UMAR: Mr. Garrett?

10 MR. GARRETT: No, I don't have anything  
11 to say.

12 MR. UMAR: I mean you should. I mean  
13 you really should.

14 MR. GARRETT: Mr. Slover --

15 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Well, that's  
16 where I'm confused. So we're really --

17 MR. GARRETT: Mr. Slover really  
18 answered -- I mean Mr. Slaughter answered the  
19 question in terms of the remaining money.

20 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: I'm confused as  
21 to the demand for the money. As a Commissioner our  
22 job is respond to these things. And I want to be

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1 responsive, but -- and so I asked where the money  
2 was -- in other words, the grant was given to the  
3 DCHA. So the developer gave -- it sounds to me  
4 like, from what I'm being told here, that the money,  
5 the grant or the gift, or whatever, the donation,  
6 whatever you want to call it was given from the  
7 entity -- the receiving entity was DCHA, not the  
8 Garfield Resident Council.

9 MR. UMAR: It was part of Garfield --  
10 if was our -- it was also Howard's -- Howard  
11 University also was involved with it, too. They  
12 got pushed out, too, by Housing.

13 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: But what I'm  
14 saying is that from a legal transfer perspective  
15 the money was transferred from entity A to entity  
16 B, entity A being the developer, entity B being  
17 DCHA. The money is what we'll call earmarked to  
18 perform the services as called for by the  
19 grant/donation. And so really the discrepancy is  
20 about whether all the money has been spent and  
21 whether it's been spent to the right place. It's  
22 not about cutting you a check for \$20,000. It's

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1 about making sure that all 67,558 have been  
2 expended where they should be.

3 MR. GARRETT: Correct.

4 MR. UMAR: But it was already  
5 misappropriated from the beginning when we first  
6 mentioned this with all this stuff that was -- why  
7 would you buy office furniture for a senior citizen  
8 building from Staples?

9 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Well, those all  
10 judgment calls.

11 MR. UMAR: They ain't judgments. They  
12 facts. They got them.

13 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: No, but I mean  
14 the money was spent. I'm saying you may not --

15 MR. UMAR: It was uselessly spent.  
16 Uselessly.

17 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Right. You  
18 might -- I understand that that's --

19 MR. UMAR: So why should we continue to  
20 keep letting it be -- why should we continue to let  
21 it keep being usefully spent -- I spent unwisely  
22 when you just sit there -- they just sit there and

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1 say that we had 11,000 until I spoke to Mr. Williams  
2 and he made a correction and got it straight to  
3 29,000?

4 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Okay. So  
5 now --

6 MR. UMAR: So you think we should  
7 continue to --

8 (Simultaneous speaking.)

9 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- that you know  
10 that you there's 29,040.68, maybe I would suggest  
11 that you guys sit down and see how we could best  
12 spend that 29,000.68.

13 MR. UMAR: We already tried that.  
14 Every --

15 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Oh, okay.

16 MR. UMAR: -- we keep getting a  
17 runaround.

18 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Mr. Umar --

19 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: And so that  
20 would be my suggestion.

21 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: -- don't  
22 kill the policy.

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1 MR. UMAR: I mean, what about our --  
2 (Simultaneous speaking.)

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Right now  
4 you're winning, Ms. Mitchell. Don't lose.  
5 You're winning right now.

6 MR. UMAR: What about our \$2.5 million,  
7 Mr. Garrett?

8 MR. UMAR:

9 MR. GARRETT: As you identified, Mr.  
10 Umar, those -- that went into improvements,  
11 correct?

12 MR. UMAR: No, it wasn't improvement.  
13 It's a disaster. If you -- that's the reason why  
14 I'd like for you all to come up there and start from  
15 the 10th floor and go down. And you can itemize  
16 and tell us how you spent \$2.5 million.

17 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

18 MR. UMAR: I mean, that's what we're  
19 asking you.

20 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: You are  
21 asking the whole Board or you're just asking --

22 MR. UMAR: The whole Board. Sure, I'm

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1 asking -- I would like the record to reflect the  
2 whole Board come, not just Mr. Garrett, not his  
3 investigator, nobody from the sideline, the whole  
4 Board.

5 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

6 MR. UMAR: The whole Board. I would  
7 like that to reflect that. I would like for you  
8 at least to give me a date or time that it can happen  
9 or transpire. And we would like to get all of the  
10 minutes from the \$2.5 million.

11 Mr. Garrett?

12 MR. GARRETT: Okay. We can go back and  
13 look at the documents and identify exactly what the  
14 expenditures were.

15 MR. UMAR: And when can you all get up  
16 there and walk through there and we can explain to  
17 you how it didn't work at all --

18 MR. GARRETT: I can be there on Friday.

19 MR. UMAR: -- because we still  
20 suffering. What?

21 MR. GARRETT: I can be there on Friday.

22 MR. UMAR: You or the Board?

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1 MR. GARRETT: I can't speak for the  
2 rest of the Board. I can speak for myself.

3 MR. UMAR: Well, we want the Board. We  
4 don't want just you.

5 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

6 MR. UMAR: We want the Board. We want  
7 everybody to see how our money was spent. I mean,  
8 it's not hard.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Schedule a  
10 date.

11 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I think  
13 that's something you may have to schedule.

14 (Off-microphone comment.)

15 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am. And we did.

16 (Off-microphone comment.)

17 MR. GARRETT: And we did, because we --  
18 this first came up, if you recall -- if you recall  
19 this first came up at a town hall meeting that I  
20 had where I was told that there was additional money  
21 remaining and that's when we initiated the  
22 allocation to identify exactly what the

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1 itemization of the remaining money was. And we got  
2 that information over to you because the young lady  
3 brought it to my attention at that town hall  
4 meeting. So that's what actually initiated the  
5 first document from ORS and then the subsequent  
6 documents came after that.

7 MR. UMAR: Also, what about our special  
8 election? We need a special election on vice  
9 president and the treasure immediately.

10 MR. GARRETT: Okay. Your bylaws will  
11 follow that. You have a bylaws.

12 MR. UMAR: Yes. Well, yes, that's --  
13 we followed the bylaws already that y'all wrote;  
14 not we did. We didn't write these bylaws. Y'all  
15 wrote these. So let the record reflect, too.  
16 Y'all updated these. We didn't. They're not our  
17 bylaws.

18 MR. GARRETT: No, we --

19 MR. UMAR: Council didn't even write  
20 these either.

21 MR. GARRETT: The pro bono attorney,  
22 Commissioners, DL Piper --

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1 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Okay.

2 MR. GARRETT: -- created -- or worked  
3 with this resident council on the bylaws, not --

4 MR. UMAR: What resident council? Not  
5 us?

6 MR. GARRETT: It wasn't the Housing  
7 Authority.

8 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: It was  
9 the -- trust me, it was the previous resident  
10 council.

11 MR. UMAR: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: My  
13 recommendation is that -- the bylaws can be updated  
14 every -- I would recommend for you to call DL Piper.  
15 I work very good with the attorney. Let him know  
16 who you are. Already have what you want your  
17 bylaws to be drafted. I highly recommend that in  
18 your bylaws that you would do a provision that  
19 states that once a president is elected on your  
20 board or anybody that get elected that the rest of  
21 it say appointed. You don't need a special  
22 election. You should be able to appoint the rest

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1 of your Board. You've in office too long. We  
2 already been here for a year. So I think that you  
3 should request that you will be able to appoint your  
4 executive board and resident service the moment  
5 you're appointed. They have longer than five  
6 calendar days to swear you in. That's my  
7 recommendation.

8 MR. UMAR: Yes, ma'am.

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And I'm not  
10 your Commissioner.

11 MR. UMAR: I go by that, too. Thank  
12 you.

13 (Off-microphone comment.)

14 MR. UMAR: Vice president. Vice  
15 president, Ms. Mitchell.

16 MS. MITCHELL: Vice president. But he  
17 was also acting as the president. And he just --  
18 he even had checks he was holding and he just  
19 deposit them day before yesterday.

20 MR. UMAR: Thirty-two hundred dollars.

21 MS. MITCHELL: Thirty-two hundred  
22 dollars.

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1                   VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: You're going  
2 to want to put that on record, because I don't want  
3 to put that on record unless you know for a fact.

4                   (Simultaneous speaking.)

5                   VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Allegedly.  
6 You all cannot slander someone else. This is on  
7 record. I know you all are angry, but certain  
8 stuff you can't put on record.

9                   COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: If it's a  
10 fact and you have a document in front of you, then  
11 it's not allegedly. If it was information that was  
12 provided by you, by a third party. But if you have  
13 a documentation that have DCHA letterhead and one  
14 of the DCHA employee's name on it, it's not  
15 allegedly. The document that you presented to us  
16 wasn't allegedly documented. It was a fact.

17                   MR. UMAR: It's a fact right here. Now  
18 you're going to lie? It's a fact. Would you like  
19 to see? You want a copy?

20                   COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: I'll be  
21 quite frank with you. I don't want to see it  
22 because if it's in litigation, nobody on this Board

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1 can respond to that anyway because it may be in an  
2 investigation litigation perspective. So this is  
3 what I always say when I'm winning: I say good  
4 afternoon and I leave.

5 MR. UMAR: Well, I am finished.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. UMAR: So who will we talking to  
8 about our money, like yesterday?

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: You would  
10 have to ask Mr. Council. He's now the Chair.

11 (Simultaneous speaking.)

12 MR. UMAR: Okay. Well, good  
13 afternoon.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Our  
15 next witness is Debra Frazier.

16 Rhonda Edwards-Hines?

17 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Good afternoon.  
18 Can you all hear me because I got a real bad sinus  
19 infection?

20 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Is your mic on?  
21 Is it green?

22 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: It's green.

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1 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay.

2 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Oh, my name is  
3 Rhonda Edwards-Hines. I'm the ANC Commissioner  
4 for 8C-06 and I come to you on several issues.

5 On my document I stated I wanted to give  
6 you guys an update of my previous statement in  
7 October bout the issues that I was going through  
8 in my -- on my property, but I just got a chance  
9 to talk to Ms. Punter, so I'm going to hold off on  
10 that until next month.

11 As of last night I went through the  
12 property of Barry Farms and I've been in contact  
13 with the -- I don't know, his name is Tony, but I  
14 don't know Tony's last name. It start with a W.

15 MR. GARRETT: He works for POA,  
16 correct?

17 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Yes, he works with  
18 POA. And I've been constantly emailing him  
19 complaining about and asking for light. But I've  
20 been constantly texting him and spoke with him on  
21 the phone previous conversations about the safety  
22 of the property because there's no lights there.

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1 Even though you're tearing down a property -- and  
2 I said this to you most likely in December or  
3 November that my concern was when I asked you, Mr.  
4 Garrett, who is responsible for which part. Once  
5 the fence come up, then that's POA. And then the  
6 ones that's -- but everything is not fenced up. So  
7 is Housing still responsible for those units that  
8 the residents have already been relocated to, they  
9 vacate.

10 MR. GARRETT: Relocated from?

11 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: I mean from, yes.

12 MR. GARRETT: Technically I would --  
13 I've got to defer to OGC on it, but I believe that  
14 until the fence goes up around them it would be our  
15 responsibility.

16 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Okay.

17 MR. GARRETT: So we haven't fully  
18 turned over the site. Once it gets fenced in it's  
19 turned over to the developer.

20 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. GARRETT: But I got to -- I probably  
22 shouldn't answer that --

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1 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: I'm not going  
2 to --

3 MR. GARRETT: -- question that way,  
4 but --

5 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: All I'm going to  
6 say to that answer is -- my reply to that is if it  
7 is you guys, I'm asking you guys can you please make  
8 sure that it's lighting there for safety purposes,  
9 because we still have 10 units as of today still  
10 occupied and I believe it's either three or four  
11 that are seniors.

12 MR. GARRETT: Okay. We'll look at it,  
13 because I know we had our -- I guess, chief, you  
14 moved -- chief, did we move the light?

15 (Off-microphone comment.)

16 MR. GARRETT: It's still out there?  
17 Okay.

18 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Not on -- okay.  
19 Not on Eaton. Eaton is not fenced in. I seen the  
20 light on Stevens. I did not see no lights on Eaton  
21 or at the bottom of Firth Sterling. It's not  
22 fenced it.

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1 MR. GARRETT: Okay. So let me --

2 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Okay.

3 MR. GARRETT: -- check with the chief  
4 and then we'll also identify where the residents  
5 are on site, if there's -- I don't know because in  
6 my mind I'm not sure if they're scattered  
7 throughout or if they're in one central location.  
8 So just let me check on that.

9 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Well, my  
10 understanding is that it's supposed to be lighting  
11 on each street.

12 MR. GARRETT: Okay. But I was just  
13 saying we only have

14 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Okay.

15 MR. GARRETT: -- one tower, so --

16 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Oh, only one  
17 tower?

18 MR. GARRETT: Yes, we --

19 (Simultaneous speaking.)

20 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Oh, well, I'm  
21 here to tell you then that's only on Stevens Road.

22 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

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1 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: And we don't have  
2 any fences up on Eaton --

3 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

4 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: -- or Firth  
5 Sterling.

6 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

7 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: So I'm asking  
8 again the Commissioners can -- Mr. Garrett, can you  
9 please see into that --

10 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

11 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: -- for the safety,  
12 not only for the residents, but we still have the  
13 recreation center that's there also and our  
14 children -- you know, we still have a school that's  
15 still in action up there.

16 And as far as Detrice Belt had mentioned  
17 about the mail. I have took it upon myself to call  
18 the U.S. Postal Service and I spoke to a Ms. Vivian  
19 Williams, which is a supervisor, and asked her what  
20 was the protocol in getting the list, because I had  
21 previously talked to someone about that, if I can  
22 give them a list that they don't do that.

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1 MR. GARRETT: Right.

2 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: So because it's up  
3 to each resident, each person if they want their  
4 mail to go to a certain place. Now that's my  
5 understanding. They said that that was -- I can't  
6 think of the word right now, but it's not -- it's  
7 against the law. You can't --

8 MR. GARRETT: Right

9 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: It's their Privacy  
10 Act. But I don't know exactly what the term was  
11 because I forgot.

12 And I spoken to Mr. Joe, which is Barry  
13 Farm's community postal person --

14 MR. GARRETT: Yes.

15 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: -- and Mr. Joe said  
16 that he had no problem -- plus my mail was still  
17 going there, too, and I wasn't receiving my mail  
18 because I stated to you all back in May of 2018 that  
19 I was having an issue. And so they just took it --  
20 the U.S. Postal Service took it upon their self not  
21 to deliver the mail to the residents, because if  
22 you -- even if you see a board -- because they see

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1 a board up against the house they figure that no  
2 one lives there, but that's -- but you don't assume  
3 if we haven't done a change of address. That's  
4 still legally our mailing address.

5 So I spoken to Mr. Joe last month. No,  
6 I spoken to him in the -- either the end of November  
7 or the beginning of December and he stated that was  
8 still -- if the residents didn't do a change of  
9 address, he was still delivering the mail there.

10 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

11 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: So what I'll do is  
12 get back on the phone with the U.S. Postal Service  
13 and see what's going on with that.

14 MR. GARRETT: Okay. And we'll look  
15 into it from our end also just to try to reach out  
16 to residents to ensure that they've done the change  
17 of address.

18 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Right, because I  
19 spoken to some and some of them say they did. They  
20 have a P.O. box.

21 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

22 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: They didn't want

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1 to change to their new -- because they don't want  
2 to be recognized as a resident there because they  
3 under relocation. So they just want to use a P.O.  
4 box --

5 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

6 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: -- like myself.

7 And then I have a constituents that is  
8 homeless and she has three children:  
9 seven-month-old, five-year-old and a  
10 twelve-year-old. And she's been on the housing  
11 applicant since 2006. Now we know that -- that's  
12 the letter that I sent to you, Council Member  
13 Council, that stated when the system -- this is  
14 before your time, so, Mr. Garrett, that the system  
15 changed over and a lot of applicants got lost in  
16 the system.

17 So before you I was talking with Nathan  
18 Pavelle; and I know I get his name -- his last name  
19 mixed up, but I'm sure you guys know who I'm talking  
20 about, and they couldn't find the information in  
21 the system.

22 And I just came across another person

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1 by catching a Uber that they was in the same  
2 situation, and I just informed them to come up here.  
3 But I'm just going to say her initials is A.F. And  
4 so she doesn't want to come and testify in front  
5 of you guys because she doesn't want to be on social  
6 media. Okay? And she doesn't want her business  
7 out on social media, because I did inform her that,  
8 you know, it is individuals that -- and that's  
9 doing, you know, the live feed on social media.

10 So I would need to know who can I speak  
11 to once I finish my statement to talk to to get in  
12 contact with her, because at this time she's going  
13 from pillar to post. And because she was under  
14 domestic violence, that's why she lost her  
15 paperwork of which she applied for housing.

16 MR. GARRETT: Okay. I'm going to ask  
17 you to speak to Mr. McCoy.

18 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Yes.

19 MR. GARRETT: And just -- we'll just  
20 try to match up the dates and see whether or not --  
21 and he'll investigate whether or not they should  
22 be put back on the list. I think that's what we're

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1 talking about.

2 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Okay. To Mr.  
3 McCoy?

4 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

5 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Okay. And then I  
6 know that Housing has taken over the maintenance  
7 issues for Highland where when we had that very cold  
8 night I know I was trying to find it in my phone  
9 that I called maintenance twice because I had no  
10 heat, and they don't even show you how to use the  
11 heat, the -- the -- what is that thing? Yes, the  
12 thermostat. I don't even know how to use it. So  
13 I mean, I don't want to blow up.

14 And I just -- I don't even know what to  
15 tell you. It's just too much going on right now.  
16 But my main concern is to make sure that those  
17 residents on Barry Farms property are taken care  
18 of, that they are secure. I can vouch that I do  
19 see Housing police out there in the bright lights.  
20 That's only on Stevens Road. But we got -- we have  
21 a senior that's on Eaton Road --

22 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

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1 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: -- that I know of,  
2 Ms. Williams. And it's no light out there. And  
3 she's -- I think Ms. Williams is like 84 years old.  
4 So I thank you for your time.

5 MR. GARRETT: Thank you. Just check  
6 with Mr. McCoy --

7 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: Okay.

8 MR. GARRETT: -- before you leave.

9 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: All right. Thank  
10 you.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Ms. Norman?

12 MR. GARRETT: Ms. Hines, do you have  
13 heat now? You said your heat wasn't working. Is  
14 it working?

15 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: No. There's  
16 something called emergency something.

17 MR. GARRETT: Is it the -- okay. I'll  
18 have somebody ask you about the thermostat  
19 versus --

20 MS. EDWARDS-HINES: I got enough  
21 quilts and stuff.

22 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So as we're

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1 waiting for the next person to come up, can you give  
2 us an update on Barry Farm? It's been a while since  
3 I've heard about what's going on there.

4 MR. GARRETT: We have nine families at  
5 Barry Farm.

6 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: More about the  
7 global effort there given the --

8 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Ms. Claudia --  
9 (Simultaneous speaking.)

10 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- court case  
11 and everything else. It seems we're in a holding  
12 pattern of some sort.

13 MR. GARRETT: Somewhat of a holding  
14 pattern because a decision hasn't been made by the  
15 developer as to if we're -- what -- which direction  
16 we're going to go in dealing with the zoning issue.  
17 So that's where we --

18 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Carlos?

19 MR. GARRETT: -- seem to have made a  
20 determination and a discussion with them, but no  
21 final decision has been made about the next step  
22 in dealing with zoning.

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1 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: So is that -- am  
2 I to understand that this decision lays in --

3 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: A. Alexander?

4 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- totally with  
5 the developer?

6 MS. McNAIR: No, sir. No, sir. Not at  
7 all. Our OGC -- OGC and our legal counsel have been  
8 in contact with the developer's counsel and they've  
9 been devising what the exact strategy should be.  
10 So it hasn't been just the developer on their own.  
11 We have been involved and are involved in the  
12 conversation.

13 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Ms. Parker?

14 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: That would be  
15 great if we could get an update really soon  
16 because --

17 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Mr. Bell, Sr.?

18 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- it seems like  
19 we've lost track of that a little bit, among other  
20 things.

21 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Well, I'm sure

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1 you haven't, but I have.

2 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

3 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Non-resident,  
4 Ms. Margaret?

5 MS. DWYER: Good afternoon. I'm  
6 Margaret Dwyer. I'm here representing SURJ,  
7 Showing Up for Racial Justice, standing with  
8 Empower and Barry Farm Tenant and Allies  
9 Association. And I don't have any comments to  
10 make, but I have a couple of questions.

11 One was already raised, but it was  
12 something we wanted an answer to as well, and I  
13 didn't hear the answer to Ms. Frazier's question  
14 about a request for an investigation of the ethics  
15 of having DMPED as a voting member on this Board.  
16 And we understand that that's in the bylaws, but  
17 we question the ethics of that. And we -- I  
18 don't -- maybe you said the answer, but I didn't  
19 hear the answer to her request for an investigation  
20 into that.

21 MR. GARRETT: No, we referred it to --  
22 OGC has it. OGC can look into that.

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1 MS. DWYER: They're going to look into  
2 it?

3 MR. GARRETT: Yes, ma'am.

4 MS. DWYER: And then how will we know  
5 what they find?

6 MR. GARRETT: They'll be able to  
7 produce a response to the Board of Commissioners.

8 MS. DWYER: And it will be shared  
9 publicly?

10 MR. GARRETT: We'll figure out a way to  
11 share it, yes.

12 MS. DWYER: Thank you.

13 MR. GARRETT: Okay.

14 MS. DWYER: Then the second thing is  
15 that we understand that there's a lot of  
16 uncertainty now with the portfolio and all the  
17 properties that are in jeopardy, but we're looking  
18 to you at the -- as the Board of Commissioners and  
19 the Executive Director as the keepers of the vision  
20 for public housing in DC. So if you have about  
21 8,000 and change units right now, we're asking to  
22 know the level of your commitment to maintaining

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1 that number or increasing that number of units.  
2 And we wonder what your target number of units is  
3 for 2024. Five years from now where do you want  
4 to be in terms of the number of units of traditional  
5 public housing that you maintain?

6 MR. GARRETT: I think, Ms. Dwyer, when  
7 we opened up the meeting I -- what we were talking  
8 about was our actual strategy going forward and how  
9 we had given the Board a preliminary observation  
10 of where we were. We haven't completed that. And  
11 so from finishing that up with the OCP, our  
12 Department of Planning, we'll be able to produce  
13 a spreadsheet that will identify exactly what we  
14 should do with each property. That will also  
15 entail whether or not we're talking about public  
16 housing and if we're going to be able to actually  
17 increase our numbers in the coming years.

18 So we're in the process of doing that.  
19 What I don't want anyone to think that -- as I said,  
20 that we made a decision about what we're going to  
21 do or how many units we're going to have here or  
22 how many units we're going to have there. We're

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1 still doing the due diligence, trying to get it  
2 right, because time is of essence in trying to  
3 produce a plan --

4 MS. DWYER: Yes.

5 MR. GARRETT: -- and a strategy so we  
6 can get started. So again, that's going to involve  
7 the advocate community because we're going to  
8 discuss it and then we're going to bring it back  
9 to the Board of Commissioners. So we're on track  
10 to probably be able to give some diagnosis of  
11 exactly what we want to do in terms of numbers, but  
12 we're not there yet.

13 MS. DWYER: And in your heart what  
14 would you like to see? What would you like to see?  
15 I mean you're the leader of public housing in the  
16 District of Columbia.

17 MR. GARRETT: We always want  
18 preservation of housing and we also want the safety  
19 of our residents to be at the forefront. We also  
20 have to consider some of the nuances and some of  
21 the things that are going on in the industry across  
22 the board and also across the nation. So when we

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1 do our deep dive as we're doing now, there are going  
2 to be decisions that are going to be made based on  
3 what we're facing and how we can improve the quality  
4 of life for residents. So my -- in my heart I want  
5 to preserve as much housing as I possibly can as  
6 feasibly as possible.

7 MS. DWYER: And what would you ask of  
8 advocates to help further that goal of preserving  
9 or extending the number of units of traditional  
10 public housing in the District?

11 MR. GARRETT: I just want everyone to  
12 be understanding and come to the --

13 (Laughter.)

14 MR. GARRETT: -- table with an open  
15 mind about exactly what we're facing, because  
16 the -- what we're dealing with is a dynamic that  
17 is probably foreign to some, and to have a full  
18 understanding would be really great. I don't  
19 think this Housing Authority, at least not under  
20 this administration, is trying to displace or do  
21 any harm to residents, but to protect them, to put  
22 them in the best situation there are going to have

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1 be some decisions that are going to have to be made  
2 and also might -- there might require some changes,  
3 some deviations from the way we've done things in  
4 the past to try to better the lives of our families  
5 and our children.

6 MS. DWYER: Thank you.

7 MR. GARRETT: Thank you.

8 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: Can I offer one  
9 thing really quickly for that? What I think is  
10 important to understand is that the Board has asked  
11 the Executive Director and staff to put through a  
12 prism of trying to maintain as closely what we have  
13 today in terms of structure --

14 MS. DWYER: Great. Great.

15 COMMISSIONER SLOVER: -- and capacity.  
16 And then deviations from that is really what  
17 Resolution 19-01 was intended to relay to the  
18 advocate community, to the residents, to everybody  
19 else that really the intent is to keep as much of  
20 what we have and explain why -- if and why we  
21 deviate, why we did it. Make that justification  
22 and be as transparent a possible.

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1           So I would like to say thank you to the  
2 Executive Director for really making an effort to  
3 be as -- more transparent than I think the Agency  
4 has been in the past.

5           So thank you for that.

6           And hopefully you guys will appreciate  
7 it as it rolls out.

8           MS. DWYER: Thank you.

9           VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Edward  
10 Daniels?

11           (No response.)

12           MR. OTTEN: Are you taking residents  
13 still?

14           VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Yes, come on  
15 up. Have a seat.

16           MR. OTTEN: Good afternoon. My name  
17 is Chris Otten. I am a Section 8 project-based  
18 resident at the Champlain Court Cooperative. I  
19 was here in September with some issues like mold  
20 and various infrastructure problems with my unit  
21 in the building. I've been in touch with Mr.  
22 McCoy. Due to those issues I've gotten really

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1 sick. I've also broken my arm and my family has  
2 kind gone through some health issues of their own.  
3 And so I haven't been able to resolve a lot of the  
4 issues with my personal unit, but I'm striving to  
5 do that.

6 But as a -- soon. We're going to try  
7 to get that solved soon. As a public housing  
8 resident though I am kind of a bridge to some of  
9 these other situations happening around the city.  
10 And just for the record I just want to point out  
11 Commissioner Grossinger is not here anymore and  
12 so-called Commissioner Kenner is no longer here  
13 even though this is a once-a-month meeting and it's  
14 obviously really vital to the future of our city  
15 how people live in their housing.

16 I found it -- I just want to note also  
17 for the record this Commission just passed a  
18 resolution about \$4.5 million in spite of hearing  
19 how some other monies may have been mismanaged or  
20 misspent without the MOU before you all.

21 And I think, Commissioner Slover, it  
22 was a good point that you raised and that you

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1 abstained from that because we need to have this  
2 information before us before we start making these  
3 decisions, clearly. And so I want to make that  
4 point on the record.

5 And it was also in spite of President  
6 Shonta' High's objections to passing that  
7 resolution because none of the MOU and that  
8 resolution itself was never even presented to the  
9 people it will affect at Park Morton.

10 And so I wanted to bring a statement  
11 today on behalf of the petitioners that you will  
12 probably see tomorrow at the DC Court of Appeals,  
13 the highest court in the District of Columbia.  
14 These are three residents that live around Bruce  
15 Monroe. I've been a bridge between Ms. High and  
16 these petitioners recently. I was brought in to  
17 kind of create a dialogue there because I am also  
18 a public housing resident and I'm also somebody who  
19 appreciates good planning.

20 And so here's the statement: We, Ryan  
21 Cummings, Anita Chaudary and Mark Poe attest to  
22 receiving and reading the Park Morton list of

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1 concerns and demands that was approved by Park  
2 Morton residents and the resident council last  
3 week. As litigants in the Bruce Monroe case we  
4 recognize the Park Morton residents' concerns and  
5 demands and sign on in solidarity with them and in  
6 support of Park Morton residents' social needs, as  
7 well as consideration of basic planning impacts  
8 regarding any public property dispositions and  
9 deals that are before you and us.

10 For example, we are wholly supportive  
11 of Park Morton Resident Council seeking home  
12 ownership and equity in any future development  
13 deals around public housing, whether it be at Park  
14 Morton, at Bruce Monroe or at any other site chosen  
15 by and in collaboration with Park Morton residents.

16 We also stand in complete solidarity in  
17 the concern that none of the current plans have any  
18 family service-oriented amenities like day care,  
19 affordable food co-ops and grocery, job training,  
20 let alone any meaningful number of units that are  
21 family-sized three-plus bedrooms. This is out of  
22 character with the neighborhoods around Park

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1 Morton and Bruce Monroe and also prevents any  
2 future possibilities of families actually growing  
3 or families adopting extended family like adding  
4 a grandma or an auntie or an uncle who might sick  
5 to join the family later on. There is  
6 nothing of the sort in these deals. We're talking  
7 about two-bedroom units and less. And we -- right  
8 now we stand for family-oriented housing alongside  
9 Park Morton resident who are demanding this. This  
10 is in part why we have appealed the Bruce Monroe  
11 decision. We want better planning and  
12 collaboration with those affected and we want to  
13 see social needs met on public land, not luxury  
14 greed.

15 Thank you. That is their statement.  
16 I wanted to bring it to the attention of the  
17 Commission today about the appeal on the Bruce  
18 Monroe case and in solidarity with the Park Morton  
19 residents by those petitioners. Thank you. I can  
20 answer any questions if you have any.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Thank you.  
22 Any questions?

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1                   COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Yes, I have a  
2 question for you. Yes.

3                   So with the issues that you're having  
4 in your unit did you get any inspection from Mr.  
5 McCoy or had any talk with Mr. McCoy?

6                   MR. OTTEN: Yes, so I think we're  
7 planning in early March.

8                   COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN: Okay.

9                   MR. OTTEN: Yes. Yes, there was a --  
10 just for the record again it was -- there's been  
11 mold issues since I moved into the building and  
12 flooring problems and a really nasty under crawl  
13 space where the origin of these issues are, and  
14 they're coming up through the broken floor boards  
15 making a lot of us sick. There's kids in our  
16 building that are sick. And the management  
17 company just can't seem to get its act together.

18                   And then recently there was an  
19 unannounced and improper construction project on  
20 the mortar of the bricks in the building. The  
21 windows -- the apartments in the windows -- excuse  
22 me, the windows in the apartments -- I mean in the

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1 co-op were opened and all the mortar dust went in  
2 through my unit from the kitchen all the way to my  
3 bedroom and there's dust literally on everything.  
4 I have not been in that unit since August and I've  
5 been sleeping on couches and beds, and through the  
6 kindness of my friends I've been able to stay in  
7 various places. Sometimes my car.

8 But this is nothing unusual. That's  
9 what I want to point out here. this is happening  
10 around the city in these conditions. And so I'm  
11 not raising this up as a unique situation at all.  
12 This is very much a commonplace thing and the  
13 mismanagement of money and the mismanagement of the  
14 actual repairs is a serious issue. Very serious.

15 But Mr. McCoy and I are going to work  
16 together to try to solve this once and for all.

17 COMMISSIONER ST. JEAN; Okay. Thank  
18 you.

19 MR. OTTEN: Thank you.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Any more  
21 questions?

22 (No response.)

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1 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Okay. Thank  
2 you.

3 The next Board of Commissioners meeting  
4 and annual meeting will be held Wednesday, March  
5 the 13th, 2019 at --

6 MS. MATHEWS: I don't know. Wasn't  
7 nobody there when I came in, and I was not late for  
8 sure.

9 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Come on.

10 MS. MATHEWS: Hello, everybody. How  
11 y'all doing?

12 First of all I would like to say thank  
13 you, Mr. Garrett and also Ms. Punter. In spite of  
14 all the things that go on in the world I feel as  
15 though there are still angels here on earth. We  
16 don't have to go to heaven to be able to -- and right  
17 now that's where I'm at.

18 But by me leaving Barry Farms it has  
19 been stressful. The unit that I am in presently,  
20 that was a little -- but things are getting so much  
21 better. Every now and then a person has to go  
22 through a thunder storm or a tornado, but I'm

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1 learning how to work through the process. And even  
2 though, like I said, it's been a little rough, I  
3 can see the sunshine coming. So I just want to  
4 speak on that.

5 But at the same time by me being a former  
6 review of Barry Farms and to know that you only have  
7 one spotlight, because the day that y'all gave  
8 those two officers that award and everything from  
9 the little boy, that incident, well, that night  
10 when I left I saw the guy right there across from  
11 the rental office in that parking lot space,  
12 because I was going to my mailbox at that time.

13 And I was questioning him about that  
14 because the spotlight was on Eaton and I knew it  
15 probably was dark on Stevens. I hadn't gotten  
16 there yet, but I kind of knew it because I knew that  
17 you all were -- you all had one light. And at one  
18 point the light got broke or something. The last  
19 time we were here there was no lights.

20 So my thought process is that you know  
21 that you got two streets over there that -- if you  
22 got to get it from Homeland Security or the Naval

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1 bases or somewhere, or the National Zoo. They got  
2 a lot of them. I know that because I used to work  
3 there. Like you need to partnership with someone  
4 because that is necessary.

5 And also, you know, we had several  
6 meetings at Barry Farm Rec and these plans that you  
7 all had come together with saying that we were all  
8 for it or whatever -- I don't know about that part,  
9 but what happened is on that very last day we  
10 couldn't see the video of it, but yet you have it  
11 posted throughout the DC Housing Authority social  
12 media page. And so that gives people the thought  
13 process that it's a done deal.

14 I don't know how this stuff plays out  
15 or how it actually goes, but I know that we went  
16 to the court of appeals and we had to wait a year  
17 for a decision and when that decision came it was  
18 in our favor. And I don't know. I mean, do you  
19 all go back, because it was said to go back to the  
20 blueprint, change it around, redo some  
21 'figurations and all that.

22 So have it been approved to that much

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1 of ability through them and through the residents  
2 of Barry Farms to have had it be put on the social  
3 media page, to have people thinking that, oh, they  
4 going to have it looking real nice and duh, duh,  
5 duh, duh, duh, duh, duh. Is that okay? Is that  
6 something that can be done?

7 I know you can to do anything basically  
8 you want to do in America except for certain things,  
9 but that was okay for you all to feel as though  
10 that -- like the thought out there is if it was a  
11 actual reality of still of even saying this is what  
12 we, you know, would like for it to be or something  
13 like that.

14 Because have y'all -- have we gone back  
15 to court? Once they gave that decision and told  
16 y'all to go back to the blueprint, I mean, where  
17 do we go from there? I'm like lost. I still  
18 haven't figured out like they cutting down trees.  
19 First I think it was like a mental thing for  
20 everybody to rush out for the first part of the  
21 demolition, so I want to know where is the money?  
22 What's the next phase? How you all going to do it?

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1           Because see, they done went from  
2 knocking down the homes to cutting down trees.  
3 They cut down the weeping willow. I feel some type  
4 of way. It's like -- it's a lot of trees that had  
5 to history to it. You understand what I'm saying?  
6 And they just cut it down. For what reason?  
7 You're not even over there dealing with the homes  
8 right now. And then when I left, I come back one  
9 day to clean out my unit and I -- it's cold in there  
10 on top of the lights don't work. But I'm still  
11 attached to that unit until I was to sign off on  
12 that paper.

13           So I go in there and it's cold. I said,  
14 well, I'm going to go get me a light bulb, bringing  
15 back a fresh light bulb. Still don't work. So  
16 just as quick as -- but I remember when we had a  
17 blackout all the lights where the people were gone,  
18 had went on and left like months ago -- they're  
19 light -- and ours were the ones that was off and  
20 we was actually on the unit.

21           So I'm just confused to how quickly  
22 do -- who has the authority to tell you, because

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1 if I haven't signed off on that, my lights shouldn't  
2 have been off. They -- I mean, they should not be  
3 off, period. Like I don't understand. You just  
4 do it that quick and haven't signed off on it? So  
5 I'm just puzzled to where we are right now.

6 I'm lost to where we are in this  
7 development, whether there is any money or how do  
8 we jump from buildings to start cutting down trees.  
9 Why it's only one light. We do know that we have  
10 elderly people that's around there on that  
11 neighborhood and what are y'all going to do about  
12 it, because these are the same problems that we had  
13 before and y'all always say it's not enough police  
14 on the force to accommodate stuff. Now we don't  
15 have enough lights for the people that's there.  
16 And it's good to see the police ride around and up  
17 and down, but if something happen, they might not  
18 get there fast enough.

19 MR. GARRETT: Okay. We'll take your  
20 suggestion, Ms. Mathews, about asking for a  
21 donation of a light --

22 MS. MATHEWS: Yes.

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1 MR. GARRETT: -- see whether or not we  
2 can borrow another tower --

3 MS. MATHEWS: And get the one that --

4 MR. GARRETT: -- full time for the time  
5 frame.

6 MS. MATHEWS: -- you can't just throw  
7 something at it and break them.

8 MR. GARRETT: Okay. I can -- we can  
9 check to see whether or not --

10 (Simultaneous speaking.)

11 MS. MATHEWS: They have some.

12 MR. GARRETT: So that's one piece.

13 MS. MATHEWS: They might give us --

14 (Simultaneous speaking.)

15 MR. GARRETT: As far as Barry goes,  
16 we're still investigating as I was telling  
17 Commissioner Slover before he left exactly what the  
18 process would be and how we would move forward on  
19 actual design and actually with the zoning  
20 component what the -- what concessions would be  
21 made or how we would approach the planning itself.  
22 So we're still not there.

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1 I can tell you that we want to be there  
2 as quickly as possible, just like anyone else, so  
3 that we can start to have residents return, but  
4 unfortunately we're still taking -- it's taking a  
5 minute for us to get --

6 (Simultaneous speaking.)

7 MS. MATHEWS: It might sound crazy, but  
8 what is their logic of cutting down these trees?

9 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Because it  
10 wasn't a part of your community benefit agreement.  
11 That's why I ask everybody that is going through  
12 any things like I just told Ms. Hines -- and that's  
13 why I'm so glad she listened to me from the  
14 beginning. If you pay attention over there at  
15 Sursum Corda, a part of the community agreement  
16 included their trees, because you would see where  
17 the wood is to protect their trees.

18 When you really know that your  
19 community is going to be -- well, let's start with  
20 this: If you want to save the trees, this is just  
21 my off-the-brains, listen, let's Google -- there  
22 got to be some organization, environmental, save

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1 the trees. You can tell them about Barry Farms.  
2 Trust me, those people who are environmentalists,  
3 they have no problem organizing, doing what they  
4 want to do. So you may have seven days to try to  
5 do that because it was not in your benefit  
6 agreement.

7 MS. MATHEWS: Well --

8 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: And you may  
9 not have been there to come to the table, so --

10 MS. MATHEWS: Right, it's too late.  
11 They're gone now. That's my point exactly. Like  
12 how did you jump from -- first of all, we got to  
13 understand this: Regardless of whether it's  
14 historical or not or they wanted to make it  
15 historical, it was historically just by free slaves  
16 living there and that was one time property &42825  
17 land. Regardless of what they want to do and how  
18 they want to do it.

19 So therefore, these trees were there.  
20 They wasn't bothering not a rabbit soul at this  
21 point in time in this development. So why are you  
22 cutting down trees? Like I said, it has history.

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1 You understand me? They had people from the  
2 Smithsonian to come and they was digging. See,  
3 when the first started digging I thought it was the  
4 redevelopment. It was not the redevelopment.

5 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: It was the  
6 trees.

7 MS. MATHEWS: Yes, it was. And I seen  
8 when they pulled different stuff up. I even took  
9 a picture, put it on Facebook. It was a bottle.  
10 It was a beer bottle with George Washington on it.  
11 And it's going to be in the Smithsonian Museum. So  
12 all this history -- it's history all throughout  
13 there. You understand me? It's prime and very  
14 importantly regardless of anybody want to accept  
15 it or not, that's a historical site.

16 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: It's a  
17 historical ground.

18 MS. MATHEWS: Ground. However you  
19 give me they ain't got the site, they ain't got the  
20 ground yet either, but they know it. But they  
21 never did it. Because first of all, they don't  
22 want us to own homes. They own the land. You hear

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1 me?

2 So if you ain't think that's  
3 historical, there's already a problem. But I'm  
4 done. The trees is gone. I was just wondering.  
5 They're gone. I spoke of these trees beforehand.  
6 And then again, once upon a time I was not into this  
7 like this. But that's because I could consider  
8 myself brainwashed to the system. My eyes is open  
9 now. I might have got on the boat a little late  
10 or whatever, but my eyes is open now and while a  
11 lot of people that sit on the --

12 (Simultaneous speaking.)

13 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: My  
14 recommendation is that it --

15 (Simultaneous speaking.)

16 MS. MATHEWS: -- are holding these  
17 positions act like they don't understand --

18 (Simultaneous speaking.)

19 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: My  
20 recommendation is Empowerment DC get a committee  
21 real, real quick so that you can -- when it comes  
22 to many of our communities with these trees and

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1 learn from our mistakes.

2 (Off-microphone comment.)

3 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Right, but  
4 what I'm saying is Empowerment DC could take that  
5 on as an initiative, maybe get some grant money to  
6 around to different communities of public housing  
7 and maybe we can save the rest of our trees, because  
8 we lost a big one with Barry Farms.

9 MS. MATHEWS: Yes, I hear you.

10 COMMISSIONER VANN-GHASRI: Thank you.

11 By the way --

12 VICE CHAIRMAN COUNCIL: Our next Board  
13 of Commissioner's meeting is an annual meeting and  
14 will be held Wednesday, March 13th, 2019 at 1:00  
15 at DC Headquarters, 1133 North Capitol, Northeast,  
16 Washington, D.C., 20002. The time is 4:32. This  
17 meeting is adjourned.

18 (Whereupon, the above-entitled matter  
19 went off the record at 4:32 p.m.)

20

21

22

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