**District of Columbia Ward 3 Democratic Committee**

**Budgetary Resolution Reaffirming Our Support for Bolder Steps to Meet Critical Human Needs And Racial Disparities**

**Passed 06/17/2020**

**Whereas** the District of Columbia is experiencing a serious public health and economic emergency that disproportionately impacts our most vulnerable citizens;

**Whereas** the government of the District of Columbia will be faced with social needs unprecedented in the past twenty years and will need to replenish the city’s emergency cash reserves;

**Whereas** as the citizens of the District of Columbia desire further reform of our law enforcement agencies, approaches, and improved civilian oversight of law enforcement agencies;

**Whereas** as the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an urgent, evolving, and ongoing public health emergency that impacts all DC residents and disproportionally affects people of color and low-income citizens;

**Whereas** as our homeless citizens have disproportionally high rates of COVID 19 infections;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s budget reduces funds for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) from $7.9M to $6.8M when we can anticipate greater need for the program;

**Whereas** a study by theNational Community Reinvestment Coalition finds thatWashington DC has the highest percentage of neighborhoods experiencing gentrification leading to displacement of any U.S. city;

**Whereas** previous economic growth and increases in revenuehave been accompanied by stark inequality in income distribution among DC residents due to gentrification and other market factors;

**Whereas** it is currently uncertain if DC will receive its COVID-19 federal relief funds due to policies and ideological predispositions of the Trump Administration and Republicans in the Senate;

**Whereas** the Trump administration passed an exceptionally large tax cut for households in higher income brackets and a large business tax cut following a series of local tax cuts;

**Whereas** the number of affordable housing units continues to decline;

**Whereas** the DC ICH (DC Interagency Council on Homelessness) adopted the following goals in its Strategic Plan 2015-2020:

* “End chronic homelessness among individuals and families by the end of 2017”
* “By 2020, any household experiencing housing loss will be rehoused within an average of 60 days or less”;

**Whereas** the Government of the District of Columbia abandoned an earlier effort to eliminate homelessness in the previous decade (the Homeless No More Plan drafted in 2005, refined in DC ICH’s 2010 Strategic Plan to End Homelessness), which raises concerns that the District government might again fail to meet its obligations;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget appears to fail to meet the statutory requirement that 50% of HPTF resources support housing for households below approximately $33000 for a family of four;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget funds the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF), the main source of affordable housing, financing at $100 million, a decrease of $16M over FY20*;*

**Whereas** the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget funds the Housing Preservation Fund at $1M, a cut of $10M from last year’s budget;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget provides $0 dollars for the tenant based Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) and $0 for project based LRSP, the main tool for the lowest-income families that are unable to afford most HPTF funded housing;

**Whereas** the Ward 3 Democratic Committee passed another resolution in October 2015 calling on the DC Government “to provide all necessary resources to meet the goals and deadlines outlined in the Interagency Council on Homelessness (DC ICH) Strategic Plan 2015-2020 (“Homeward DC”) to make homelessness ‘a rare, brief and non-recurring experience’”;

**Whereas** our teachers have had to respond to an unprecedented public health crisis to continue educating their students;

**Whereas** communities are in need of support to help families and youth in need;

**Whereas** mental health is a growing area of concern across the country and in our community;

**Whereas** charter schools can release students into traditional public schools mid-year;

**Whereas** students that are at-risk may require more services and support, particularly with respect to digital divide issues, food insecurity, lack of access to health care and behavioral support, and special education services;

**Whereas** after school programing can improve the trajectory of a child's life and working families need childcare support;

**Whereas** the priority for funding should be placed in by-right schools in neighborhoods across the city;

**Whereas** before the COVID-19 pandemicchildcare slots for children under the age of 3 were only available for one out of every three and only 8% of families could afford it;

**Whereas** many families need help in understanding how to support their child’s development and may not know how to find the resources they need and government assistance is essential;

**Whereas** no systematic program exists in DCPS to train teachers in identifying and treating dyslexia;

**Whereas** during the COVID-19 pandemic libraries are more essential for education and other services to residents, including internet access;

**Whereas** in December of 2018 the DC Council passed the “Campaign Finance Reform Amendment Act of 2018” putting in place new restrictions on campaign contributions by contractors doing business with the District of Columbia, and by prospective contractors seeking to do business with the District of Columbia.

**Whereas** finalized budgets from the DC Council have typically been produced with less than 24 hours notice before the final public hearing of the Committee of the Whole and again before the Council’s vote, depriving budget advocates of an opportunity to examine key changes in the DC budget;

**Therefore**, it is hereby resolved by the Ward 3 Democratic Committee of the District of Columbia that the Council of the District of Columbia should consider the following amendments to the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2021 Budget:

* That the government of the District of Columbia immediately and urgently seek substantial new revenues through a variety of mechanisms including, but not limited to, consideration of a bond issue and increases in fees and taxes paid by high income individuals and large businesses.
* That the DC Council repeal the ineffective Qualified High Tech Company Incentive and Qualified Supermarket Incentive that have not created the economic opportunities and equity they were intended to.
* That the DC Council should eliminate the $19M increase in the MPD budget and take an in depth look at the city’s emergency services budgets to realign them more closely with our citizens’ immediate needs.
* That the DC Council restore cuts to violence interruption and restorative justice programs.
* That the DC government provide for and fully fund citizens review boards of law enforcement agencies.
* That the DC budget should provide for free COVID-19 health screenings, PPE, and such tests that public health officials deem appropriate for all residents.
* That the DC government provide at least temporary private room housing for single homeless individuals.
* That the DC government adhere more closely to the recommended funding guidelines found in the Homeward DC Strategic Plan;
* That the DC government increase funding for Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Targeted Affordable Housing (TAH) for family and single clients in accordance with estimated unit requirements in the Homeward DC Strategic Plan;
* That the DC government create through legislation and appropriately fund a dedicated fund for producing a consistent annual number of 0-30% AMI housing units;
* That the DC government create through legislation and appropriately fund a dedicated public housing repair fund in addition to the $77M allocated by the Mayor’s budget over the next two years to preserve existing stocks of public housing that prioritizes buildings in danger of becoming uninhabitable;
* That Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funding be substantially increased and the DC Council be prepared to pass supplementary appropriations to meet evolving needs;
* That the DC Council increase funding for the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) to $140M with fifty percent of the funds allocated to housing for 0% to 30% AMI;
* That the DC Council fund tenant vouchers to an amount of $10.4M million for five hundred families and individuals;
* That the city continue to invest in workforce housing and that it be dedicated to households at or below 65% of Washington DC’s AMI;
* That the DC Council restore Youth Development Services and Health and Wellness Services to FY20 budget levels for the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, $550,000;
* That the DC Council restore the entire Clinical Services Division and Prevention/Early Intervention - School Mental Health budget levels to FY20 levels for the Department of Behavioral Health, $2,617,000;
* That the DC Council provide at least a 2% allocation in the FY21 budget for DCPS midyear arrivals and churn, to enable DCPS to better serve its students with the greatest needs;
* That the DC Council commit to no FY21 budget cuts for schools educating the highest percentages or numbers of at-risk students;
* That the DC Council protect funding for out-of-school time programs;
* That the DC Government enact a moratorium on the approval and opening of any DCPS or charter school for FY21, unless needed to ensure a DCPS by-right choice for families and close no DCPS schools in FY21;
* That the DC Government invest $10M in the Birth to Three DC program and dedicate $6M of those funds to home visiting programs;
* That the FY21 budget provide a $10M enhancement for DC’s childcare businesses which participate in the subsidy program;
* That the DC Government establish and fund a dyslexia screening, treatment and prevention pilot program and make available appropriate assistive technologies in DCPS schools;
* That the DC Council restore any cuts to the DC library system that would necessitate reductions in operating hours and staff and allow the DC Library system to fill any staffing vacancies created by attrition;
* That the DC Government fully fund the implementation of the “Campaign Finance Reform Amendment Act of 2018”;
* That the DC Council adopt a rule to require public release of the Council’s budget at least two business days prior to the vote on the Budget Request Act;

That the Chair of the Ward 3 Democratic Committee or the Chair’s designees be authorized to transmit, testify to, publicize, and carry out this resolution.

**Passed by:**

**THE WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**