**District of Columbia Ward 3 Democratic Committee**

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

**Passed 4/8/2019**

**Whereas** the District of Columbia is experiencing a period of economic growth but expects a significantly reduced budget surplus this fiscal year;

**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** this economic growth and revenue intake is and has been accompanied by stark inequality in income distribution among DC residents due to gentrification and other market factors;

**Whereas** it is currently uncertain whether and to what degree DC will lose federal funds due to policies and ideological predispositions of the Trump Administration;

**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, and large DC developers continue to receive development subsidies;

**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 2020 Budget appears to fail to meet the statutory requirement that 40% of HPTF resources support housing for households below $33000 for a family of four;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2020 Budget funds the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF), the main source of affordable housing financing, at $130 million (an increase of $30M over FY19), with approximately $15 million in funds for preservation (an increase of $5M over FY19) which does little more than keep pace with increased costs;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2020 Budget provides zero dollars for tenant based Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) and only $1.47M for project based LRSP, the main tool for the lowest-income families that are unable to afford most HPTF funded housing;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s Proposed FY 2020 Budget provides zero new dollars beyond $15M - $20M in unspent FY19 funds (per DC law) for a public housing repair fund despite DCHA’s stated request for $343M for “urgent repairs” for FY20;

**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** the District’s Fund Balance (i.e. local reserve funds designed to contain backup savings to maintain DC Government operations in case of a sudden revenue shortfall) now contains an amount equal to fifty-eight days of the required sixty-day threshold;

**Whereas** the Mayor has proposed to reverse a planned tax reduction for commercial properties assessed at over $10 million which will bring in an additional $25 million which may be used to fund critical human needs in D.C.;

**Whereas** the Mayor’s proposed budget increases the deed recordation and transfer tax on commercial property worth more than $2 million from 1.45 percent to 2.5 percent which will bring in $79 million in additional revenue next year which may be used to fund critical human needs in D.C.;

**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;

**Whereas** schools like Anacostia, Ballou, and H.D. Woodson have experienced budget cuts;

**Whereas** we hold that every traditional public school in the city should be given the resources to flourish and support their mission, now and in the future, for the betterment of our city;

**Whereas** we understand the value of a great teacher corps and the necessity to keep excellent teachers in our city;

**Whereas** we understand that teachers are often overworked and underpaid;

**Whereas** we hope to be a shining example in the country of how teachers are respected and treated as essential in our society;

**Whereas** our neighbors in Montgomery County have invested in the success of their future through strong financial support, and maintained that their schools and teachers are the bulwark of that success;

**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 2020 Budget:

* Overall, a closer adherence to the recommended funding guidelines found in the Homeward DC Strategic Plan;
* That the DC government increase funding for Permeant 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 to preserve existing stocks of public housing that prioritizes the fourteen buildings in danger of becoming uninhabitable;
* That the DC government create through legislation and appropriately fund the creation of public bathrooms available for use by the homeless in the downtown area;
* An increase in funding for the Housing Production Trust Fund (HPTF) from $100 million to at least $200 million with $140 million allocated to housing for 0% to 30% AMI;
* An increase in funding for the Local Rent Supplement Program (LRSP) to $22.75 million in order to provide aid to families whose income remains too low for HPTF-funded housing;
* Fund tenant vouchers to an amount of $11 million;
* The mayor’s proposed $20M fund for workforce housing be dedicated to households at or below 75% of Washington DC’s AMI ($117,220 for a family of four per Department of Housing);
* That the DC Council retain the commercial property tax measures in the Mayor’s budget stated above;
* That the DC Council pass legislation to increase revenues by offsetting Federal tax cuts for high income households, large business and reducing local subsidies for large corporations;
* Adoption of 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 no funds be decreased at traditional public schools across the city;
* That teacher pay should be significantly increased and competitive nationally;
* That the District adopt the same or greater dedication to our public schools as is outlined in Montgomery County's Kirwan Commission;

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

**Passed by:**

**THE WARD THREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE**