



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

*“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”*

November 7, 2022

Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Chair, Committee of the Whole  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504  
Washington, DC 20004  
[pmendelson@dccouncil.gov](mailto:pmendelson@dccouncil.gov)

**RE: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Report on the District of Columbia Housing Authority**

Dear Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on October 19, 2022, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With seven of seven commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted (4-2-1), after a motion made by Commissioner Patel and seconded by Commissioner Causey, to adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) conducted an on-site assessment of the District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) from March 7, 2022 to March 11, 2022 that included interviews with board members, employees, and Director Brenda Donald, in addition to inspections of public housing units and analyses of the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program,

WHEREAS, the 72-page audit by HUD of DCHA, the public housing agency that serves 50,000 residents, found that the agency is failing in some of its most basic tasks due to cumulative problems resulting from years of management neglect at the agency,

WHEREAS, HUD auditors also found that DCHA’s 12-member Board of Commissioners are untrained and uninformed, often voting through resolutions in “block” without individual debate or review, leading to poor oversight and transparency,

WHEREAS, the audit describes systemic failures; an agency so mismanaged that tenant files were not updated and waiting lists were locked, while others sat untouched for a decade. Additionally, those living inside public housing are left to raise families in apartments overrun by bugs, mice, mold, and rats,

WHEREAS, the report says that DCHA is failing in virtually every function it performs: management of the HCV program, property management, tracking of



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finances and procurements, and oversight from the Board of Commissioners and the executive leadership,

WHEREAS, some of the most shocking determinations involve the housing units, stating that those failures have prevented DCHA from fulfilling its responsibility of providing “decent, safe, and sanitary” housing for its customers: DC’s lowest income residents,

WHEREAS, as of June 2022, the occupancy rate for DCHA’s public housing was 76.4 percent, the lowest of any large housing authority in the entire country; out of the 8,084 public housing units DCHA owns, 1,628 are vacant,

WHEREAS, HUD identified 82 deficiencies, made 26 recommendations, and documented another 5 “observations” that amount to “serious violations”,

WHEREAS, DCHA’s public housing program has steadily deteriorated in the five years between 2016 and 2020 and the director’s “consolidated financial reporting” to the board obscured the program’s poor performance,

WHEREAS, the Office of Attorney General for the District of Columbia (OAG) sued DCHA twice because of its abject failures to follow the law and care for DC residents,

WHEREAS, the end result reads like a top-to-bottom indictment of the entire agency from executive leadership to the Board of Commissioners to the employees, many of whom, the audit found, are not properly trained to do their jobs, and

WHEREAS, on October 18, 2022 the DC Council unanimously passed the Housing Authority Accountability Emergency Amendment Act of 2022 in response to the HUD audit report.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A urges that all 26 recommendations in the HUD audit be implemented.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2E urges members of the DC Council to prioritize legislation that provides in-depth comprehensive reform of DCHA.

Commissioners Trupti Patel ([2A03@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A03@anc.dc.gov)) and Joel Causey ([2A02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A02@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.



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Sincerely,

*Joel Causey*

Joel Causey  
Chairperson