



Government of the District of Columbia Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B

[DRAFT] RESOLUTION #4B-20-0407

Supporting Funding in FY2021 to Address Chronic Homelessness Adopted April 27, 2020

Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B (Commission) takes note of the following:

- Ending chronic homelessness is urgent. In 2019, 81 people died without a home in DC. Currently, over 4,521 individuals experience homelessness in the District, 1,500 of whom need lifesaving housing interventions. In DC, 87 percent of adults experiencing homelessness are Black, and 76 percent of women experiencing homelessness have historical experiences of violence or threats to their safety.
- The public health emergency related to COVID-19 (coronavirus) highlights the challenges and safety concerns associated with being homeless, as well as the urgency of ending chronic homelessness. As of April 25, 2020, over 100 individuals experiencing homelessness in DC have tested positive for COVID-19, and 9 individuals have died from the virus (5 percent of total lives lost). As we know, people living outside cannot wash their hands because they do not have sinks. They cannot go home to self-quarantine because they do not have homes. They cannot rest up if they are living in crisis. Ending chronic homelessness makes us all healthier and safer.
- Ending chronic homelessness is a moral imperative. The Commission believes that housing is a human right; that no individual should live or die without the dignity of a home; that housing ends homelessness; and that ending chronic homelessness is urgent, possible, and cost-effective.
- Research and experience show that Permanent Supportive Housing, using the Housing First model, is the best way to end chronic homelessness. DC's Permanent Supportive Housing program has a proven track record of ending chronic homelessness by helping residents maintain housing stability while improving their health. Additional DC government programs, funds, and resources address chronic homelessness by connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to housing resources and by addressing factors that may push people into homelessness,

including the Street Outreach Program, Project Reconnect, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and the Local Rent Supplement Program.

- The Commission has recognized repeatedly that housing is a human right and has passed several resolutions addressing affordable housing and homelessness. See, e.g., [Resolution 4B-19-0307](#), Supporting Funding in FY2020 Budget to Address Chronic Homelessness (Mar. 25, 2019); [Resolution 4B-19-0506](#), Supporting Funding for Urgent Public Housing Repairs and Calling for Commitment to Maintain Public Housing Stock (May 20, 2019); [Resolution 4B-19-1004](#), Calling on DC Housing Authority to Preserve Public Housing and Protect Public Housing Residents (Oct. 28, 2019); [Resolution 4B-19-1005](#), Supporting Proposed Extension and Calling for Expansion and Improvement of Rent Control (Oct. 28, 2019); [Resolution 4B-20-0104](#), Providing Feedback on Proposed Changes to the Comprehensive Plan (Jan. 27, 2020).

RESOLVED:

- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B supports *The Way Home* Campaign's Fiscal Year 2021 budget recommendations to end chronic homelessness in the District.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on Mayor Muriel Bowser and the DC Council to fund permanent supportive housing for 1,500 individuals and 300 families (approximately \$51.6 million).
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission 4B calls on Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to fund homeless prevention and diversion programs to prevent 2,150 individuals from entering long-term homelessness (approximately \$17.5 million). This investment includes funding for 2,000 individuals via Project Reconnect; funding to expand the Emergency Rental Assistance Program; and funding to provide 150 individuals with help finding apartments, paying move-in fees, and with time-limited rental assistance.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission calls on Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to fund the District-wide Street Outreach Program at its current level of \$3.7 million to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness are connected to housing resources.
- That Advisory Neighborhood Commission calls on Mayor Bowser and the DC Council to increase funding for the project-based Local Rent Supplement Program, the Housing Production Trust Fund, and public housing repairs, all of which are crucial to expanding affordable housing.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That the Commission designates Commissioner Erin Palmer, ANC 4B02, to represent the Commission in all matters relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, in the event the designated representative Commissioner cannot carry out their representative duties for any reason, the Commission authorizes the Chair to designate another Commissioner to represent the Commission in all matter relating to this Resolution.

FURTHER RESOLVED:

That, consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

ADOPTED by voice vote at a regular public meeting (notice of which was properly given, and at which a quorum of __ of nine members was present) on April 27, 2020, by a vote of __ yes, __ no, __ abstentions.