



Stephen C. Taylor
Commissioner
D.C. Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking
810 First Street NE
Suite 701
Washington, D.C. 20002

July 13, 2016

Dear Commissioner Taylor,

Since emerging as an independent organization from Manna CDC in 2006, ONE DC has seen the right to wellness as integral to its work in the District. ONE DC (Organizing Neighborhood Equity) functions as a non-hierarchical, member-based organization focusing upon the rights to housing, income, and wellness for all District residents, particularly long-time residents and people of color. We appreciate your commitment to invest \$56 million in community health programs and services. We see these funds as relevant to ONE DC's priorities in several communities throughout the District.

The Right to Wellness campaign began in response to health and wellness issues blocking members' ability to organize in other relevant areas. Organizers on this campaign focus upon creating wellness spaces for members to address key issues related to physical, emotional, social, and spiritual well-being. In 2010 and 2011, our members collaborated on a series of wellness workshops related to financial literacy, adolescent-adult relationships, addiction, nutrition, and understanding the industrial food complex. We recommend that these funds address wellness-based concerns in all areas of well-being, seeking to emancipate District residents from the aforementioned health-related, systemic struggles that deter one's ability to fully live and work. Services similar to our member/resident-based workshops serve the community in an inclusive manner.

However, we additionally view issues surrounding housing and income rights as essential components of overall wellness. Our organization seeks to secure every District resident's right to housing. In the past, we have assisted with the formation of tenant associations to assert tenant rights, to partially purchase buildings, and to establish community benefits agreements between tenants and developers amidst neighborhood change. We encourage the District to use these funds to support tenant-empowering organization around affordable housing and pathways to homeownership. We also find it essential the District invest in mental health options for residents in changing neighborhoods dealing with rising costs of living, abuse from security and management, and the fear of displacement. Currently, we are working with tenants at Congress Heights, Brookland Manor, and Mount Vernon Plaza to ensure that developers in these areas provides affordable, habitable units for all tenants. These funds could assist our work, strengthening tenants' efforts to enhance and take ownership of their physical environment and well-being as well as addressing mental health issues related to rapid economic development across the District.



In the last year, our Right to Income campaign launched the Black Worker's Center. Based out of Anacostia, this space functions as an organizational environment for black workers to shift the District's workforce development strategy to encompass apprenticeships linked to meaningful employment rather than job training that fails to connect residents with actual jobs. This space also serves as a political education center for workers to discuss the intersection of employment and blackness and mistreatment in the workforce. Monetary support from this surplus for apprenticeships linked to permanent employment will allow residents to increase their financial stability, benefiting well-being in all other areas.

Community organization related to the workplace and the home directly impacts one's overall health and well-being. Investing these funds into work related to truly affordable, high quality housing and workforce development that connects to meaningful employment addresses the District's wellness-related issues in a holistic manner, empowering some of the most marginalized residents.

We appreciate your pursuit of health and wellness in the District, and we hope you work to support our endeavors regarding longstanding equity, and physical, social, and mental well-being of our members and District residents.

Sincerely,
ONE DC-Dominic T. Moulden
Resource Organizer