



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

NOTES

03/12 ICH FULL COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Issued: 22 March 2024

Purpose	Pre-meeting to the ICH Full Council, focused on gathering feedback from constituents.		
Details	Date: 12 March 2024	Time: 1 – 2:30 pm	Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (901 G St NW)
Key	■ Areas of Concern or Risk	■ Opportunities for Improvement	■ Progress/Trends to Celebrate

I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW

The Assistant City Administrator, Chris Rodriguez, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees to the Pre-Meeting of the ICH Full Council and introduced himself. ICH Director Theresa Silla introduced herself and introduced the focus of the pre-meeting: Introducing the ICH Full Council 2023 Nominees Under Mayoral Review.

Note: The meeting format was a panel discussion with the 2023 Nominees. Therefore, there was no formal slide presentation for the pre-meeting.

Reference Materials	
HNDT	Orientation to the ICH <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board Members• Forums• Meetings:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Digests for Jan and Feb 2024○ At-A-Glance for March and April 2024

II. DISCUSSION






ACA Rodriguez and Director Silla facilitated discussion with the panel of 2023 Nominees and invited additional reflections from other confirmed Full Council Members in attendance as well as the public audience.

A. INTRODUCTION OF 2023 NOMINEES

Of the 2023 Nominees, 10 were able to attend the Pre-Meeting and shared their interest and priorities for participating in the ICH.









1. INTEREST AND EXPERIENCE WITH THE ICH

Key themes from the discussion are summarized below:

-  Appreciation for the amount and importance of information sharing through ICH.
-  Personal experience of homelessness as background and drive to participate in the ICH.
- Emphasis on the inclusive and comprehensive approach to respond to challenges and find solutions, and resources.
-  Commitment to racial equity, diversity, and inclusivity.
-  History of Full Council member involvement in the ICH, including some members who have participated since the inception of the ICH.
-  Desire to make a difference as advocates in homeless services.

2. WHICH OF THE PROPOSED ICH PRIORITIES/PROJECTS WILL YOU ADVANCE/CHAMPION?



Key themes from the discussion are summarized below:

-  Advancing food access, cash assistance, and improving congregate shelter conditions.
-  Emphasis on youth-specific resources that are data-driven and trauma-informed.
-  Significant behavioral health needs across all populations.
- Focus on ending chronic homelessness by fully funding system transformation for individuals based on progress and reductions seen in the family system.
-  Excitement on non-congregate shelters for individuals as well as the potential for scaling RRH and Project Reconnect for individuals.
- Personal experience of homelessness and the importance of a relationship with city government to advance shelter redevelopment.
-  Prioritizing Medicaid eligibility and enrollment, especially ensuring continuity of care.
-  Emphasis on advancing housing as a human right, so that no individual passes without the dignity of housing
-  Coordination with health care systems and integrating care.
-  Value of accountability and collaboration through the ICH and ability to address different priorities.

B. CONFIRMED FULL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Director Silla invited the audience to chime in with additional reflections/priorities.




Key themes from the discussion are summarized below:

- Responsibility of the District to advance housing as a right and emphasis on emergency and shelter response.
-  Advancing racial equity across homeless services.
- Emphasis on budget and organizing outreach services for housing connection.
- Feedback that although significant similarities and overlap with single adults, young adults require different service-enriched programming.
-  Housing is health care, but sometimes housing alone is not health care. We must work to understand complex medical health needs and the aging population.

C. PUBLIC AUDIENCE DISCUSSION

Director Silla invited the audience to chime in with additional reflections/priorities.

Key themes from the discussion are summarized below:

-  Call for accountability across agencies, especially to break cycles of trauma, separation, and harm.
- Systems are broken and cause suffering when not appropriately oriented to serving families and people.
-  Appreciation for and inspiration for accountability.
- Concerns about lack of coordination between outreach, health care, and police.
-  Frustration with the length of time for housing lease-up.
- Reflection that homelessness is cyclical and experience serving young people who were previously in DC General and now experiencing homelessness again.
- No one should die on the streets, major concerns that budget cuts will affect the most vulnerable.

VI. SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT

The ACA and Director Silla adjourned the meeting, thanking attendees for their participation.

Next Meeting	Date: 11 June 2024	Time: 3 – 4:30 pm	Location: TBD
---------------------	---------------------------	--------------------------	----------------------

Participant List
Chris Rodriguez, Assistant City Administrator Theresa Silla, ICH ICH Full Council 2023 Nominees Under Mayoral Review: Nikila Smith Roxanne Murray Lynn Amano Adam Rocap Rico Harris Deborah Jones Rachelle Ellison Christy Respress Tobie Smith Daniel Rico See ICH Full Council meeting notes for the full participant list.