



12/10 FULL COUNCIL PRE-MEETING

Issued: 18 December 2024

Purpose	Pre-meeting to the ICH Full Council, focused on gathering feedback from constituents.		
Details	Date: 10 December 2024	Time: 1 – 2:30 pm	Location: Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library (901 G St NW)
Attendees	Participants: 49	Organizations: 25	Detailed list below meeting notes
Key	■ Areas of Concern or Risk	■ Opportunities for Improvement	■ Progress/Trends to Celebrate

I. WELCOME & AGENDA REVIEW

ICH Executive Director, Theresa Silla, began the meeting by welcoming Full Council representatives and the public to the Pre-Meeting. She reviewed the agenda and housekeeping items before inviting Chris Rodriguez (Assistant City Administrator) and Ciana Creighton (Chief of Staff, Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services, DMHHS). She explained the process for public comments during the Full Council meeting.

Comments and questions are captured on slides 6 – 7. Topic areas are summarized below for easy reference.

- ■ Request for people with lived experience to develop the pre-meeting agenda and facilitate.
- ■ Clarification that the ICH Bylaws Executive CMTE sets the agenda for the meetings.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recording Conventions • Meeting Agenda • Introductions • Housekeeping • Live Notes on Welcome & Agenda Review 	2 – 7

II. SYSTEM CHECK-IN

Director Silla invited comments as part of System Check-In with a focus on what was top of mind for both Full Council Community Representatives and the public audience.

Comments and questions are captured on slides 10. Topic areas are summarized below for easy reference.

- ■ Clarification that the FY25 budget is final, but there are reserve funds in case of emergency.
- ■ Clarification that the FY26 budget will be released in April.
- ■ Concern about decrease of services and food, as people in poverty are being abused and assaulted.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Agenda • Significant Updates & Landscape Shifts • Live Notes on System Check-In 	8 – 10

III. DISCUSSION – FY26 BUDGET ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Director Silla transitioned the meeting to discussion on Budget Engagement, including lessons learned and potential for early engagement. The open format of the discussion allowed for fluid community conversation both on issues top of mind and those related to the budget.

Comments and questions are captured on slides 14 – 27. Topic areas are summarized below for easy reference.

- ■ Feedback on the need for universal income as a potential solution to chronic homelessness.
- ■ Highlight that some grocery stores dropped the cost of produce by 50% for SNAP EBT users.
- ■ Flag to ensure Council and Mayoral Offices on Racial Equity oversee and implement budget review.
- ■ Recommendation for a universal voucher program to advance housing as a right and reduce homelessness.
- ■ Significant frustration that people in positions meant to help people, deny and ignore people.
- ■ Concern about backlash from agencies and that agencies severely lack accountability.
- ■ Personal consumer request for a public trial with all of the agencies and to have a legal standing.
- ■ Concern about the benefit cliff and being held in poverty.
- ■ Concern that people have to work multiple jobs to survive, but can not exceed voucher limits.
- ■ Request for the purpose of the ICH to be stated at the beginning of every meeting.
- ■ Feedback that ICH and DC Government is failing with poor services/programming and barriers.
- ■ Concern about the safety of people sleeping outside and in front of the library.
- ■ Question about how DC plans to get guns off the street.
- ■ Concerns about day centers services, including:
 - Insufficient meals to meet the need and poor nutrition of the meals
 - Broken laundry units and lack of towels for individuals using showers
 - Barriers to connecting to services
- ■ Concern about ICH treatment and that Full Council does not represent people appropriately.
- ■ Flag that maintaining jobs is difficult due to impact of increased income on benefits and vouchers.
- ■ Difficulty in having to tell people they aren't eligible for services or there aren't resources available.
- ■ Concern that the Mayor does not prioritize the unhoused in the budget and need for advocacy.
- ■ Personal consumer concerns shared, highlighting concerns regarding:
 - fear that CFSA will be called due to homelessness and being ineligible for shelter
 - treatment from housing agencies and
 - lack of safety on the street.

- ■ Appreciation for Street Sense and the vendor program.
- ■ Major concern that Downtown Day Services Center is underfunded and staff are overworked.
- ■ Concerns about resources overall: insufficient meals, voucher expiration and cut to RRH program.
- ■ Consumer suggestion for site based housing and services, including community work and support.
- ■ Appreciation for funding and programs in the city, especially the newly opened Aston shelter.
- ■ Concern that people who are unsheltered are overlooked over as a target audience for The Aston.
- ■ Feedback that funding for developments around the city could be used for housing the homeless.
- ■ Need for additional support for people doing outreach, including increased pay.
- ■ Emphasis on the need for more flexibility in the system to prevent returns to homelessness.
- ■ Concern about language used, considering the the effects of systemic racism in the experience of homelessness.
- ■ Concern about cuts rental assistance and other services in relation to Mayoral spending.
- ■ Suggestion to build more Single Room Occupancy (SROs) and group homes.
- ■ Request for ICH to connect and itemize an individual consumer’s concerns following the meeting.

Reference Materials		
PPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting Agenda • Lessons Learned, Early Engagement, & More • Key Questions • Live Notes on Budget Engagement 	11 – 27

IV. SUMMARY & ADJOURNMENT

Director Silla adjourned the pre-meeting and invited attendees to return for the Full Council meeting.

Next Meeting	Date: 11 March 2025	Time: 1 – 2:30 pm	Location: TBD
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Participant List (49 Participants, 25 Organizations)		
Full Council Members or Representative (18 Participants, 18 Organizations)		
Chris Rodriguez (ACA, Chair) Ciana Creighton (DMHHS) Theresa Silla (ICH) Lionell Gaines (DHCD) Hammere Gebreyes (DCHA) Tasheen Stallings (OSSE)	Alan Karnofsky (DGS) Melanic Minges (MPD) Rachelle Ellison (PFFC) Kate Coventry (DCFPI) Tobie Smith (Street Health DC) Kate Conquest (DC Council)	Qadir El-Amin (PFFC) Reginald Black (SYC) Lynn Amano (Friendship Place) Roxanne Murray (Echelon) Nikila Smith (Street Sense Vendor) Donte Lucas (HSEMA)
General Attendees (28 Participants, 11 Organizations)		
Note: Organization is listed where known to ICH or indicated on the meeting’s written sign-in sheet.		

Edward Wycliff (District Bridges) Tim Gadwell-Hall (Pathways) Annemarie Cuccia (Street Sense Media) Jakia Carroll (Advocate) Joe Lippi (DHS) Janice Ferebee Rachel White (DC Action) Frederick Walker (Street Sense Vendor) Robert Warren (PFFC)	T.K. Hancock Lindsay Curtin (DHS) Abigail Slanski Wayne Hall Joseph DeBard Iverbah Jackson Jamiylah Muqtadir (Advocate) Shauna Gray (Advocate) Kassandra Caudell (Community Connections)	Kawanza Billy Charleen Smith (SWBID) Jerome McRae (SWBID) Umi (Advocate) Gladys Banks Queenie Featherstone (PFFC) Michael Coleman (PFFC) Taylor Bush (GMC) Olu Sanjoby Naomi Carthers
ICH Staff		
Eileen Rosa	Jill Carmichael	Kally Canfield