

Good Evening, My name is Ms. Patricia Penny was born and raised here in WDC I have been working with ONEDC Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC) since 1998.

Organizing Neighborhood Equity (ONE DC) organizes long-time, low-income residents who demand inclusion and respect in the "NEW DC".

* ONE DC organized to ensure that the new housing development proposed for Parcel 42, located at 7th & R St. NW, was affordable for households of four making less than \$50,000 a year. ONE DC also called for units that were affordable for households that earned less than \$25,000 a year. We targeted these income groups because we saw the majority of new development of affordable housing often targeted households making 60% or higher of DC's Area Median Income - currently 107,000 for a household of four.

ONE DC has tried to change the definition of affordability before. Back in 2009, we were the only community organization to explicitly organized for this policy. Unfortunately, the political will was not there. Now, we are excited about this opportunity to get things right this time.

. * As your commission already knows, NEW affordable housing and renovations typically rely on low-income housing tax-credits, which are tied to the AMI. The average income in black Washingtonians is 35,000 a year. Without a changed definition of affordability, most low-income black residents will be priced out of the city. Your commission has a chance to change the tide--over 35,000 black Washingtonians have been moved or priced out of the city within the last decade. Let's not let another 35,000 leave in this decade. It's time for change now--change the definition of affordability so it actually reflects the needs of current DC residents.