



## PRESS RELEASE

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**(WASHINGTON, DC) – Ward 6, “Urgent Call for Accountability”: DC Mayor and Council Neglect of Housing and Public Safety Issues & Rights of Marginalized, Underserved, and Working-Class District Tenants Must End!**

In light of the ongoing crisis surrounding housing instability and public safety in our beloved nation’s capital, we are compelled to address the alarming inadequacies, and robbing of D.C. tenant TOPA rights being demonstrated by DC Mayor Muriel Bowser and members of the DC Council. Their failure to prioritize the needs of residents is resulting in dire consequences for marginalized, underserved, and working-class citizens of Washington, D.C.

Residents living in our vibrant Washington, D.C. communities have witnessed a disheartening decline in access to safe, habitable, and affordable housing options while simultaneously grappling with a rise in public safety and governmental corruption concerns. The lack of proper decisive action from city leaders has left many D.C. citizens feeling abandoned and voiceless.

“Our community deserves better,” says 2022 former D.C. mayoral candidate Dr. Rhonda L. Hamilton. “It is unacceptable that those entrusted with governing our city continue to overlook critical issues affecting our most vulnerable residents. We must demand accountability and decisive action to rectify these failures. It’s time to recall DC Mayor Muriel Bowser!

**\*\*Key points of concern include:**

- **\*\*Housing Crisis: \*\*** A significant percentage of residents are facing increasing rents and lack of affordable housing options amidst an epidemic of slumlords in the District. The time for comprehensive housing reforms is long overdue.

- **\*\*Public Safety: \*\*** Residents report growing fears regarding crime and safety within our neighborhoods. Immediate investments in community policing, mental wellness resources and support services are essential to restore trust and security. Tenants’ rights are being robbed in the disguise of Mayor Bowser’s new housing bill. [#DEFEND DC!](#)

- **\*\*Community Engagement: \*\*** The current administration's lack of transparency and engagement with community stakeholders has hindered effective solutions to these pressing issues. It is imperative for city leaders to listen to the voices of those that they serve.

We urge the DC Mayor and Council to take immediate, and health-conscious actions to address these challenges by passing the H.E.A.R.T. Act legislation which was submitted to members of the D.C. Council in November 2023, and as of December 6, 2024, D.C. Council Chairman Mendelson as well as D.C. Council Chair of the Housing Committee Robert White, remains unresponsive on the matter. <https://healthydcandme.org/the-woodberry-project/>.

For more info. or to help advocate for change, click here. <https://rhondahamilton4dc.com/defend-dc/>.