

**Testimony at the February 17, 2017 Department of Health Oversight Hearing
Submitted by Janet Sharp**

Committee Chair Gray, members of the Committee on Health, representatives from the Department of Health, and others attending today's hearing,

My name is Janet Sharp. I am a formerly homeless woman who now lives at the N Street Village, 1335 N St., NW, Washington DC in Permanent Supportive Housing. I have two concerns: senior citizens and women.

It is unthinkable that a senior citizen should live in a shelter or on the street. They are vulnerable to diseases and may be attacked by those who respect no one. Housing for them would mean safety for their possessions and their lives. Where is our respect for them?

Women face a situation that men don't. During their menstrual cycle they must find pads/tampons to protect their clothing from being soiled. They also need to go to the restroom more often than the rest of the month.

Pregnant women face several challenges: good medical care; a clean, safe restroom; and a safe place to raise their children.

Raising children and providing housing for all women would benefit everybody. Their possessions would be safe and they could go home if tired or they they just need some privacy.

I urge the DC City Council to build low-income housing for everyone who has fixed income or no income. I also urge the DC City Council to make clean, safe, available public restrooms available for everyone.

Every citizen of this city needs clean, safe housing and clean, safe public restrooms.