

Testimony of Janet Sharp
January 29, 2020 Joint Oversight Hearing
Departments of Human Services & Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization

Committee on Human Services Chair Nadeau, Community on Housing & Neighborhood Revitalization Chair Bonds, members of both Committees,

Good morning, my name is Janet Sharp. I am a member of the People for Fairness Coalition (PFFC).

Council Member Nadeau, thank you for introducing Bill 22-0223, which became Law 22-280, Public Restroom Facilities Installation and Promotion Act of 2018, on April 11, 2019. Thank you for your enthusiasm, assistance, and guidance in making this Bill a reality.

Law 22-280 went into effect on October 1, 2019. Included in the law is a statutory obligation that within 45 days, or November 15, 2019, the Mayor is to go out to ANCs and BIDs and solicit recommendations for standalone public restrooms within the boundaries.

I am concerned that two and a half months later the Mayor has just begun to prepare to go out to BIDs and ANCs and that as of yet we have no knowledge of the firm date by which this will take place. Until she does this Law 22-280 cannot be implemented.

Please do your part so that this Law can be fully implemented according to the statutory requirements.

There is an insufficiency in building housing for: (1) people living on a fixed income; (2) individuals with no income and a voucher; (3) anyone who has a minimum wage job; and (4) anyone who is considered disabled.

Housing provides an opportunity to begin to improve their lives -- a safe place to put their belongings and other necessities which creates stability and translates into a new outlook on life.

Please do whatever to bring about these positive results in building necessary housing for those who really need it.

Thank you for listening to me.