



Taking Good Faith's Message to the Council

Faith communities taking action with and for persons who are homeless in the District of Columbia

"The solution to this crisis depends on how we define the crisis. Is the crisis that too many families are relying on government-funded shelter or that too many families in one of the wealthiest cities in the world are without safe housing?"

Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless

The City Council is currently considering the FY 2015 operating budget proposed by the Mayor. Good Faith will be testifying at Council hearings 4 times this week on issues related to affordable housing, the homeless shelter and related social service programs:

- "Are all of us prepared to own the failure to anticipate and respond to the family homelessness crisis of this past winter? We must...."

- "If we invest wisely in proven programs we can make a difference in people's lives. This must start with a shelter system that never becomes a permanent address, but rather emergency assistance at the time of crisis. Yes, year round shelter for priority one families is a must."

- "To make a difference there must not only be an investment, but also an agreed upon plan, outcome and effectiveness measures and OVERSIGHT. Someone must ask the hard questions and demand answers. We failed this year to take this responsibility seriously. We can't allow it to happen again."

- "A variety of affordable housing programs are needed for an effective Continuum of Care. One program does not fit all...There is an urgency to act in a responsible manner to find stable housing for shelter residents NOW. However, using the right program to create stable housing for a family is key to a successful outcome."

- "We are hopeful people. The stakes for our neighbors, all children of God, are much too high for us to allow our 'hope' that great things are happening not to be grounded in accountability. Metrics and reliable, timely information must accompany all programs."

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Members of Good Faith Write to the Council Chairman

The weekend of May 3- 4 Good Faith will be collecting signatures on letters to Council Chairman Phil Mendelson requesting action on homeless services and affordable housing in the FY 2015 budget. Consider signing the letter as you attend services this weekend.

If you are not part of congregation signing and would like to participate in the campaign, [read the letter](#) and [send an email that you would like your letter included](#). We will add your name to the letters we deliver on May 8 to the Chairman.

Our intent is to bring 3,000 letters - imagine 6 reams of paper in one stack! Our message will have substance.

[The Way Home](#)

On any given night in the District, nearly 1,800 individuals and families who are chronically homeless live on the streets and in shelters. Most homeless for years struggle with significant issues like mental illness and chronic health conditions.

Good Faith is working with the *The Way Home* campaign to end chronic homelessness by 2017.