



## Good Faith Communities Coalition

*Taking action on homelessness and affordable housing with and for the poor in the District of Columbia*

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September 8, 2016

Mark your calendar: Good Faith Annual Meeting  
October 23 (Sunday) 2- 4 PM, Temple Micah  
One City for All - Possible?  
Challenges as seen by faith, advocacy and political leaders

Short term housing for families who are homeless .....



Mayor's newsletter

Just before for summer recess, the City Council passed legislation approving plans to build short term housing for families who are homeless in each of 7 wards. This housing would allow DC General with 280 units of dilapidated housing to finally close by 2019. Each of the new facilities would house between 38 and 50 families in smaller, more dignified and better-resourced housing. Moving families to longer term housing in 60 days is the goal.

The new short term housing sites in the 7 wards are at various stages of development, but all are underway: mapping the site, RFP for architects to design the facility, zoning requests, community advisory committees established, Good Neighbor agreements planned etc. All the facilities are expected to be ready for occupancy by 2019.

The Ward 3 site at [2230 Idaho Ave. NW](#) is the only site with continuing community opposition. The Ward 3 ANC passed a [resolution](#) in June detailing numerous objections; a group calling itself 'Neighbors for Responsive Government' has filed a [lawsuit](#) in Superior Court basing their objection on the city's failure to seek ANC review of the project before formal site selection. They state the review is "legally mandated." For more information: [Good Faith Ward 3 handout](#).

Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh responded: "The site on Idaho Avenue will, of course, have an effect on the surrounding neighborhood...Although some concerns are likely unfounded...others will require resolution through collaboration between the government and the surrounding community. But the fact that the site poses challenges is not disqualifying; again there is no perfect site."

Let elected and appointed officials hear your **support for a well-designed, well-built, well-maintained and well-managed facility in Ward 3:** Ward 3  
[Councilmember Mary Cheh](#) , [Laura Zeilinger](#), Director, DC Department



of Human Services and [Carl Roller](#), Chair ANC 3C.

## Unfinished Business.....Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

August 2016 marked the 20th anniversary of the passage of the 1996 federal welfare law that created the **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** program. TANF is the only cash assistance program for needy families in the District. The local program has a **rigid 60 month participation limit** that mandates that once DC families reach the time limit they can never get back on. Research confirms that families reaching time limits often have multiple problems, including mental illness, chronic physical challenges, disability of a parent or child, limited cognitive functioning. The rigid time limit has the potential, well documented in other states, of pushing children into deep poverty with a looming specter of hunger, homelessness and foster care.



For the second year in a row, minimal assistance (\$165/month) will be provided to the 6,000 families with 13,000 children who are currently beyond the 60 month limit. The DC Interagency Council on Homelessness is meeting in Committee to consider proposed [Council legislation](#) on TANF restructuring and to make recommendations. The Council legislation, which still has not had a public hearing, is expensive - in the range of \$30M.



**Listen to TANF mothers on their journey to independence and ask: is it not time to face the true cost of poverty in our city and to provide real hope for families and children trapped in in circumstances they can't escape?**

**Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten - Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**



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