

My name is [redacted] and I'm currently a resident at D.C. General emergency shelter.

I have been looking for housing that I can afford for my family for 1 year now. Adria Petty is not caring about the low income family's who make up a large majority of DC's population. I currently work and attend [redacted] college and with the budget cut it will make it even harder to provide a roof over my children's head. Me and my husband are trying our best for our three sons.

[redacted]
Please put money for affordable housing back in the Budget

Every Tuesday evening I volunteer at the DC General Hypothermia Shelter - doing my small part to bring some semblance of normalcy to the turbulent lives of the children who find themselves here.

I am willing to pay higher taxes so that the families I see suffering can afford to have roof over their heads.

Dear City Councilmember,

My name is Jeannette Bergfeld and I volunteer every week at the DC General homeless shelter helping children in homeless families have a childhood while their parents work hard to find housing. I have witnessed firsthand homelessness among families doubling this winter as a result of the recession, with over 400 children at D.C. General Shelter last month.

Every Tuesday night, I have the privilege of witnessing these children finally enjoy their childhood, even if it is just for those two hours. When their parents come to pick them up, I see nothing but bright shining faces of loving families. That is the true face of homelessness in DC. I think often we get caught up in the images of homeless people we see on TV and we think we know what homelessness looks like. However, once you go into these shelters you see that homelessness also looks like caring, loving families who are simply going through a hard time. These families are the hidden face of homelessness in DC and they are not receiving the assistance they need.

As a taxpayer and constituent, I am deeply concerned that the Mayor's budget does not reflect this reality. I am willing to pay higher taxes so that the families I see suffering can afford to have a roof over their heads.

Dear Councilmember,

My name is [REDACTED]

and I have a 4 year old little girl name [REDACTED] and I am 7 1/2 months pregnant with my 2nd child. We are currently homeless staying in [REDACTED] shelter. I have been trying to find housing that I can afford for my family for about 5 years now. I couldn't believe it when I found out about the Mayor's budget cuts millions of dollars for housing like the LRSP and RHP! This will make it much more harder for me to provide a roof over my children's heads.

Even when I was working every day I still could not afford housing for my child. Please put money for affordable housing back in the budget because everyone needs a place to live.

Thank you for listening.

Dear, Counsel member Graham 4/21/10

My name is [REDACTED]
and I have a 10yr old son [REDACTED]
We've been staying at [REDACTED]
Shelter for 1yr now [REDACTED] Washington
DC, [REDACTED]. This is our second
time staying at the shelter.

[REDACTED] found us an apartment
in 2006 that went into foreclosure in
2008 which sent us back here.

I'm presently working 30hrs per
week at [REDACTED] but can't afford
to pay market rent. I really need
help my son is getting bigger and
it's not enough space for the both of
us.

When I heard of the Mayor's
budget cuts for housing I was
really disappointed. I'm also on
the housing list on N Capital have
been since 2005.

I'm a veteran, American citizen,
tax payer and a father please
give me some direction or help
on getting my family in a better
position.

Children have only one chance to have a childhood.

Be very honest with you I am so tired of living this way. I want better for my family. Within those four years I have been trying to find housing that I can afford. Recently I found out about the Mayor's budget cuts (URSP and RHP), and because of that it makes it extra hard for me to be able to put a roof over our heads. Now I don't know about you, but I am the head of my household. Do you know how it feels to not be able to provide for your family like you suppose to?

Each week, the parents generously allow us to spend time with their happy, intelligent, motivated children who are not always sure where they will be the next month. The sadness that we all feel, especially me as a mother of two young children, is unexplainable. These children deserve a chance to live their lives without fear and loneliness. Each time they move, they are forced to initially remain insulated from their surroundings. They gradually trust the people who work together to keep them safe and happy, and then they have to move. These children need to have safety and consistency.

Dear, Mayor

We need housing the most, because people need it so families like me, and others can find a roof to put over our heads. It's crazy that you would cut \$2 million dollars for housing.

My time volunteering at DC General has been eye opening. It is amazing how much potential these children have. Cutting funds for homeless assistance programs would be a big step backwards at such an important time in these children's lives.

Due to hard times and cut backs at work, I lost our home that I had for twenty years. When coming to the shelter, I found families just like mine.

I am working very hard to complete this program – taking life skills classes and furthering my education so that I am better able to provide for my son and myself. I was very angry and worried when I found out that the Mayor's budget cuts millions of dollars for housing like the Local Rent Supplement Program and the Rapid Re-Housing Program as well as the millions of dollars in childcare funding.

I am very scared of how these cuts will impact my family's future. When I complete this program how will I be able to find housing and child care that I can afford?

Please put money for affordable housing and childcare back in the budget. My son and I deserve a safe place to live and a safe and reliable option for childcare.

These children did not get to choose their circumstances in life. They are loving, they are smart, they are talented, they are resilient, and they deserve a fair chance at a happy and healthy childhood. As the nation's capital, we should reflect the very best of the country instead of a transparent divide between the haves and the have-nots. We can do better and stand up for these families and children. As my representative, I am pleading with you to show courage and listen to the voters of the District who are asking to sacrifice during this difficult time so the most vulnerable children in our city don't have to.

I became homeless because of domestic violence. It's really hard to find a safe place for me and my son. With the cuts to domestic violence services, housing and child care, it's going to be even more difficult for me to keep me and my son safe.

I have watched children crumble in these shelters. At one of our programs where I volunteer, I spent a whole evening with a third grader who could not stop crying from exhaustion. He told me through tears that he can't sleep in the shelter and spends most of his time helping his mother care for his two younger siblings. He tells me it is too loud and that he cannot focus on his school work. He still cannot read. These children live in an environment where the world around them is in a constant state of chaos and stress. We have an obligation to give these children housing so they can have a chance.

I have met "one dead end" after another. I am very concerned that I will not be able to find a place for my son and I to go. Not to mention a SAFE place, as a taxpaying DC resident, I feel that this should be a given, not a hope. The only "so-called" affordable housing is in violent unsecure areas, after working or going to school, I do not want to have to bring my son home to a dangerous place. Please consider the children and families that will be impacted the most before you make these cuts.

I think it is just important for city leaders to appreciate that they can put all the money they want into training teachers, updating school buildings, and developing curriculum; but, in my experience as a teacher, none of that matters when children are worried about where they will sleep at night or if they will have food to eat.

April 28, 2010

Dear Councilmember

My name is [REDACTED]

I am 10 1/2 years old.

I live with my family at [REDACTED]

When I grow up I want to be a Singer.

I think you need to find more money to help

families find housing because people is in danger?

With out a home so please, please find more money.

SO STEP UP TO THE PLAT And Find More money.

Thank you for listening

Dear Councilmember,

I volunteer at DC General, helping children in homeless families have a childhood while parents work to find housing. I am concerned about the Mayor's budget cut and am willing to pay higher taxes so that families I see here at DC General can afford to have a roof over their heads. Please listen to voters who are asking to sacrifice during this difficult time so that the most vulnerable children in our city don't have to.

Sincerely,

I have been trying to find housing that I can afford for my family for four years. I was shocked when I found out the Mayor's budget CUTS millions of dollars for housing like the LRSP and RHP! This will make it harder for me to provide a roof over my children's head.

Even working a construction job 40 hours per week, I still cannot find affordable housing.

Please put money for affordable housing back in the budget!

Thank you for listening

My name is [REDACTED] and I live with my mom and my two brothers who 14 and 9 years old. We live in [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Emergency shelter. We been homeless for almost a year now, I'm only 17 and I'm tired of not being able to help my mom out every day. I look into my mom's face I see in her face how she tired of living in here all she want is her own. She working double in order to get us the things we need. But she barely have the things she needs so if you cut the budget for housing it will only make it harder for my mom to provide a roof over our heads. So I'm asking you to put money for affordable housing back into the budget.

I'M A DC RESIDENT TOO!



MY FAMILY NEEDS