



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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Chairman

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August 30, 2024

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Rapid Rehousing exits

Dear Mayor Bowser,

I write to request that you halt the exits of over 900 families from rapid rehousing until the Department of Human Services (DHS) and the D.C. Housing Authority (DCHA) can complete the housing voucher eligibility and lease-up process for the significant number of vouchers that are available now or by October 1.

On July 11, 2024, DCHA approved Resolution 24-29, which authorizes DCHA to offer a "limited special admissions preference" for 1,300 housing choice vouchers to "applicants referred directly by DHS and whose participation in the FRSP is ending between May 1, 2024, and July 31, 2024, due to time limits for assistance and/or program expiration."

The vouchers authorized by DCHA via Resolution 24-49, as well as the 451 vouchers funded by the Council in the fiscal year 2025 budget, are meant to ensure that families who have reached their time limit in rapid rehousing can smoothly transition to permanent supportive housing. According to preliminary data from DHS, approximately 70% of families have no disqualifying factors for a voucher, so it is likely that a significant majority of these families will need the vouchers to continue being stably housed.

Exiting these families from rapid rehousing before they have been matched with a voucher will only harm the families and the housing providers, as families will undoubtedly fall behind on rent and housing providers may commence eviction proceedings.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Mendelson", written over a horizontal line.

Phil Mendelson

PM/bs