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March 26, 2020

TO: Council of the District of Columbia

CC: Mayor Muriel Bowser

RE: DC's COVID-19 Economic Relief Efforts

The Dupont Circle Citizens Association (DCCA) is a registered nonprofit citizens association formed in 1922 to protect the interests of residents in Dupont Circle and across the District.

We appreciate your economic relief efforts to-date with the COVID-19 Emergency Legislation passed on March 17th, but the current pressing needs of at least one major segment of your constituents, the residential real estate property owners, including many individual homeowners, have been overlooked.

Hotel owners and others have been granted a 90-day extension to the due date for their real estate property taxes, but residential real estate property owners have not. Like these hotel owners, many of us in Dupont Circle and the rest of the District depend on revenues coming from our Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) and other real estate rental properties in our neighborhoods in order to meet our recurring obligations including mortgage payments and utilities. We are key in helping provide both short-term and long-term housing more affordable than what the corporate-owned hotels can provide.

With the current Coronavirus keeping people away from DC, short- and long-term rental opportunities have dried up for this segment of your constituency, same as they have for the hotel industry. We are in an economic bind.

When you passed the COVID-19 Emergency Legislation you promised to add to that legislation as necessary through further legislation. Residential Real Estate Property Taxes are due on March 31st. Severe penalties apply for payments made even one day late.

DCCA, after consulting with its membership and learning of the difficulties many will have in meeting the March 31st real estate tax deadline, respectfully requests that Real Estate Property Taxes be deferred by 90 days for Residential Real Estate owned by your DC constituents as well as for the Real Estate owned by hotels and other businesses to which you've already granted a 90-day due-date deferment.

Sincerely,

Glenn Engelmann
President, DCCA

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