



OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Greetings to our Valued Partners and Stakeholders:

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) is pleased to share with you its Policy Advisory Report on the New Communities Initiative (NCI). To date, the Initiative has produced over 1,000 new housing units, created over 250 jobs, and served over 500 heads of households annually through case management. NCI has also created community anchors, including Walker Jones Education Campus in Northwest One, HD Woodson High School in Lincoln Heights, and the forthcoming flagship Barry Farm Recreation Center that is under construction. This past year, NCI progressed with the successful opening of the Nannie Helen at 4800 in Lincoln Heights and the construction of Sheridan Station Phase III in Barry Farm, the SeVerna Phase II, and 2 M Street in Northwest One.

We highlight these achievements to underscore NCI's progression from a challenging time in the implementation of the initiative that has seen us combat lengthy timelines, changing market conditions, administrative turnover, and dwindling federal funding sources. To this end, DMPED engaged a team of policy advisors with in-depth expertise in affordable housing and tangible experience with similar redevelopment projects across the country. The team focused specifically on key lessons learned since the development of NCI, as well as the challenges, opportunities, and solutions to facilitate successful implementation.

As with any program or initiative that requires substantial financial and human capital investment, there is a desire for assessment to verify progress, explain the lack thereof, and to provide a framework for moving forward successfully. Although no one could account for every obstacle met by NCI after its inception, at this point in the program's history, an honest effort to assess its principles and provide recommendations for moving forward has been made through the commissioning of this study.

In closing, although there is still much work to be done, we want you to understand that DMPED, in partnership with the District of Columbia Housing Authority, is committed to continuously exploring new, creative ways to progress the initiative as onsite redevelopment commences. This includes strengthening existing partnerships as well as pursuing new opportunities for public-private collaboration. DMPED actively acknowledges and appreciates your work as a critical partner in this endeavor, and we look forward to making even greater strides with your continued support.

We invite you to stay connected to NCI through our website (www.dcnewcommunities.org) to obtain the most current NCI-related news and events.

Sincerely,

Kimberly B. King
Director of New Communities Initiative

