



**FEDERAL CITY
COUNCIL**

**Testimony of Katie Posko
Federal City Council
Committee on Labor and Workforce Development
Budget Oversight Hearing**

**April 4, 2022
Via virtual Zoom Platform**

Good morning Chairperson Silverman and Committee Members,

I am grateful for the opportunity to speak before you today. My name is Katie Posko and I am the Workforce Development Associate at the Federal City Council, a nonprofit CEO-led civic organization dedicated to advancing the vibrancy and improvement of Washington, DC.

The Federal City Council believes in the importance of developing long-term, sustainable plans to invest in our city's workforce. Last year, we launched the Hire Local DC Coalition in partnership with the DC Chamber of Commerce to ensure a coordinated approach among employers so that DC residents access the many good jobs available in the District. We also work closely with our partners at CityWorks DC and members of the Greater Washington Apprentice Network to make work-based learning and apprenticeships the norm for DC employers.

I am testifying today in support of the workforce investments made in Mayor Bowser's 2023 budget and to encourage additional engagement with DC employers as the programs under these investments come to fruition. Last year the city made landmark investments in workforce initiatives, many of which span several years. We urge the Council to leverage this momentum and build upon that dedication of funding. I'd like to share with you three brief points that will sustain our shared mission of advancing local hiring in the District:

1. This year we are particularly excited about the continued funding for the employer training grants under the Workforce Investment Council (WIC). They have selected their first three providers and we are in support of the shift towards co-creating targeted training in collaboration with employers. We've also developed a working relationship with the DC Hospital Association Services Company, Inc. and we support the investments that were made to establish the DC Healthcare Workforce Partnership. While I'm not here to testify on other agencies in the cluster, I'd like to add that we are in support of funding for apprenticeships at the Department of Employment Services and the expansion of the Advanced Technical Centers. These programs are vital to ensuring DC residents are prepared for and hired into the excellent jobs our city has

to offer, and as they continue to develop, we will continue to leverage the Federal City Council network to connect employers to these initiatives.

2. Under our Hire Local DC Coalition we have convened many of the city's business leaders over the course of the last year. In those conversations we've routinely asked employers about their view on their biggest barriers to hiring and retaining local talent. Those barriers include access to: transportation; wrap-around services that address childcare availability, trauma and mental health, and housing instability; adequate training and employability skills; and interest and awareness building opportunities. We've shared these findings with the city's workforce and education agencies, and appreciate DC's efforts to address employer feedback in the design and implementation of their programming.

3. At the Federal City Council, our efforts are inspired and led by Antwanne Ford, Chairman of the Workforce Investment Council. His firm belief is that we need to create One Door for residents and employers to understand and access the wide variety of DC government workforce and training programs. As the city invests more in its workforce programs, the One Door goal is even more important. We hope to be a strong partner to DC by helping to coordinate and organize employers so that we can strengthen the feedback loop between employers and government.

We have a unique opportunity to capitalize on these investments and connect our local talent pools to good jobs. I am grateful to the District government and the Committee on Labor and Workforce Development for expanding workforce investments and for your continued partnership in developing a more sustainable, local and diverse talent pipeline. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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