

Members of the County Council

Thank you for holding this hearing. I am writing to express my strong support for staffing the full request for approximately \$1.3 million for Special Appropriation #24-14. I understand that budgets are tight and that none of these decisions are easy, but with draft regulations for the rent stabilization law expected soon, we need to make sure that DHCA is fully staffed up and ready to implement the new law as soon as the council finalizes those same regulations to make sure renters have the information they need and landlords and developers don't face unnecessary disruptions in compliance and capital investments.

As many of you know, I support the final rent stabilization law and think it will be good for the county, especially in the long term.

Honestly, even if I didn't, or you don't, our feelings on the final bill shouldn't keep us from addressing the matter at hand. Bill 15-23 is now law. It is absolutely critical that DHCA have the resources and personnel it needs as soon as possible to not only enforce the law, but also to process exemption requests and handle other administrative duties that will allow renters to be protected while keeping supply and maintenance disruptions to a minimum. These staff positions were discussed by the council openly during sessions and were a well understood part of the law. It is perfectly reasonable for the Executive to ask them to be funded as soon as possible at a time where the county is working to enact one of its most significant pieces of legislation in decades.

Thank you, and I am happy to discuss this further if you wish.

Mike English

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