March 23, 2021

Mr. George Schutter

Chief Procurement Officer and Director,

Office of Procurement Services

441 4th Street, NW, Suite 330 South

Washington, DC 20001

Dear Director Schutter and OCP Leadership,

The Coalition for Nonprofit Equity, representing approximately 600 DC nonprofits, thanks you for sharing with Councilmember Robert White your willingness to meet with Coalition members to discuss ongoing implementation of the Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020 and concerns related to the FY21 Budget Support Act’s unfulfilled fiscal analysis requirement. As may have been clear from Coalition testimony at the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) Performance Oversight hearing on February 17, 2022, nonprofit providers’ experiences navigating the new law seem to differ greatly from the government’s understanding of how smoothly and successfully implementation has gone thus far.

We request a meeting with you and OCP leadership to discuss our ongoing concerns.

As you know, the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) received $200,000 through Title I, Subtitle I, of Law 23-149 (the Nonprofit Fairness Analysis of the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Support Act of 2020), to complete an analysis on the extent to which the District government has improperly retained indirect costs on federal awards that, per federal Office of Management and Budget Uniform Guidance from 2014, should have passed through to the implementing entity. The BSA also required OCP to produce a table listing a review of funding of indirect costs in all grants or contracts.

Further, Law 23-185, the Nonprofit Fair Compensation Act of 2020 seeks parity for nonprofits on their District and federally funded grants and contracts. Yet, as we noted in testimony at OCP’s Performance Oversight hearing on February 17, 2022, and our Quarter 1 FY22 review prepared at DC Council’s Budget Director Jennifer Budoff’s request, multiple solicitations were released with inaccurate or missing information related to indirect cost rates.

Without this analysis, the Mayor has released her second budget uninformed by this important information and is still not factoring nonprofits’ financial needs into the budget. We think the

We appreciate the support OCP has shown support for these efforts and recognize the enormous scope of the task to reeducate and reorient District grant and contract processes to successfully support nonprofits in their partnership with the District.

The Coalition wants to discuss with OCP:

* Training and education of contracts personnel training as well as related training and coordination with the City Administrator and grant-making agencies on appropriate language in solicitations;
* Listening sessions with nonprofits to understand their challenges and concerns; and
* Appointment of a dedicated staff member to work with the nonprofit community on the Act’s implementation and provide guidance and support.

We look forward to continuing this partnership with you. Please contact Melissa Millar at mmillar@cohdc.org about scheduling a meeting.

Sincerely,

Coalition for Nonprofit Equity members who worked on and agreed to sign this letter:

Amber Pannocchia, The Musicianship

Angela Jones Hackley, Covenant House

Ana Natalia Otero, Co-founder and Executive Director, DC SAFE

Bridgette Stumpf, Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)

Catalina Sol, La Clinica del Pueblo

Christy Respress, Pathways to Housing DC

Corinne Cannon, DC Diaper Bank

Cyndee Clay, HIPS

Dayna Minor, Associates for Renewal in Education

Debby Shore, Sasha Bruce Youthwork

Elizabeth Schurgin, DC Youth Orchestra Program

Ernest Clover III, DC Dream Center

Gabrielle Webster, Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington

George Jones, Bread for the City

Gretchen Van der Veer, Fair Chance

Kelly Sweeney McShane, Community of Hope

Kim Perry, DC Action

Kim Rihm, The Training Source

Koube Ngaaje, District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH)

Latoya Lewis, EventU

Lauren Schweder Biel, DC Greens

Lupi Quinteros-Grady, Latin American Youth Center

Matt Breslin, Washington Inner City Lacrosse

Mazi Mutafa, Words, Beats & Life

Penelope Spain, Open City Advocates

Ralph Boyd, SOME, Inc. (So Others Might Eat)

Samantha Trumbull, Common Good City Farm

Steve Glaude, Coalition for Nonprofit Housing and Economic Development (CNHED)

Steven Hocker, Teens Run DC

Susan Punnett, Family and Youth Initiative

Tollie B. Elliot, Sr., Mary’s Center

William Drew, YoKids

cc: Shawn Hilgendorf and Neah Evering, Committee on Government Operations and Facilities