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**TESTIMONY BY MAURA BROPHY TO THE NOVEMBER 9, 2021 COH/CHS JOINT PUBLIC
OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE ON “THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES’
COORDINATED ASSISTANCE AND RESOURCES FOR ENCAMPMENTS PILOT PROGRAM”
CONFIRMATION**

Thank you to the DC Council and to Councilmember Nadeau, Chairperson of the Committee for Human Services, for allowing me to testify at this roundtable discussion about the C.A.R.E. pilot program.

I am Maura Brophy, President and CEO of the NoMa Business Improvement District or NoMa BID for short. Of the three selected locations for the C.A.R.E. program, one – the L and M Street Northeast underpasses – is within the NoMa BID boundaries.

For anyone not familiar with the NoMa BID, we are a non-profit organization, authorized by an act of Council, which serves a 35-block neighborhood stretching from Union Station in the south to R Street Northeast, and from North Capitol eastward to Third Street.

Outreach to persons experiencing homelessness is among the core services of the NoMa BID and the BID fully supports any and all efforts to provide housing to DC’s unhoused residents, including through the District’s C.A.R.E. pilot program

Anyone who has spent time in the District during the past 18 months has seen the proliferation of tents in our public space. Each one of these tents represents a person or persons living unsheltered in our community. Living in a tent or on the street is among the worst possible places for a person enduring homelessness to be. The negative physical, mental, and emotional impacts of being unhoused on individuals are severe. A recent survey conducted among unhoused individuals in NoMa found that 70% of those polled reported that they had been a victim of a crime in the 30 days preceding the poll. 96% reported being the victim of a crime in the 90 days preceding.

This data underscores the ever-present danger to those living unsheltered and was compiled through in-person interviews conducted by the NoMa BID’s outreach provider, the h3 Project. The h3 Project is a local non-profit, which the NoMa BID began partnering with two years ago to provide intensive, individualized outreach and services to persons experiencing homelessness in NoMa.

Led by Dr. Ami Angell, the h3 Project staff work seven days a week to meet the needs of unhoused residents in NoMa. They develop individualized action plans, seek temporary and permanent housing placements, and connect people to additional opportunities. In the last 20 months, the h3 Project's unique and intensive approach has resulted in:

- 817 referrals to DC agencies
- 45 housing matches
- 35 housing move-ins
- 112 issuances of vital documents
- 81 reunifications with family members

These positive outcomes were only achievable due to the h3 Project's intensive, holistic, and individualized approach, the same approach that is being employed by the C.A.R.E. pilot program. We're encouraged to learn that in the 6 weeks since the C.A.R.E program launched, **91% of NoMa residents formerly living in the L and M Street underpasses have received housing.** This is an outcome we should all be applauding.

Our work in this space has allowed the NoMa BID to become aware of the complexity of efforts like the one the District is undertaking with the C.A.R.E. pilot. It's also helped us to gain a unique understanding of the issue of homelessness in our City. Simply stated, the status quo isn't sufficient to meet the needs of the most vulnerable members of our community. The C.A.R.E pilot is the best effort we have seen towards identifying new and innovative solutions to addressing homelessness in our city. We would like to give it – and the people involved – a chance to succeed.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share our perspective and real-time results.