

Name of City Council Committee
Date of Hearing
Name of Person Giving Testimony, Affiliation, Phone Number (optional)
Testimony Title:

Greeting & Introduction. Good morning/afternoon –name Chair of Committee and your Ward Council Member. Say your name, and if you’re a resident of D.C. give Ward or neighborhood. Tell them who you are representing, if anyone. If you are representing a community organization, briefly explain types of services provided and background about people who participate in services (ie. Low income women, immigrants, etc.).

Name the problem that needs to be solved. “I am here to talk about ...” Explain why this problem relates to the subject of the city council hearing if necessary. Explain the extent & depth of problem, give numbers- statistics if possible.

Personal testimony. Give example of how you are directly impacted by this issue, or how a person connected to your organization has experienced this issue, and –if possible- the consequences of the un-met need for the individual & the person’s entire family.

This is not just my issue. Explain how *other* people are directly or indirectly impacted by this issue. Why is this issue important to everyone, not just the people who *own* the problem?

Explain what will happen if this problem is not solved. Give example of what the future will look like. What are the consequences- in terms of wasted resources, breaking civil rights law, and the kind of society we want.

Identify officials or departments who are responsible for this problem. Talk about the root causes of this problem. Briefly say how the city is creating the problem or how certain departments may be making an effort to address the issue and need reinforcement.

The Solution & What you expect from City Council. In as detailed way as possible, give your recommendation. Give action steps that are important for city council and other responsible officials to do during a period of time to solve the problem. Explain how you want to be part of the solution. Tell them to follow-up with you about this problem. Remind them of their responsibilities as elected officials. Let them know your expectations, and how they can contact you.