

December 10, 2001

Council of the District of Columbia

CONFIRMATION HEARING FOR STANLEY JACKSON FOR DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Testimony of Natwar M. Gandhi, Chief Financial Officer, before the Committee on Economic Development

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee. My name is Natwar M. Gandhi, and I am the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia. I am here today to testify in support of the confirmation of Stanley Jackson for the position of Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development for the District of Columbia.

Mr. Jackson has a long and distinguished career with the District government going back some 20 years. Between 1981 and 2000, he worked in a series of progressively more responsible positions in the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR), including management analyst, division manager, chief tax enforcement officer, chief of the Assessment Services Division, and director of the Customer Service Administration. In each of these positions, he grew personally and professionally and made important improvements to his areas of responsibility.

Throughout his tenure at OTR, Mr. Jackson was instrumental in designing and implementing a number of innovative programs to increase tax revenues for the District, including the annual real property tax sale, the tax lien securitization program, the unclaimed property program, and the central collection program.

During the three years we served together at OTR, Mr. Jackson's leadership in the customer service area resulted in an expansion of outreach efforts across the board, making real property and delinquent tax information more visible. He was an asset to me and to the agency, and that was why I asked him to be my chief of staff once I became the District's Chief Financial Officer in 2000.

As my chief of staff, he continued his valuable service by assisting in several historic milestones for the city – completing a fourth Comprehensive Annual Financial Report with a balanced budget and a clean audit opinion, attaining bond-rating upgrades for the District from all three rating agencies, ensuring a smooth budget process, and facilitating the first tax increment financing deal for the Spy Museum.

My personal experiences with Stan, and my knowledge of his education and experience in his chosen field, make me extremely confident that he can and will perform the duties of this important position with efficiency and effectiveness. His intelligence, work ethic, leadership, and interpersonal skills all qualify him for this job, and I recommend him highly.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear today to discuss Mr. Jackson's qualifications, and for your favorable consideration of his nomination.