

Hyacinth's Place Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2018, Bill 22-887

Before the Committee on Finance and Revenue

The Honorable Jack Evans, Chairman

**November 19, 2018, 10:00 AM
Room 412, John A. Wilson Building**



**Testimony of
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**Jeffrey S. DeWitt
Chief Financial Officer
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Good morning Chairman Evans and members of the Committee on Finance and Revenue. My name is Basil Facchina, and I am Assistant General Counsel for the Office of Tax and Revenue. I am pleased to present testimony on Bill 22-887, the “Hyacinth’s Place Equitable Real Property Tax Relief Act of 2018.”

In general, the Bill would forgive certain unpaid real property taxes assessed against two properties owned by Hyacinth’s Place LLC and the Institute for Urban Living. These properties are currently exempt from real property taxation, and the Bill would eliminate certain outstanding real property tax liabilities that arose prior to the filing of real property tax exemption applications for these properties. The Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) has granted real property tax exemptions to these properties to the fullest extent allowed by current District law based on the filing of these applications and has also waived penalties and interest attributable to these taxes. OTR, however, is not able to abate taxes for periods prior to the filing of the exemption applications.

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer has prepared a Tax Abatement Financial Analysis which concludes that the tax relief provided by the Bill is not necessary

since the property owners appear to have sufficient funds to pay off these liabilities.

Thank you, Chairman Evans, for the opportunity to comment on this Bill. I would be happy to answer any questions at this time.