



From: Valerie Jablow
Subject: Re: signing up for May 18 hearing on Gibbs & Shaed lease & disposition
Date: May 10, 2022 at 6:07 PM
To: DiFazio, Alicia (Council) adifazio@DCCOUNCIL.US, Mendelson, Phil (COUNCIL) pmendelson@dccouncil.us, McDuffie, Kenyan (Council) kmcduffie@DCCOUNCIL.US
Cc: Committee on Business and Economic Development BusinessEconomicDevelopment@DCCOUNCIL.US

Hi Alicia (copying the council chair and the committee chair),

Thanks—but this is simply incredible to me.

In December there was a poorly noticed public hearing for this lease extension for Gibbs and Shaed that literally lasted 1 hour. Most of that hour was taken up by presentations by DGS, DME, as well as the schools currently occupying the buildings.

I had to fight the DME's office to even get a copy of the chat of the meeting. The DGS contact, Claudia Barahona, has never returned my emails OR phone calls about something that she herself promised to do in the wake of that meeting, which was to provide the questions and comments received by email. And she has never outlined—despite promising to do so during the meeting--the rent credits that were being granted to Building Hope, the leaseholder of both schools.

In January, I asked you about a hearing for this legislation—and you assured me one was forthcoming. As it is, I could not find the December emergency legislation in LIMS (and believe me, I looked for months) until **April 4**.

And now we don't even have a hearing because DGS went ahead and literally tied up the schools for most of this century with a private organization!

So now I have to ask:

1. What public purpose is served thusly when we know DCPS has very little wiggle room for swing space? This swing space issue is not going away anytime soon: the DCPS schools that received renovations early on will need work in the next decade.
2. Did anyone at the council even see that December public meeting for Gibbs and Shaed?
3. Does anyone at the council know what the rent credits are for both? Because I can assure you the public literally has no way to know what's a fair price nor when those credits run out—as none were ever elucidated for the public (despite being promised).
4. Does anyone at the council know what Building Hope's creditors **actually require** as opposed to what was said by Building Hope, the latter of which was the rationale for the **emergency** legislation?
5. Does anyone at the council know whether the terms of the lease extension are a good deal in light of those rent credits, the need for swing space, and the rising real estate prices in DC?
6. Does anyone at the council know why we have to assume that the buildings owned by DC that Build Hope leases and sublets to charters would be adversely affected if Building Hope did in fact default—which was the rationale for the emergency legislation? (Let me repeat: *DC owns those buildings—and pays facilities fees to the charter schools that occupy them.*)

This is not about whether the charter schools in those buildings are good or beloved (and in fact may not even be there (or in business at all) when those leases expire).

Rather, it's about what appears to be the council abrogating its responsibility and ensuring public assets are spirited away without any elucidation of public benefit as outlined above, all for the advantage of a private organization's funding.

This is not a good look.

Valerie Jablow

On May 10, 2022, at 4:56 PM, DiFazio, Alicia (Council) <adifazio@DCCOUNCIL.US> wrote:

Hi Valerie,

I appreciate your patience. I was tied up with today's FY23 budget session (and preparing for this day).

With respect to next week's hearing, the Committee has learned that DGS used the authority Council granted it in December (via emergency and temporary legislation) and executed the lease extensions. That said, a hearing is no longer necessary.

The hearing notice will be revised and placed in Friday's DC Register to note that those two school lease measures will not be heard. The Committee will proceed with the PSC confirmation measure.

I apologize for any inconvenience.

Alicia

Alicia DiFazio, Esq.
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From: Valerie Jablow

Date: Tuesday, May 10, 2022 at 10:33 AM

To: Committee on Business and Economic Development

<BusinessEconomicDevelopment@DCCOUNCIL.US>, "DiFazio, Alicia (Council)"

<adifazio@DCCOUNCIL.US>

Subject: Re: signing up for May 18 hearing on Gibbs & Shaed lease & disposition

Hi all:

I am resending this (see below); please let me know how to sign up.

Thank you.

Valerie

Valerie Jablow

On May 7, 2022, at 9:07 AM, Valerie Jablow wrote:

Hi:

I wanted to sign up to be a public witness for the hearing on May 18 for the lease extensions of the Gibbs & Shaed schools.

But the link in the hearing notice for that purpose does not appear to be working.

The hearing notice is here:

https://lims.dccouncil.us/downloads/LIMS/48417/Hearing_Notice/B24-0556-Hearing_Notice1.pdf

The link is here: <https://dccouncil->

[us.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ih16BQeMQH-OE3OJvjtpCA](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ih16BQeMQH-OE3OJvjtpCA).

Please advise; many thanks.

Valerie Jablow