
Written Testimony on CR127-2026-Request for Publi Questions and Responses

From NATE <nateorgmd@gmail.com>

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To CouncilMail <CouncilMail@howardcountymd.gov>

 1 attachment (291 KB)

Erica Davis testimony.docx;

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Good afternoon,

Please accept the attached written testimony from Neighbors Advocating for Tenant Empowerment, Inc (NATE) concerning CR127-2026 and the appointment of Erica Davis to the Howard County Housing Commision.

NATE respectfully requested that the Council ask Ms.Davis the question outlined in our testimony and place her response on the public legislative record before taking final action on her appointment.

Please include the attached testimony in the official record for CR127-2026.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Diana Lyles
Founder and Interim Executive Director
Neighbors Advocating for Tenant Empowerment, Inc (NATE)
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N.A.T.E.
NEIGHBORS ADVOCATING FOR TENANT EMPOWERMENT

September 22, 2026

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
[3430 Court House Drive](#)
[Ellicott City, Maryland 21043](#)

RE: CR127-2026 – Appointment of Erica Davis to the Howard County Housing Commission

Chair Jones and Members of the Howard County Council:

My name is Diana Lyles. I am the Founder and Interim Executive Director of Neighbors Advocating for Tenant Empowerment, Inc. (NATE), Howard County's first tenant-led grassroots nonprofit organization.

NATE submits this written testimony concerning CR127-2026, which would confirm the appointment of Erica Davis to the Howard County Housing Commission.

The Howard County Housing Commission administers the Housing Choice Voucher Program and makes decisions affecting voucher participants, residents with disabilities, families facing displacement, and other residents served by the Commission.

Because this appointment involves responsibility for overseeing policies and decisions that directly affect vulnerable residents, NATE respectfully asks the County Council to question Ms. Davis publicly before voting on her confirmation.

NATE requests that councilmembers ask Ms. Davis the following questions directly and place her responses in the public legislative record:

1. Will you support the Howard County Housing Commission in establishing and meaningfully consulting with a representative Resident Advisory Board as part of HUD's Public Housing Agency planning process?

2. Will you support meaningful representation of Housing Choice Voucher participants, residents with disabilities, and other families assisted by the Housing Commission on the Resident Advisory Board?

3. Will you commit to listening directly to residents before supporting policies, administrative plans, or other decisions that affect their housing?

4. Will you promote transparency by ensuring that residents receive timely access to proposed policies, meeting information, performance data, and decisions affecting Housing Commission programs?

5. Will you support early and meaningful consultation with residents before redevelopment, relocation, abatement, or displacement decisions are finalized?

6. Will you protect the rights of tenants to organize, select representatives of their own choosing, and communicate with the Housing Commission without retaliation?

7. Will you support timely and respectful responses to reasonable-accommodation requests, unsafe housing conditions, emergency relocation needs, and other serious tenant concerns?

8. Will you remain accessible and responsive to Housing Choice Voucher participants, residents served by the Housing Commission, and tenant-led organizations?

NATE understands that an individual commissioner does not personally administer the Housing Choice Voucher Program or operate the Resident Advisory Board. However, commissioners have an important oversight and policy role. They should ensure that the Housing Commission complies with its responsibilities, listens to residents, and operates transparently and accountably.

This testimony is not a personal attack on Ms. Davis, nor is NATE making assumptions about how she will perform if confirmed. Our purpose is to ensure that residents understand her position on these important matters before the Council takes final action.

NATE respectfully requests that Ms. Davis answer these questions during the public hearing. If she is not present or cannot answer them during the hearing, we ask the Council to obtain written responses and include those responses in the public legislative record before taking final action on CR127-2026.

If necessary, we respectfully request that the Council postpone its vote until the nominee's responses have been received and made available to the public.

NATE is prepared to work constructively with Ms. Davis, the Howard County Housing Commission, the County Council, and other community partners. Meaningful

collaboration must begin with transparency, accountability, respect, and genuine resident participation.

Thank you for considering NATE's written testimony and for placing this testimony in the official legislative record.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Lyles

Diana Lyles

Founder and Interim Executive Director

Neighbors Advocating for Tenant Empowerment, Inc. (NATE)

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