



Office of the People's Counsel for the District of Columbia
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**Greater Washington
Urban League**

*Empowering Communities.
Changing Lives.*

The Greater Washington Urban League
2901 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20009

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Today, Greater Washington Urban League President and CEO George H. Lambert, Jr. joined District of Columbia People's Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye to announce that the GWUL has received a significant financial contribution to its energy assistance program funding as a direct result of the Office of the People's Counsel's advocacy.

The new funding, totaling \$100,000 for the GWUL Special Energy Assistance Fund, stems from a settlement agreement the Office entered into with an alternative energy provider in the District. One of the conditions of the settlement was for the provider to make a significant financial contribution to a District based non-profit organization to provide energy assistance to consumers. Because of the GWUL's record of managing energy assistance grants, and their capacity to meet reporting and administrative requirements, OPC was able to quickly arrange for GWUL to receive the funds. This allows consumers struggling to keep up with their winter heating bills to receive assistance immediately.

"As the public advocate for utility ratepayers, I am pleased with the commitment that GWUL has shown to District residents. GWUL has been a welcome partner to OPC staff for several years, and together we have worked to deliver assistance to hundreds of consumers," said People's Counsel Sandra Mattavous-Frye. "This latest partnership is just one more example of what public and private collaboration can achieve," stated the People's Counsel.

George H. Lambert, Jr. stated, "The Greater Washington Urban League is proud to partner with OPC to be the administrator for this program, which will help serve more community residents in need of electric and natural gas emergency energy assistance."

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About OPC

The Office of the People's Counsel is the public advocate for District of Columbia natural gas, electricity and telecommunications consumers. The Office represents the interests of consumers before the Public Service Commission, DC Court of Appeals and Federal regulatory bodies. OPC is empowered to represent individual consumers with complaints about their utility services and the Office is mandated to conduct consumer education and outreach to assist consumers to gain a full understanding of the services they receive.

About the GWUL

The Greater Washington Urban League provides more than 65,000 residents in the Washington, D.C., region with education and employment training, health and nutrition, food and utility assistance, affordable housing, and community development programs and services. Our mission is to increase the economic and political empowerment of African Americans and other minorities and to help all Americans share equally in the responsibilities and rewards of full citizenship. The League is one of 98 affiliates of the National Urban League and is a member agency of the United Way of the National Capital Area.

Eligibility under the GWUL program is detailed in the attachment.