

3/17

Good Morning, Government Operations Council Committee Members,

I am Sandra Mitchiner and

✱ have attended every hearing held by Council for the Office of Risk Management.

Again, today, you are being informed of the inappropriate, unethical, and possibly illegal administrative practices affecting district government employee claimants. Evidence provided has been sufficient to cause the D.C. Inspector General to render a report identifying deficiencies and requesting response. The Office of Risk Management's Director did not respond, answer FOIA request, and even Council specific requested information. Personally, as a career government service employee, life long District Resident I am insulted that this could occur.

The D.C. Worker Compensation Program has its beginnings as did the District Government in the United States Federal Government. It was perceived as a right to formalize a local entity with similar functions to municipal, county, and state governments across the country. With that gift came responsibility ensuring all laws both Federal and District are engaged, and enforced. The D.C. Council has passed law that is not enforced by Mr. Fenty or the previous Mayor. The Worker Compensation public employee program is a gaping embarrassing open sore that has not and will not go away without correction. Until the original purpose, mission, and administration of the program is performed by individuals capable, trained, and vested in specific government series 900 "Worker Compensation" performance standards. To date, that has not occurred. Any individual with permanent injury(s) is benefit entitled to quality medical care and treatment as deemed appropriate for the work causal injury(s). Benefit entitlement i.e. specialty doctors, treatments, and medications benefit check, transportation between appointments, alteration of personal vehicles, and property to accommodate the work causal injury(s) is mandated by Stature and law. Again, the law is not enforced.

I am permanently injured through no fault of my own, accepted and verified work injury, yet last week I was denied medications required to keep me alive. WHY??? The lack of certified trained worker compensation (government) specialist and the use of contract or out sourced services from insurance industry employees who have no clue. Or, Maybe, that is the plan. YES, this program is expensive but more attention to correction of the safety issues on the front end could avoid the millions in the UNDERCOVER and SEALED settlements. I am presenting in front of Council official FOIA request and identification of physicians who have still to be paid for work causal injury treatment provided me to Miss Valentine, Director, Risk Management, have my federal life insurance which I have carried since first hired is identified incase I die today, and be informed when all cost of living increases will be provided on my benefit check.

As a government employee who is away from work due to work injury, I am entitled to the security of all personal, medical, and personnel documents. This cannot occur with the continued web of contractors, and sub-contractors with access to claimant records. These individual are not required to meet the standards of government employment. At present, neither Council nor the Mayor can ensure present or previous ORM contractors meet government security standards.

The D.C. Compensation Program is also organizationally misplaced. The function is an employee labor element of personnel and has never belonged within the Office of the Mayor. This inappropriate alignment affords less oversight, more opportunity to massage the regulations, ignore the program intent, and abuse the claimants.