

[Sample Testimony Supporting DC Archives]

Testimony before the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_, Council Member  
\_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson, Day/Date/Year, \_\_\_ am/pm, Room \_\_\_\_\_

Council Member \_\_\_\_\_, fellow Council Members, Ladies and  
Gentlemen...

I am \_\_\_\_\_, (resident, native  
Washingtonian, research professional, advocate, historian, genealogist, author, etc.)  
and I am here today to express my/my organization's support for the District of  
Columbia Archives and the Office of Public Records.

The former horse stables that have housed the District's historic records since the  
1990s have fallen into decay. The building's structure and environmental controls are  
insufficient to protect the more than 214 years of our city's written history. In 2013  
Mayor Gray included in his budget and the Council approved more than \$40 million  
to design, build, equip and staff a 21<sup>st</sup> century, state-of-the-art archives for the  
District. We encourage your continued support for this initiative and sincerely hope  
that you will oppose any efforts that will divert or reprogram the funds which have  
already been approved for this project.

While many people think of our city's archives as simply a repository for birth and  
death certificates, wills and deeds – of interest only to researchers and genealogists –

very few residents and, unfortunately, many public officials fail to realize the important role that the Office of Public Records and the District of Columbia Archives plays in our government's agencies' compliance with numerous codes including: DC Municipal Regulations and DC Register, Title I, Chapter 15 (maintenance of public records); The Public Records Management Act of 1985 (DC Law 6-19); DC Code 2-1709 (relinquishment of public records to successors); and, DC Code, Title 2, Chapter 17 (Responsibilities of the Office of Public Records). All of these regulations are in place to ensure the integrity of our government, its agencies and our officials. Without the proper storage, maintenance and accessibility to these records and documents our city's oversight agencies' roles are hampered and our citizens' rights to open and honest government are threatened.

Please do your part to ensure that the funding, design, construction and staffing of the District's Office of Public Records' new archives are achieved without further delay.

Thank you.