

Friends of the DC Archives

Mayor-elect Muriel Bowser
c/o Lindsey Parker, Policy Director, Transition Office

Congratulations on your election as the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the sixth in our modern Home Rule era. As Mayor and fifth generation Washingtonian, we know that you fully appreciate the historic nature of the position of your new office and share with us, the Friends of the DC Archives (FDCA), the obligation and dedication to the preservation and study our city's history.

The Office of Public Records, which includes the DC Archives and is under the Secretary of the District, is responsible for the preservation and management of the District's documents, in all formats. Unfortunately, as has been well-documented, the physical facility and staffing are deficient, threatening historic records, limiting access and hampering government operations. Fortunately, the District has committed, with your support, close to \$40 million for a new DC Archives, a major step toward solving this problem.

Your Transition Plan says you want to "push for the most open and transparent administration possible" and a state-of-the-art DC Archives and Office of Public Records is key to meeting this goal. FDCA would like to meet with you and your staff to discuss:

- your continued commitment to a modern, state-of-the-art DC Archives and Office of Public Records;
- appropriate staff and resources for the facility at Naylor Court and for compliance with the District's records management mandate;
- the qualifications for your choice for Secretary of the District and Public Records Administrator who will help meet these goals.

Thank you for your attention to this often hidden but vital need. Please contact Bill Rice, 202-437-7787/c, ricebill@aol.com, for further information and to set up a meeting.

On behalf of the Friends of the DC Archives:

William N. Brown, president of the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of D.C.

Andrew Cassidy-Amstutz, DC Representative, Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference

Fynnette Eaton, Fellow, Society of American Archivists
(organizations for identification only)

The Friends of the DC Archives is a volunteer organization that advocates for a strong D.C. Archives that will preserve and make accessible D.C. records in all formats to ensure the accountability of its public officials and promote understanding of the history of the nation's capital.