

Mr. Phil Mendelson
Chair, DC City Council Committee of the Whole

Ms. Mary Cheh
Chair of the DC City Council Committee on Transportation and
the Environment

Dear Mr. Mendelson and Ms. Cheh:

As a resident of D.C.'s Ward 3 for the past 17 years, as a retired Federal Archivist, and as a Fellow of the Society of American Archivists, I am writing in support of the current efforts of the Friends of the DC Archives (FDCA). In particular I urge the Council to maintain the \$44 million in the capital spending portion of the proposed DC budget for FY 2016 to build a state-of-the-art building for the DC Archives.

However, I am very concerned that the FY 2016 DC budget, as proposed, would fund the District's public records operations at a lower level than currently, which the FDCA has testified is wholly inadequate. The District needs a strong archives and records management professional staff to ensure timely and effective management of the records created by the DC government and to assure proper public access to and research in the District's archives.

Yet, the position of public records administrator is vacant. Exacerbating this situation, the current program budget is insufficient for carrying out essential records management and archival functions, let alone for participating in the basic planning, consultation, and pre-award decisions that are needed before the District should proceed to plan for, design, and build a new Archives.

Thus I urge a critical and holistic review of the proposed FY 2016 budget for the District's archives and records management program, with the goal of supporting not only a new Archives building, but as essentially, providing an appropriate level of professional support.

Yours sincerely, Margaret O. Adams, 2034 48th St., N.W.;
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