

The Association of Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia

Established Dec. 7, 1865 – Celebrating our 149th year!

COPY

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November 5, 2014

Mayor Elect Muriel Bowser
c/o Office of Ward 4 Council Member
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Elect Bowser:

Let us be among the first to congratulate you on your successful campaign and election to the office of Mayor of the District of Columbia. We hope that you will continue many of the successful programs begun by Mayor Anthony Williams and continued by Mayors Adrian Fenty and Vincent Gray which have contributed to the economic resurgence of the District.

We were always pleased to witness your support as Ward 4 Council Member for the programs of the Military Road School Preservation Trust and the many efforts to preserve and promote our Circle Fort Parks, particularly at Fort Stevens, the Battleground Cemetery and the Superintendent's Lodge. As Mayor we hope you will bring your experience and passion for the preservation of these sites to their corresponding sites in all 8 Wards.

Also, we hope that you will use your office and leadership to continue to promote the preservation of the District's historic records, most important among them the District of Columbia Archives. With Council approval Mayor Gray budgeted more than \$44 million to build a new, state-of-the-art D.C. Archives facility and ensure that it is properly staffed and maintained. We have supported the efforts of the newly-formed Friends of the D.C. Archives to provide guidance, expertise and advice to help ensure that this large capital investment is designed and constructed according to the highest standards and, that once completed, it is appropriately staffed to ensure that it meets its mission. Since 2005, the AOI of DC has called attention to the plight of not only the D.C. Archives but other repositories of the District's historical records: The Charles Sumner School Museum & Archives, the Washingtoniana Division at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Library, the Recorder of Deeds' records and collections such as those of the Kiplinger Research Library at the Historical Society. All of these collections deserve the support and attention of our citizens and government leaders.

The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia -- the District's oldest civic organization -- was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city's prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city's stability, security and advancement -- to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past.

