

DRAFT Monday, April 10, 2017
Testimony of the Friends of the DC Archives
DC Council, Committee on Government Operations, Brandon Todd, chair
DC Archives, FY18 Budget
Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Good day, I am Bill Rice, from the Friends of the DC Archives (FDCA) here to testify on Mayor Bowser's FY18 budget for the DC Archives and the Office of Public Records. FDCA advocates for upgrading the building and staff at the current Naylor Court Archives; creating a new, state-of-the-art Archives building; and developing a records management program for the DC Government.

The Mayor's operating budget generally proposes the same funding and staffing levels as this year. The Mayor capital budget continues support for a new Archives with the with \$67 million in the capital budget, through 2021, which we welcome. We also support her request for close to \$300,000 to digitize the indexes of land records. We ask for the funding to develop a full digitization program, including the development of an agency-wide digital preservation strategy.

However, as we have testified before, the operating budget does not begin to meet the need for an Archives staff that can serve the public and undertake records management. To start with, we need an overall inventory of records, not just for Naylor Court, but also for the agencies and at the Federal Records Center in Suitland, Maryland. We also need updated agency retention schedules and the start of planning for the move to a new facility. It would be critical to hire additional staff to process collections, increase accessibility of the collections to researchers, and prepare the large volume of records for the move to a new facility. We recommend hiring a reference archivist, a processing archivist, a records manager, as well as an assistant.

We understand that the Department of General Services has completed a feasibility study for the Penn Center building in northeast for the new Archives, along with consideration of the former Recorder of Deeds building as the public face of the Archives, for education, research and general accessibility. We and look forward to a full public discussion of its implications.

We again want to thank District Secretary Lauren Vaughan and Administrator of the Public Records Rebecca Katz for their cooperation and DGS for their studies by Hartman/Cox and the \$3 million for temporary fixes at Naylor Court.

I am happy to take your questions.

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