

Friends of the DC Archives
Testimony Before the Committee of Government Operations
Office of Public Records and Archives: FY19 Budget
April 26, 2018

I am Fynnette Eaton, interim head of the Friends of the DC Archives. FDCA is a group of professional archivists and others advocating for a state-of-the-art DC Archives/Office of Public Records, to include a) a new archives facility, b) staff and facilities upgrades at the current Archives at 1300 Naylor Ct. NW, and c) development of modern records management for the DC Government.

Regarding the FY19 budget, we support the Mayor's continued request for \$80 million for a new facility. While the site is still undetermined, we understand that the Department of General Services is to evaluate a building for this purpose. Because the size, location, interior systems and whether it is a repurposed or new building are some of the key factors to creating a successful project that we can support, FDCA asks to be briefed on the evaluation from the start.

The Naylor Court building continues to need attention. Three years ago DGS committed \$3 million for HVC, roof and other building upgrades. However, the work is still not completed and maintenance of the building is required. Therefore, we ask that the Committee join us in urging DGS complete the upgrades and provide needed maintenance.

As Patrice Brown has noted in her written testimony, "Currently, the Washingtoniana Division of the DC Library has 8 staff to service approximately 3,000 linear feet of materials its holdings. In comparison the DC archives has a staff of 6 to service approximately 45,000 cubic ft. of records in its holdings. Remember the holdings of the DC archives will continue to grow and continue to overwhelm its staff if nothing is done now. The staff has little to no time to perform its mission which includes records management, processing, and reference under these conditions. So what will happen when additional tasks for planning for a new building and getting ready for it impact an already overburdened staff. Two additional staff will give the archives the breathing space it needs to complete necessary tasks and take on additional jobs in relation to planning for a new archival building."

We support the requests for two new FTEs for the Office of Public Records and dedicated funding for Emancipation Day materials and activities including an historic events calendar. In addition, we suggest examining the feasibility of speeding up the staff additions to hasten the improvements in the Archives' operations and providing funding for processing and digitization projects that will be of great value to District residents.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify; I am ready to answer your questions.

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