

**Testimony of Bill Rice to the  
Committee on Public Works & Operations Oversight Hearing  
on the  
Office of the Chief Technology Officer, OCTO  
Re: DC Archives  
Wednesday, February 22, 2023, 2:00 pm**

Good day. I am Bill Rice, testifying for myself as someone who is deeply interested in preserving and dissemination the history of our city. I am a founding-member of the Friends of the DC Archives (FDCA) and strongly support its advocacy for increased staff for the Office of Public Records under our new State Archivist Lopez Matthews, the creation of a new DC Archives at UDC and a comprehensive records management system for the DC Government. The Council is further supporting the new DC Archives when, led by Chairman Phil Mendelson, it created the Archives Advisory Group (AAG).

My testimony reflects what my FDCA colleague Carl Bergman said last week to the Committee on Executive Administration and Labor at the oversight hearing for the Office of the Secretary.

From the concept design by Hartman-Cox, the building's archives consultant, we have an idea of the Archive's sitting, what it will look like, its floor layouts and its main systems. Digital records, now dominate private and public communication. However, the concept design treats them as an afterthought. The design has one 1,000 sq ft Digital Archives server room on the first floor, and one Electronics Records Processing room of 400 sq ft on the second floor has. This is hardly adequate.

Per the Bergman testimony, the new DC Archives system should have:

- Dedicated 24/7 power. The design only provides for an uninterruptible power supply or UPS. An UPS allows for the controlled power down of a system. Instead, there should be a backup power system.
- An offsite controlled environment. It is unwise to locate the Archives servers in its facility. Management of the facility's holdings should be in the facility, not their data servers.
- Able to distribute files dynamically, in a cloud computing environment.
- A dedicated place for controlling the building's data network.

- Space for managing its electronic archival inventory and internal and public search system.
- A single search engine for all DC archival records. Regardless of the facility's holdings, other city agencies will continue to have archival records. Users should be able to go to the new Archive's website and search all archival records, not multiple separate agency sites. To do this, the facility must dedicate adequate resources and space to managing all DC's holdings.
- Website. The new Archives needs its own website that is a gateway to the archives and which highlights its holdings and their importance.

The Hart-Cox concept design is an important step in providing the District with a modern DC Archives; it needs to treat the District's digital records with a similar degree of importance.

Thank you, I am happy to answer your questions.

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