

**Testimony for the Committee of Government Operations  
Performance Oversight of the Office of Public Records and Archives  
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by  
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As an active member of the Friends of DC Archives, I have been engaged for a number of years in speaking in support of Office of Public Records and Archives. Other concerned residents will offer their views about the current situation, which requires greater resources than what are currently available.

My view is to congratulate the current staff for the significant steps that they have taken to improve the challenging situation at the current facility. In the past year records schedules for about 10 agencies have been drafted and are currently being reviewed; an archives information management system is tracking reference performance statistics for the first time; the archives continues to process collections that were in suboptimal physical storage; jail commitments from the late 1800's are being reboxed in acid-free boxes and are being arranged in chronological order; and a student in archives management drafted an archives processing manual to formalize the workflow used to process accessions. The staff continued its outreach efforts by presenting two sessions at the Annual DC History Conference and sponsoring a poster at the Catholic University Library and Information Science Symposium.

Each of these steps are small, but important. It is clear that there is an overwhelming amount of work to be performed before the archival collection is moved to the new facility. Increased staffing is absolutely necessary as are funds to rebox collections, complete a full inventory of the current collection, accession records that are currently not in the archival custody and begin to deal with the electronic records that current Council is creating.

Based on the positive efforts of the archival staff, I strongly urge both the Council and the Mayor to continue to support the efforts of the archival staff and provide the necessary funds to move the program further.