

**DC Council, Committee on Transportation & the Environment,
Mary Cheh, chair
Re: Department of General Services
Thursday, February 25, 2016**

Good day, I am Bill Rice here representing the Friends of the DC Archives (FDCA) a group of professionals and others whose goals are: upgrading the physical plant and increasing staff at Naylor Court; strong support for a new state-of-the-art Archives; and development of a comprehensive records management program for the entire DC Government. The Department of General Services has a key role in meeting these goals--it is responsible for physical upkeep of the current Archives building at 1300 Naylor Ct., NW, and for planning and building the new Archives facility for the District.

DGS has taken positive actions on two of these fronts. For Naylor Court, the agency has committed \$3 million to fix the roof and the HVAC system, with the work to be completed by this summer. This should protect the historic materials, at least through 2018, the contemplated date to begin to move to a new building.

On the new Archives facility, FDCA commends DGS on the release of the report by Hartman/Cox-EYA , which, for the first time, brings together in one document the volume of storage required for the vast majority of hardcopy materials created by District agencies, along with a preliminary estimate of the size needed for the new facility. FDCA had the opportunity to offer informal comments, pointing out that the estimates do not include the DC Courts, DCPS and other repositories. Nor did it include the costs of demolition (if required), the furnishings, the specialized equipment and the data systems to keep track of all the city's records.

As we move to the next planning stage, FDCA asks DGS to make the document's online presence more visible and user-friendly by enabling comments to be captured and to aggressively solicit public comment, including, possibly, holding a public meeting or workshop on the new Archives. This will generate support and ideas that can surely help us all build a better facility.

Thank you. I am happy to answer any questions.

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