

Testimony submitted for Committee of the Whole: Secretary of the District of Columbia, March 7, 2016

March 6, 2016

Dr. Eric Stoykovich
Washington, DC 20002

Charles Allen (Ward 6)
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 406
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Allen,

As a resident of Ward 6 for the past four years, I write to encourage your continued support of the Office of Public Records and Archives. The District of Columbia would improve its services to citizens through the short-term remediation of the current archives facility at Naylor Court, the timely construction of a new purpose-built archives building, and an increase in the staff of the city's public archives and records management program concomitant with the vision of a world-class city.

While the Preliminary Programming Report of the Office of Public Records and Archives (Contract No.: DCAM-15-AE-00091) suggests many possibilities for future development within the next five years, immediate action must be taken within 2016 to ensure that the city's public records and archives are properly collected, preserved, and made accessible to the public. As a Certified Archivist and Ph.D. in American history, I understand the utility of public records to ensure accountability for citizens and the value of historical archives as essential tools for understanding the past and preparing the city for the future. Thus, I encourage further and immediate funding for:

(1) structural renovations (including roof repairs) to 1300 Naylor Court, NW, to protect the records from physical failings while a new archives structure is planned and constructed;

(2) a complete inventory of the archival boxes, record materials, and other historic items currently maintained at 1300 Naylor Court, NW;

(3) increased staffing throughout the Office of Public Records and Archives, both for comprehensive records management activities and robust archival programs that address the growing public awareness of the tenuous state of D.C.'s public records and archives.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric Stoykovich

cc: Committee of the Whole (cow@dccouncil.us)