

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office on Aging



Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
John M. Thompson, Ph.D., CPM, FAAMA
Executive Director

Before the

Committee on Housing & Community Development

Council of the District of Columbia

Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 11:00 AM

Room 120

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004



Good afternoon, Chairwoman Bonds, members and staff of the Committee. I am Dr. John M. Thompson, the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Office on Aging. I am pleased to testify before you today on Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget, "Pathways to the Middle Class." As Mayor Bowser recently testified before the Council, each agency plays a critical part in ensuring that District residents in all eight Wards have the education, economic opportunity, public safety, neighborhoods, environment, and infrastructure they need to reach the middle class. Mayor Bowser's Fiscal Year 2016 Budget submission ensures that our agency and the entire government have the necessary staff and resources to help meet these ambitious goals.

This budget is the product of an unprecedented amount of outreach. The Mayor held three budget engagement forums that were attended by hundreds of residents that described how they would allocate an imaginary \$100 towards key issues facing the District. The Mayor's budget staff also met with Councilmembers and their staff to incorporate their priorities in the budget. Finally, the Mayor and her senior leadership met with numerous community groups as part of the development of this budget. All of this work on the front end resulted in a budget that reflects the interests and priorities of all stakeholders. We have continued that kind of outreach, transparency, and accountability through our Agency Stakeholder Budget Briefings and through these hearings led by the Council to fine tune and implement the Fiscal Year 2016 Budget.

Let me now briefly describe my plans for the agency in the coming fiscal year.

First, we will improve services and supports for District residents by strategically redefining the mission and purpose of DCOA's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). To meet this objective, we will refine standard operating procedures and trainings; standardize data collection practices and evaluations; and increase community partnerships and targeted outreach. The ultimate goal is to ensure that the ADRC becomes accredited through the Alliance



of Information & Referral Systems, which is the primary quality assurance mechanism for affirming excellence in information and referral services.

Second, due to the low and uneven number of participants attending the agency's six senior wellness centers during the extended evenings and Saturday hours of operation, DCOA will collaborate with its community-based partners and use data to determine which sites will offer the extended hours. This will allow District seniors access to health and wellness programming at a select number of centers that will better match the demand for the services.

Third, as you may be aware, in FY14, DCOA expanded its home delivered meals program to D.C. residents, which included weekend meals for the non-frail meals program. Due to increased demand for these services with limited capacity, DCOA has begun to conduct an extensive review of its policies for prioritizing seniors of the greatest need. The agency will also be convening a new Nutrition Task Force this month, which includes external stakeholders and other D.C. government agencies, to help guide the decision making process around the home delivered meals program.

Fourth, we will partner with organizations, such as Whitman Walker and the D.C. Center for the LGBTQ Community, to increase outreach and access to services for the older LGBTQ community. Actionable items include increasing knowledge of legal and health programs, increasing knowledge of LGBTQ specific health needs and demands, and increasing cultural sensitivity towards LGBTQ customers by training front-line staff and identifying possible system reforms. Additionally, we will improve cultural competency around HIV/AIDS by training service providers within the Senior Service Network and provide service linkages and collaborations for seniors living with HIV through partnerships with the D.C. Department of Health.

Fifth, we will establish a hydration campaign targeted for seniors. Chronic dehydration is a frequent cause of hospitalization of older adults and one of the ten most frequent diagnoses responsible for hospitalization in the United-States. It can cause confusion and other symptoms that may resemble Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ARD). In our efforts to improve nutrition and increase awareness around ARD, DCOA plans to partner with D.C. Water to promote consumption of tap water. This partnership will not only impact health outcomes, but will improve environmental and economic outcomes as well. Drinking tap water over bottled water decreases waste (only 25% of plastic bottles are recycled) and saves residents money (bottled water costs \$1,000 per 1,000 gallons vs. tap water that costs \$10 per 1,000 gallons).¹

Sixth, we will establish new community partnerships to educate seniors, caregivers, and the public on the prevention and identification of financial exploitation of seniors.

Finally, we will work to make DCOA a data-driven agency in an effort to further demonstrate the impact that DCOA services and supports have on older adults, people living with disabilities, and caregivers.

I would now like to discuss a few of the issues raised at the agency's performance oversight hearing for which follow-up was requested.

This Committee inquired about a payment issue raised by a sub-grantee around a concern regarding the timeliness of payments from the District of Columbia Government. In response to this concern, my agency met with the sub-grantee and Office of Finance and Resource Management (OFRM), and it was determined that there are currently no outstanding payments due to this organization and that payments are in compliance with the Quick Payment Act.

¹ *DC Tap Water vs. Bottled Water*. D.C. Water. Web. 9 Apr. 2015.
http://www.dcwater.com/drinking_water/Tap_Bottle_Water.pdf.



However, DCOA will accept OFRM's recommendation to perform an internal review of financial processing procedures in order to identify ways to expedite sub-grantee reimbursement requests.

The Committee also heard concerns from community advocates around the enrollment process and customer service delivery for the District's Elderly Person with Disability Waiver Program (EPD) administered by the Department of Healthcare Finance (DHCF). DCOA performs specific functions within the EPD waiver application process through agreements with DHCF. DCOA is working in conjunction with our sister agencies to streamline the EPD Waiver enrollment process in order to reduce confusion and improve customer service. This includes hiring and training DCOA staff who will be specifically devoted to assisting residents with the EPD Waiver application process by performing in-person meetings in the community. These specialists will have a more hands on approach beginning at the point of referral to assist with the collection of necessary medical and financial information for application processing by DHCF and DHS-ESA. They will also carefully explain the entire application and enrollment process to reduce confusion and decrease enrollment wait time in order for residents to have the vital services that they need to age in place.

The resources allocated to the agency in the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2016 budget are critical to achieving our mission and helping to grow and preserve the middle class. The Council and this Committee, led by you, Chairwoman Bonds, have been key allies in this effort and I appreciate your continued efforts to ensure we operate efficiently and effectively.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I look forward to answering any questions the Committee may have.



Comments of Romaine Thomas
Chair, D.C. Commission on Aging

Before the

D.C. Council, Committee on Housing and Community Development

D.C. Office on Aging Budget

April 23, 2015

My name is Romaine Thomas; I am Chair of the D.C. Commission on Aging.

Legislation tasks the D.C. Commission on Aging with advocating to the Mayor, D.C. Council and the public on the needs and concerns of the more than 100,000 individuals aged 60+ residing in the District. Seniors are among the most fragile and vulnerable of our residents. The programs administered by the D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) are vital to these residents, and must be protected.

Last February, the Commission provided a National study indicating that D.C. had the highest percent of older adults living alone with disabilities. Highest in the Nation! Please ensure the final budget does not adversely impact these most-fragile adults.

The Commission recognizes that the Mayor's budget reduces DCOA's budget by 3.5 percent, but it also increases funding for other programs that benefit seniors, although they are not labeled as "senior programs". Examples are the Housing Development Trust Fund and several initiatives to end homelessness. We wholeheartedly support these efforts, but do not wish to simultaneously disadvantage vulnerable seniors.

We also recognize that some DCOA programs, such as extended-hours at Wellness Centers, are under-used. Accordingly, the Commission supports "right-sizing" the DCOA budget; but only for the short term and only if DCOA can maintain current services with less local funding.

The Commission has suggested to Dr. Thompson that a formal needs assessment be completed as soon as possible.

Wellness Centers

The Commission has observed low utilization of Wellness Centers in the evenings and on weekends, and believes scaling-back operating hours during these times may be appropriate at this time. However, it would be a mistake to conclude these services are not needed.

Few older adults are even aware Wellness Centers exist. When the operating hours for Wellness Center were extended, only seniors who were already using the Wellness Center were specifically informed that operating hours were being extended. Why would someone who is not even aware that a facility exists pay attention to its operating hours? It should come as no surprise that attendance during extended hours was poor.

With proper communication and promotion, attendance at Wellness Centers could easily exceed current capacity. That is when extended hours should return. In fact, we note that six Wellness Centers for a city the size of D.C. is unusual. Even if only five percent of our seniors choose to participate, this equates to approximately 830 participants per Wellness Center.

Research has shown that Wellness activities have both individual and public health benefits, making them an excellent investment of a community's funds. Innovative ways of getting older adults involved in Wellness activities are needed.

The Commission is currently studying Wellness Center utilization and demographics, and looks forward to sharing the results with DCOA and this Committee.

Service Priorities

Given "right-sizing" of the budget, DCOA should consider giving priority to lower-income seniors and disabled individuals. It is not clear if and when this method of prioritization is already being applied. Although the Older Americans Act prohibits provision of services based on economic need, there is probably no reason D.C. cannot apply this prioritization methodology to services funded with D.C. funds.

Age-Friendly Initiative

The Commission is actively involved in implementation and refinement of the Age-Friendly DC Strategic Plan. Implementing it could make a significant difference residents of all ages, yet it does not require major new funding. The Commission urges the Committee to fully support the Plan's goals, objectives and strategies.

We urge the Committee to ask the agencies listed in the Plan if and when they plan to accomplish these strategies. To assist with this process, we have attached a table listing each agency within your jurisdiction.

I appreciate this opportunity to testify on these important topics.

Age-Friendly D.C. (AFDC) Strategic Plan (Pages 46 – 59)

Responsible Agencies and Strategies

<http://agefriendly.dc.gov/publication/age-friendly-dc-strategic-plan-2014-2017>

DC Housing Authority (DCHA)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #	
	3.1.9	
	3.2.3	

DC Housing Finance Agency (DCHFA)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #	
	3.1.9	
	3.2.1	
	3.2.2	

Office on Aging (DCOA)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #		
	2.2.4	5.1.3	8.2.2
	3.1.2	5.2.2	8.2.4
	3.1.3	6.1.2	9.1.1
	3.1.6	6.1.3	9.2.3
	3.1.8	7.1.4	10.1.1
	3.2.1	7.2.1	10.1.4
	3.2.3	7.2.2	10.1.6
	4.1.3	8.1.1	10.2.1
	4.1.2	8.1.2	10.2.2
4.1.4	8.1.5		

Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)	AFDC Plan – Strategy #	
	3.1.1	
	3.1.2	
	3.1.5	
	3.1.7	
	3.1.9	
	3.1.6	
	3.2.1	
	3.2.2	
3.2.3		

Office of LGBTQ Affairs	AFDC Plan – Strategy #	
	3.2.2	
	4.1.4	
	5.2.1	

Testimony of Rev. Joseph William
AARP DC State President
Committee on Housing and Community Development
FY 2016 Budget Hearing, DC Office on Aging
Council of the District of Columbia
April 23, 2015

Good morning Chairman Bonds and Members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Rev. Joseph Williams. I am the AARP State President for seniors the District of Columbia. I am known to wear several hats when testifying before this Committee, but this morning I have the pleasure of speaking on behalf of AARP, which represents about 89,000 AARP members living in the District. We appreciate this opportunity.

First, I'd like to highlight a new AARP initiative that will benefit all of the District's residents as they age. Then I'll discuss some of AARP's immediate concerns. The District of Columbia recently submitted to AARP the Age Friendly DC Strategic Plan for 2014 -2017 for making the District Age Friendly. This concept was originally developed by the World Health Organization. The District of Columbia was named as one of seven pilot U.S. Cities to enter the network and improve all the domains of civic life that impact age-friendliness. One of these domains is community support and health services: including access to healthcare services, clinics, and programs to promote active aging (physical exercise and healthy habits). Thanks in part to the leadership of this Committee, the District of Columbia leads the nation in progressive health care. AARP is actively involved in implementation and refinement of the Age-

Friendly DC Strategic Plan. Implementing it could make a significant difference residents of all ages, yet it does not require major new funding. AARP urges the Committee to fully support the Plan's goals, objectives and strategies.

We urge the Committee to ask the agencies listed in the Strategic Plan if and when they plan to accomplish these strategies.

This is not a short term effort, nor does it only focus on health care. It will require improvements and coordination between nearly every D.C. Government agency, and will impact the jurisdiction of nearly every Council Committee.

We wish to thank the Council for supporting funding to the DCOA and thus the importance of DCOA's vital services. We appreciate that the Office on Aging has taken steps to ensure that most grantees will not suffer budget cuts in FY 2016. We also applaud the fact that DCOA has committed to raising the reimbursement rates for its grantees, rates that have remained the same for many years. Ultimately of course the overall budget needs to be increased so as not to cause a diminution of services. The budget for Legal Counsel for the Elderly legal services has been essentially flat for years despite significantly rising costs during that same time period. About 73% of the funding LCE receives from DCOA is for the long-term care ombudsman program and only 27% is for legal advice and representation of community residents. Thus DCOA pays for about 3 FTE attorneys though LCE has about 9 attorneys working to achieve the objectives of the DCOA grant which they then have to subsidize from other sources. LCE has to supplement their own resources to deliver our DCOA funded services in part because DCOA funds reimbursement rate is inadequate-a fact that DCOA's

independent auditors noted in their report. DCOA and its grantees are long overdue to receive a significant increase in its funding simply to maintain the same level of services. We are aware that this is a tight budget year but the reality is that with flat funding LCE will either have to turn people away or have older people wait way too long for services. The Senior Advisory Coalition has made these points time and again to both the Executive branch and to the Council. In our discussions, all these individuals seemed to be in agreement with the need for significant additional funding for DCOA. DCOA's website publishes the grant dollar amounts for each grantee and the "burn-rate" –that is how much of the grant has been spent. This data is out of date and inaccurate and has been for some time. DCOA has been notified numerous times by multiple grantees concerning this issue, but nothing seems to happen. Based on what they have had posted, a reader would logically but erroneously conclude that DCOA has not been spending its money, that the grantees have not been using the money and that therefore DCOA does not need money. **This is patently false.** Right now the data on DCOA's website for my own organization is off, inaccurate by over 200%. Other grantees have reported to DCOA a similar situation. We recommend that either this information be removed from the website or be strictly kept up to date and accurate. To publish outdated and/or erroneous budget information is at best misleading and at worst does a real disservice to DC's seniors, DCOA and the Senior Advocacy Network. There are over 100,000 District residents that are over 60 which is roughly one-sixth of the entire DC population. Gauging Aging a FrameWorks Strategic Report indicated that D.C. had the highest percent of older adults living alone with disabilities. Highest in the

Nation! Please ensure the final budget does not adversely impact these most-fragile adults.

AARP recognizes that the Mayor's budget reduces DCOA's budget by 3.5 percent, but it also increases funding for other programs that benefit seniors, although they are not labeled as "senior programs". Examples are the Housing Development Trust Fund and several initiatives to end homelessness. We wholeheartedly support these efforts, but do not wish to simultaneously disadvantage vulnerable seniors.

We also recognize that some DCOA programs, such as extended-hours at Wellness Centers, are under-used. Accordingly, AARP supports "right-sizing" the DCOA budget; but only for the short term and only if DCOA can maintain current services with less local funding.

We are grateful that DCOA has tried to minimize the impact of budget cuts in the community. However, needs are not being met with current level of funding therefore cuts will adversely impact services. The budget needs to reflect that seniors are a priority in the city and should be viewed as a vital part of the city

Testimony on District of Columbia Office on Aging FY16 Budget
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015
Presented by
Sally White, Executive Director, Iona Senior Services
Co-Chair, DC Senior Advisory Coalition

Good morning Councilmember Bonds and members of the Committee. My name is Sally White. I am Executive Director of Iona Senior Services and Co-Chair of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition.

The D.C. Senior Advisory Coalition (SAC), a membership organization of over 30 non-profit organizations, advocates to improve the quality of life for and with seniors in the District of Columbia. Its vision is to build a community where all seniors thrive. Our members are deeply involved in the lives of DC seniors, especially those in greatest need. We appreciate the opportunity to testify before you today.

As you know, the Office on Aging and its grantee agencies are providing critical services to over one-third of the District's 100,000 residents age 60 and older. We understand the tremendous pressures the Mayor and the Council are under to develop a budget for FY16 to meet ever expanding needs while revenue growth has slowed. We are grateful that the proposed cuts to the Office on Aging's budget are not deeper. But we also know that we must speak up to be sure the needs of the most vulnerable are heard and services to meet those needs are funded at appropriate levels. While the Office on Aging has made great strides in the past several years in services to older adults, the needs continue to grow.

The Mayor's budget requires a \$2.355 million cut to the DCOA budget, 5.4% of the total. This is a very significant amount for a relatively small budget. We appreciate the efforts of Dr. Thompson and his staff to minimize the impact of these cuts on direct services to older adults but still, \$1 million are slated to be cut from the six Senior Wellness Centers. As we understand it, the expansion this year in hours and programs to go later in the evenings and on Saturdays for most centers has not generated enough participation to warrant continuing, so funding will be cut. We are concerned that needed increases in day-time programming and staffing which were funded as part of the budget increases this year will be impacted by these cuts. Dr. Thompson assured us that core services, which we interpret as all services and staffing during the daytime hours, Monday through Friday, will not be cut. We appreciate his efforts to minimize the impact of these cuts, but ask the Council to restore at least half the funds to the wellness centers and to provide oversight of any service reductions.

While DCOA may be forced to move forward with cuts proposed in the Mayor's budget, we urge the Council to consider increases totaling \$2.8 million to expand services in the following areas:

Transportation: The Seabury Connector is providing vital transportation to and from medical appointments, adult day health care programs and more. While Seabury Connector provides service to all older adults who need it, not just those that have physical disabilities, we believe the service is superior to Metro Access, and does not require payment by consumers. The cost, according to Seabury, is \$35.40 per ride in FY14. We understand that DC pays Metro Access \$50 per ride. Therefore, rides provided by Connector vs. Metro Access **save the District more than \$14 per ride.**

Twenty additional drivers can fill 4000 more service requests per month, meeting current and expected increases in demand, especially for a second shift on weekdays and Saturday needs. Vehicles are now only scheduled for one 8 hour shift, there is a potential to split the day into two shifts and extend hours earlier and later. Adding 20 new drivers x \$46,000 = **\$920,000** in additional funding. An additional **\$150,000** is needed for fuel, maintenance, and management.

Seabury Connector Card

- Prepaid card which supplements fares for any ground transportation service (ie: taxis, Uber)
- January 2015, 88 unduplicated low-income customers took 183 trips
- An increase of **\$100,000** will allow the program to continue to meet demands. (104 enrollees so far)

The total request for transportation to meet demand is **\$1,170,000.**

Case Management: Case, or care, managers in the community based lead agency partner organizations provide vital support to older adults with multiple, complex medical and psychosocial needs. Five additional social workers are needed to meet immediate demands for service in the partner organizations so that an additional minimum of 210 lower income, at-risk older adults can safely live in their homes. Cost \$544,000.

If even 10% of these individuals (21 people) receive care in the home through Medicaid and case management through DCOA support and avoid moving to a nursing facility, it can save the District and Federal government \$1,245,000 per year. (Calculations based on Genworth Long Term Care Costs 2014 and provider agency calculations)

Nutrition Counseling and Support: In FY14, great strides were made in increasing the number of individuals getting much needed home delivered meals. Many home meal recipients require nutritional counseling to improve health damaged by illness and/or poor nutrition over many years. The meals alone are not enough. A minimum of three additional nutritionists are needed to provide vital nutrition counseling and education services for 300 high risk seniors, improving their health and wellbeing. Cost \$150,000.

We are also anticipating the ability to manage enrollment in and out of the home delivered meals slots by each lead agency. Dr. Thompson assured us that this will be confirmed this month. Right now if a client comes off the home delivered meals roster for whatever reason, we are not able to fill the slot with people waiting for meals.

Meals with Friends: There are over 50 senior “Meals with Friends” congregate lunch programs in the District. They can be found in senior housing buildings, churches, synagogues, mosques and wellness centers. Last year, 325,341 meals were served to 5,245 older DC residents. The meals served are often the only full meal these individuals receive in a day. Just as important is the community that is formed and the friendships established for people who are otherwise very isolated and alone--isolation which exacerbates physical and mental health challenges. Many of the meal programs are managed by part time senior aides stretched to their limit just to manage the food. Much more support is needed to provide the additional programs and supports these DC residents need and want, such as health checks, arts and fitness programming, referrals for social work, mental health and other needed services. Program managers and nutrition assistants are needed to pilot the impact of increased support on the quality of the programs and the quality of life of the participants. Cost \$250,000

Legal Assistance for low-income residents: Staff and volunteers of Legal Counsel for the Elderly (LCE) assisted more than 6,000 older adults in FY14, with monetary benefits totaling over \$12 million. More than 90 percent of older neighbors receiving help from LCE are persons of color, and three out of four are low-income women. LCE volunteers, interns and fellows contribute thousands of hours of pro bono service annually, helping clients with many types of cases. According to an independent actuarial study for the Office on Aging, the actual cost per hour for legal services, weighted for the level of support provided by intake specialists, paralegals, and attorneys, is \$103.50 per hour. The FY14 DCOA reimbursement rate is only \$40.20 per hour. To increase support by even 10% will require an additional \$130,000.

Wellness Programming Wards 2 and 3: There is not a Wellness Center in Ward 2 or 3. By creating a wellness programming hub we could gather and disseminate information about existing programs for seniors and plan and disseminate new programs to be delivered through a network of sites and partner agencies including DPR facilities, community centers, libraries, universities, schools and private institutions. The wellness hub would respond to demand from residents and proposals from service providers to develop a growing supply of Wellness programs in the Wards. Cost \$100,000 for a feasibility study, implementation plan and pilot programming.

Infrastructure Improvements for Service Providers: Increase salaries to attract and retain skilled staff, pay living wage, upgrade administrative and outcomes tracking capabilities, improve financial and other compliance, computer and IT supports are critical. Cost \$500,000.

Reimbursement Rates Increase: Dr. Thompson has stated on several occasions that DCOA will increase the reimbursement rates by 8.9% for FY16, as recommended by an independent actuarial study. The challenge remains, however, that without additional grant funding to support the increased rates, the impact of increase rates may be a decrease in the number of services delivered as there is not enough support to maintain services at the same level or expand in any way.

In conclusion, I would like to say that while we know many millions of dollars are spent on services for older adults through Medicaid and other DC Government agencies, the budget for the DC Office on Aging, with the mission to promote longevity, independence, dignity, and choice for older residents of the District of Columbia, is still less than one-half of one percent of the \$12 billion fiscal year 2016 budget. Councilmember Bonds, the Office on Aging budget is not the place to make significant cuts, it is the place where relatively small increases can make a significant improvements in the lives of older DC residents.

Thank you.

Testimony on District of Columbia Office on Aging Oversight
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015

Presented by
Tori Goldhammer, DC Falls Free Coalition
Coordinator DC Senior Advisory Coalition

Good morning Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Tori Goldhammer. I am an occupational therapist, founder of the DC Falls Free Coalition and the Coordinator of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition.

Over the past four years I have worked closely with Dr. Thompson and his staff at the Office on Aging. I appreciate their support on programming and their willingness to consider new ideas. The increased budget over the past few years has contributed to an increase in vital services for community dwelling older adults. These services help those that are able remain in their homes and communities while also saving the District money for nursing home care.

However, the demands for these services continue to increase as the percentage of seniors in the District increases. The DC Senior Advisory Coalition surveyed our members to determine needs that are not being met within the current budget. The information was compiled and we created a document requesting an additional \$2.8 million over the FY 15 budget amount. We have provided the full document for details but to highlight some of the needs:

Transportation. As you know, the Seabury Connector provides vital transportation to and from medical appointments, adult day health care programs and more at no cost to the consumer. It should be noted that the use of the Connector actually saves the District \$14 per ride vs. use of Metro Access. The Connector has been so well received in the District that it is now unable to meet demand. At this time the Connector can only service one shift, in the earlier part of the day. This creates difficulty for seniors who have medical appointments later in the day. Additionally, this single shift is not enough to meet demand and Seabury regularly is unable to fill all ride requests. By adding an additional 10 drivers, they can meet up to 2000 more service requests per month, doubling their current capacity. The cost for one driver is ~\$46,000 therefore an additional **\$460,000** will help meet current demand and allow for flexible scheduling for improved overall service.

Nutrition. According to the most recent information provided to us by the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, the percentage of seniors who face the threat of hunger in DC has climbed from 15.2% in 2012 to 20.3% in 2013 (the most recent year for data) representing a 33% increase in senior hunger concerns. Combatting senior hunger requires coordination among many agencies, however there are services provided by DCOA that can help. The Home Delivered Meals program has seen an increase in supply and demand over the past few years. While we understand the budget cannot be increased for this program, we would like to see the

lead agencies that deliver the meals have autonomy over managing their slots so that they can prioritize the neediest seniors and fill slots as they become available. Additionally, the lead agencies require more nutritionists to provide essential nutrition counseling, especially in the home. Across the network, 3 additional nutritionists would be able to provide services to 300 high risk seniors for a cost of **\$150,000**.

Wellness Centers. The proposed FY 16 budget cuts funding to the Wellness Centers by \$1 million. While we understand the need to find savings and utilize resources wisely, we are concerned that core programming will also be affected. Many of the centers we surveyed reported using some of the funds allotted for the extended hours to also increase core program services and staff. Therefore we request that this cut be examined closely to ensure it will not affect weekday/daytime services that the community based seniors count on for socialization and exercise.

These highlight just a few of the needs our coalition identified. We understand the agencies were required to look at all programs in order to manage a predicted deficit. However since the Office on Aging budget represents less than one half of one percent of the overall District budget we are concerned that any decrease will affect vital services that older adults need and deserve. In closing I would like to quote from two District seniors who prepared testimony for today's hearing but are unable to present orally:

Ms. K states "I've gotten more information and help from going to senior centers than government agencies. They are also good social living for us. Plus they have meals, use of computers, exercise and yoga classes. Help those who love to get out and vote for you."

Ms. D states: "Many of the elderly folk here in the city have lived here a lifetime, paid their taxes, maintained their homes and served their communities in many positive ways. These people deserve to have food delivered to them or made available through subsidized food services. Don't take away this one very essential need by cutting back the current services but rather increase the budget to meet the increasing need. Let's avoid considering the elderly as a "problem". We are people who deserve respect and have given and continue to contribute to our society. We are important. Please don't sell us short."

I have attached their testimonies as well.

Thank you for your consideration.

Advocacy Elevator Speech

- **Who you are (The hook):** A statement about yourself and your issue.
- **Why you care (Your passion):** Your personal story and/or statistics
- **What they need to do (The "ask"):** At the end of your elevator speech, you must ask for something. What d

Who are you? My name is Patricia Kelly. I am a disabled senior. I'm a former aide to seniors and disabled persons. ~~But~~ I had to struggle to get ~~advised~~ assist, because I didn't understand the steps I needed to follow. I also took 4 years to get housing.

Why do you care? Because most seniors have been used to being independent and now may assist that isn't there for them, as affordable housing. When they find affordable housing, they have to go on waiting list. They may die before it comes available. Then applying for any kind of assist, there no one to explain it to you. They just give you appointments, forms, or tell you to go on the internet. Everyone do not have - continue ^{work}

What should they do about it?

Help make more affordable housing that we don't have to wait forever for. Help seniors that want to stay in their own homes to make home repairs. They pay their taxes or they wouldn't still be in those homes. Help seniors get off the step. Finally, I've gotten more informant and help from going to Senior Centers, then government agencies. They are also good social living for us. Plus, they have meals and the use of computers. Exercise, yoga, classes. Help those who love to get out and vote for you.

a computer, believe it or not.

April 22, 2015

To: Chairman, DCOA budget oversight hearing

From: Emmy Lu Daly

Re: Proposed cuts in funding for the elderly

My name is Emmy Lu Daly, I am 91 years old, a veteran of WWII and a resident of Sarah's Circle for 20 years. Sarah's Circle is a residential facility providing apartments for District of Columbia seniors with limited incomes where they can maintain their independent living, have community with others and enjoy stimulating programs.

Through my long and satisfying residence here, I have become aware of the many essential services our District government has provided for the D.C. seniors. However, I am alarmed at some of the proposed cuts in the budget and in particular, the cut in food services for housebound seniors. Hunger is a basic need for every human being. For seniors it may not be a question of managing that need by themselves; they may not be physically able to go out and obtain the necessary foods. Statistics show that poverty is increasing in the District and that includes in the elderly. Many of the elderly folk here in the city have lived here a lifetime, paid their taxes, maintained their homes and served their communities in many positive ways. These people deserve to have food delivered to them or made available through subsidized food services. Don't take away this one very essential need by cutting back the current services but rather increase the budget to meet the increasing need.

About the cutting back on the services of the senior centers, I can speak to the health and well-being of the residents in Sarah's Circle who participate in the programs provided for fun, stimulation and socializing. Folks shouldn't be stuck in their rooms, apartments, homes all weekend. The senior centers should be available to those people, many of whom only get their contact with other people through meeting others at the centers.

And one more point. Let's avoid considering the elderly as a "problem". We are people who deserve respect and have given and continue to contribute to our society. We are important. Please don't sell us short.



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Web: www.some.org

**Testimony of Samantha Davis, Advocacy Specialist
So Others Might Eat (SOME, Inc.)
Chairperson Anita Bonds, Committee on Housing and Community Development
DC Office on Aging Budget Oversight Hearing
April 23, 2015**

Good afternoon, Chairperson Bonds and Committee Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I am Samantha Davis, the Advocacy Specialist at SOME (So Other's Might Eat). SOME is an interfaith nonprofit that has served homeless and low-income individuals of all ages in the District of Columbia for 43 years. We provide a comprehensive range of services, including services to more than 290 low income elderly District residents through a grant funded by DCOA. Our programs include:

- SOME's Homebound Senior Program (HSP) works in partnership with the DC Office on Aging to provide a variety of direct services and case management to homebound older adults (60+) in Wards 6, 7, and 8. Sixty-two seniors were served by the Homebound Senior Program this year.
- Kuehner Place- the nation's first and District's only, shelter for abused and neglected elderly providing a warm, caring, stabilizing environment and counseling services for older adults facing difficult challenges in finding and retaining housing. Twenty-one unduplicated seniors were served totaling 2,057 bed nights.
- Kuehner House is a 48 unit permanent supportive housing complex for low-income District seniors.
- SOME's Senior Center, a day program for DC residents 60+ years, provides a place where senior citizens come together for activities, a hot meal to enhance their nutrition, and support to reduce their isolation and loneliness. 126 unduplicated seniors were served in 2014.

Today I am urging you and your colleagues to restore the Mayor's proposed cut to DCOA. With your support and the Councils, DCOA has made many great improvements in the past several years. Yet, still we know, that the growing demand of senior services is not being met. Now is not the time to turn our backs on the over 100,000 seniors in DC.

While I want to stress the need to at least maintain the current funding level for DCOA, I'd like to argue the dire need for increased funds, particularly in the area of transportation and nutrition.

The Seabury Connector is providing vital transportation to and from medical appointments; adult day health care programs and more. While this service is critical, its inability to meet the current demand is negatively impacting our Senior Day Program. We depend on Seabury Connector to get seniors to and from our day program. Last year as part of the shift to Seabury Connector, SOME lost our 25 passenger bus. It has been replaced with a 16 passenger bus (I believe, the largest Seabury currently has). We were originally told that we would be able to use an extra bus to pick up any remaining seniors; but have since been informed that there simply are not enough buses in their fleet. As you can imagine with an average of 25 participants served a day, this drastically impacts our ability to serve District seniors. As a result, these same seniors with limited mobility who often suffer from isolation and loneliness are left home. We do our part to serve our seniors, but with limited transportation, we have been forced to develop a waitlist for current participants and we now hesitate to enroll new seniors in our program. We are requesting an \$1.2M increase to Seabury Connector for an additional 20 bus drivers, fuel/maintenance of buses and support for the Connector card.

Restoring Hope & Dignity One Person at a Time



In FY14, great strides were made in increasing the number of individuals getting much needed home delivered meals. By the end of FY14, 553,391 meals had been delivered to 5,245 older adults. While we acknowledge and are grateful for the expansion of the Home-Delivered Meals programs (HDMP), we are worried that some seniors who are in great need of this program are falling through the cracks. SOME currently has nearly a dozen of clients who are in critical need of this program yet are not being served. Many of these homebound seniors have been waiting for more than 5 months. We are able to provide these seniors food through the Community Supplemental Food Program and other services; however these seniors like many in need of the HDMP require meal prep and nutrition counseling. The seniors who we are attempting to enroll in the HDMP are fragile, in poor health and often suffering from depression. We believe that the recent change DCOA has made to allow Lead Agencies to manage their own Home Delivered Meals Slots will help ensure that the seniors in greatest need are being served first. This program is in need of \$150,000 to hire a minimum of three additional nutritionists to provide vital nutrition counseling and education services for high risk seniors like the ones I have mentioned.

We commend Dr. Thompson and his staff on the efforts they have made in partnering with service providers to ensure District seniors have access to high quality programs. All stakeholders are trying to minimize the effects potential budget cuts will have on the community. However, the truth is we are not able to effectively service seniors at the current budget level. The Mayor's proposed budget cut will adversely impact services and District seniors. Low-income District seniors are battling with homelessness, poverty, poor health, isolation and many more barriers to a healthy, quality life. Our seniors matter! They have played and continue to play a vital role in this city. I urge you to ensure that the budget reflects that the health and well-being of seniors is indeed a priority in this city.

Thank you for listening.

Sincerely,

Samantha Davis, MPP
Advocacy Specialist
ph: 202-797-8806 ext. 2112
e: sdavis@some.org

Restoring Hope & Dignity One Person at a Time

SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization established to help the poor and homeless of our nation's capital.
SOME is a 501(c)(3) organization and contributions are tax-deductible. Federal ID #23-7098123.

Please remember SOME, Inc. in your will or estate plan

Designate
UW # 8189



Designate
CFC # 74405



Testimony of Alease Smith
DC Office of Aging Budget hearing
April 23, 2015

Good morning Chairwoman Bonds, Committee members and staff:

My name is Alease Smith. I am a Ward 7 resident and registered voter. I have been living in DC all my life. I am testifying on the need to restore the Mayor's proposed cut to DCOA and also increase funding transportation for more Seabury bus drivers.

I am currently an active participant in the Senior Day Program at SOME's Kuehner House. Our Senior Program use to have a 25 passenger bus before switching to Seabury. We were promised the same size bus but first got a 20 passenger bus. That bus worked for a while but broke down. We now have a 16 passenger bus. The current bus only has room for 14 seniors because of the staff that need a seat who help seniors on and off the bus. Seabury either needs larger buses or more bus drivers. Now many seniors cannot come to the center because there is no space for them on the bus. If you do not get on the bus one day you have to call early in the morning for the following day. For example in order to get on the bus for Thursday you have to call Wednesday morning. Some seniors call as early as 4:00 in the morning trying to ensure they have a seat. I have called at 6:00 in the morning to make sure I can get a seat for the next day. If you don't get

a ride you can try to metro bus to get there but it cost more money and you have to transfer multiple times.

If we cannot have a larger bus, then we need for Seabury to send out an additional bus to pick up the remaining participants. There is a waitlist of five or more people to get transportation to the Senior Program. Most of the time, if you do not get to center on the first day of the month then you will not be able to get a ride to any of the field trips for the entire month because the list fills up quick. It is also stopping our Senior Center from enrolling more people into the program. They cannot recruit more people because they cannot promise them transportation. I think that the cuts to DCOA need to be restored and that Seabury needs the more funding so they can keep up with the demand.

Thank you for listening.

Testimony of James A. Howard
DC Office of Aging Budget hearing
April 23, 2015

Good morning Chairwoman Bonds, Committee members and staff:

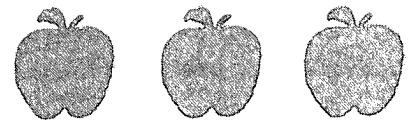
My name is James Howard. I am a Ward 7 resident and registered voter. I have been living in DC for over 20 years. I am testifying on the need to restore the Mayor's proposed cut to DCOA and also much needed support for the home delivery meal program.

I am currently an active participant in the Senior Day Program at SOME's Kuehner House. I decided to get involved after passing the "Senior Dwelling Place" sign; I knocked on the door and was warmly welcomed. I have been here ever since. I love this program because it gives me the opportunity to form a fellowship with peers. The diversity of activities makes it an ideal place for me. This program has helped me make new friends, get involved in community activities, and go to places I would not have the opportunity to go to otherwise.

Today I would like to talk about the importance of the home delivery meal program. The home delivery meals is very important because people's health is deteriorating while they wait to be served by this program. People have put in their time working and helping the community and it's sad that they are not able to get basic nourishment. These seniors are homebound and might have little or no support to get basic needs meant. Not being able to eat a prepared nutritious meal

can impact a senior's health in a very negative way. Seniors are beginning to give up. Some seniors may not be able to see an outlet to get the things they need and food they need. As a city is our responsibility to make sure they are able to at least get a nutritional meal.

Thank you so much for listening to my concerns and I hope you support seniors and this program.



D.C. Hunger Solutions

Ending hunger in the nation's capital

**COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

BUDGET HEARING ON

“DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING”

Thursday, April 23, 2015; 11:00 a.m.

Testimony of Lauren Badger, Program Associate

D.C. Hunger Solutions

My name is Lauren Badger, and I am a program associate at D.C. Hunger Solutions, an initiative of the Food Research and Action Center. D.C. Hunger Solutions works to create a hunger-free community and improve the health, nutrition, well-being, and economic security of low-income residents of the nation's capital.

Although the District faces tough budget decisions, investing in the health and future of our population is a critical need. As an Age-Friendly City, we must ensure that seniors have access to the nutrition programs and services that are essential to age in place. Seniors currently make up about 16% of the D.C. population, and around 23.2% of seniors in D.C. are below 150% of the federal poverty level.¹ In 2013, more than 20% of seniors in the District faced the threat of hunger, a 33% increase from 2012.² Nationally, there has been an increasing trend of food insecurity among seniors, with the rate of food insecure seniors more than doubling from 2001 to 2011.³ Among seniors, food insecurity is associated with nutrition-related chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension and has also been associated with asthma.³ Furthermore, food insecure seniors are 40% more likely to report having congestive heart failure, 54% more likely to report having a heart attack, twice as likely to develop asthma, 22% more likely to experience limitations in Activities of Daily Living, and 60% more likely to experience depression compared to food secure seniors.³ Therefore, access to nutritious food is essential to preventing various diseases related to food insecurity.⁴

An Initiative of the Food Research and Action Center

1200 18th Street, NW – Suite 400 – Washington, DC 20036 – phone 202.640.1088 – fax 202.640.1085 – www.dchunger.org

Seniors who have an income less than 200% of the federal poverty level are most at-risk of food insecurity, highlighting the need to connect low-income seniors to nutrition programs³. Seniors are more likely to experience severe health consequences related to food insecurity compared to other adult age groups, and the older adult population is on the rise³. The U.S. population aged 65 years and older is projected to double its population by 2050 due to the aging of the Baby Boomers.⁵ Therefore, it is in the best interests of the District to protect its senior population and support active, healthy aging.

DCOA has an important role in providing optimal nutrition to its vulnerable older residents, and Dr. Thompson and his nutrition team are committed to supporting the needs of food insecure seniors. There are four main federal programs that address the nutrition needs of low-income seniors, three of which are administered by DCOA (Congregate Meals, Home-Delivered Meals, and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program) and one that is administered by the Department of Human Services, DHS (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps).

- Congregate Meals Program – The Congregate Meals Program provides free, well-balanced meals to low-income seniors at 59 sites in the District, with at least three sites in each ward. D.C. Hunger Solutions looks forward to analyzing site locations to ensure that low-income seniors have sufficient access to meal sites and to building on efforts by the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger (NFESH) and DCOA to continue to ensure that the meals are high-quality and nutritious.
- Home-Delivered Meals Program – Home-Delivered Meals Program delivers prepared meals to frail, homebound, or isolated D.C. seniors each week. D.C. invested \$1.9 million in FY 2015 to provide more home-delivered meals to seniors, but the need continues to grow. The city’s budget is falling short here, as seniors in need of help are unable to access meal slots. To address the issue, DCOA is hosting a Nutrition Taskforce comprised of leaders from DCOA, the Lead Agencies, and other key stakeholders. However, additional funding needs to be allocated for these particularly vulnerable seniors, especially those without economic resources who meet the eligibility standards of the program in D.C.
- Commodity Supplemental Food Program – CSFP provides low-income District seniors with a bag of healthy groceries each month and fresh produce vouchers that are redeemable at area farmers’ markets during the growing season. Participation in the program has dropped from about 6,200 to 5,200 seniors, and one reason the lack of sites accessibility to seniors in low-income areas. There is a concern that participation will drop more with a closing of the main and highly trafficked site in Ward 8. Seniors who used to pick up their monthly food packages at this site will now have to journey X miles to a site in Ward 7 – a journey that some may not have the mobility, the transportation, or

the money to make possible. The city should prioritize finding a location in Ward 8 to connect seniors to this valuable resource.

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/Food Stamps) – DCOA continues to improve efforts to better connect the seniors it serves to SNAP. The co-location of a staff member who does SNAP and Medicaid eligibility determination in the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) run by DCOA is an example of efforts to connect seniors to SNAP. Additionally, DCOA and D.C. Hunger Solutions continue to improve our partnership efforts to connect seniors served by DCOA to SNAP. Upcoming work will include ensuring that DCOA nutrition resources promote not just Congregate Meals, Home-Delivered Meals, and CSFP, but also SNAP. We will work to ensure that intake forms collect data on what nutrition benefits seniors are using and that this data is being used to refer clients to relevant programs to improve their food access. In addition, the local Supplemental Food Assistance funding that was passed as part of the SNAP Expansion Act of 2014 and continued in the Mayor’s proposed FY 2016 budget will help low-income seniors in two ways:
 - A) Increasing the minimum benefit from \$16 to \$30 a month
 - Many seniors on fixed incomes are likely to receive \$16 a month in SNAP benefits.
 - B) Increasing SNAP participation among seniors, who often state that the minimum of \$16 is a barrier to applying.

We look forward to future implementation of the local SNAP supplement by DHS to help ensure that seniors and low-wage earners receive a sufficient benefit level each month to support improved nutrition.

Nutrition efforts of DCOA are important for all seniors, but particularly so for seniors with low resources, who are more likely to experience consequences related to food insecurity. Even in times of tough budget decisions, addressing the nutrition needs of seniors struggling with hunger must be a priority.

Respectfully submitted,



Lauren Badger, Program Associate – lbadger@dchunger.org; 202-640-1088 x3042

D.C. Hunger Solutions 1200 18th Street NW, Suite 400 Washington, DC 20036

An Initiative of the Food Research and Action Center

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¹ U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey, 2009-2013 5-Year Estimates. Population 60 years and over in the United States. Available at <http://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/index.xhtml>.

² National Foundation to End Senior Hunger. Percent of seniors facing the threat of hunger by state. Available at <http://www.nfesh.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2012-to-2013-comp-Alpha.pdf>.

³ Feeding America and National Foundation to End Senior Hunger. Adverse health outcomes of food insecure older Americans. Executive summary. March 2013. Available at <http://www.nfesh.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/SeniorLiteratureReport-Final-Draft.pdf>.

⁴ National Conference of State Legislatures. Hunger among older Americans. October 2014. Available at <http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/hunger-among-older-americans.aspx>.

⁵ Ortman JM, Velkoff VA, Hogan H. U.S. Census Bureau. An aging nation: the older population in the United States. May 2014. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p25-1140.pdf> (accessed 20 April 2015).

District of Columbia Office on Aging FY 16 Budget Hearing
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development - Chairperson Anita Bonds

SUBMITTED BY

Glenda M. Wheeler Allen, Family Caregiver
Recipient of D.C. Caregivers' Institute and Homemaker Services from
Home Care Partners

Thursday, April 23, 2015

My name is Glenda M. Wheeler Allen. I am a 3rd generation Washingtonian and Ward 6 resident. I am speaking in support of the D.C. Office on Aging Budget. I have cared for five seniors in my family, including three of whom resided with me. Presently, I am privilege to be the caregiver for my beautiful 95 year old auntie, who is visually impaired and mobility challenged. My aunt requires assistance for everyday tasks from bathing to the daily sustenance of meal preparation. Through the Office on Aging funding, Home Care Partners, Inc. provides a trained health aide, whom I can only describe as one of my “Angels,” to care for my aunt several days a week. Although my aunt gave 40+ years of federal government service, she still cannot afford the costs of having a health aide care for her. Without Home Care Partners, the responsibility would fall solely to me.

Thanks to the amazing support from Home Care Partners, I was also referred to the Caregiver’s Institute. Ironically, while I have been a caregiver for nearly two decades, I did not associate the title “Caregiver” with myself until I spoke with one of the Home Care Partners/Caregiver’s Institute case managers. I simply viewed my actions as doing what was necessary to care for my honored elders who had loved, prayed, and sacrificed for me. However, my case manager has helped me to understand:

I am a caregiver; I require, need, and desire support; I deserve respite time; My dreams, goals, and aspirations are important; My health is important; Yes I am CAREGIVER, and MY LIFE is important.

In addition, the case management, monthly conference calls for members, and resource information are just some of the benefits this program provides. In addition to the emotional support, the monthly financial stipend I receive assists with purchase of incontinence supplies, medicines or contribute to the cost of a few hours of critical respite care. As my own family

members shared with me, they did not understand what I experienced until they stayed with our mother during her battle with Alzheimer's. Thus, unless you walk in the shoes of a caregiver, even for a brief moment, it is difficult to comprehend the emotional, physical, administrative, and financial impact and sacrifice caregiver's experience. Caregiver's often predecease their love ones, or are diagnosed with life altering illnesses, because they are focused on the health and welfare of their senior. And YES, I know this from personal experience, and YES I would make the same choice without hesitation.

The services of Home Care Partners and the Caregiver's Institute provide many of the wrap around services that allow our seniors to choose to continue to age in place at home, safe and with dignity, while supporting the caregiver too. Moreover, it is my understanding that at a potential cost of \$100,000 per person, it more financially feasible for the District to subsidize Home Care Partners programs rather than allow our vulnerable seniors to end up in nursing homes.

I challenge the members of the Council, who may not be intimately familiar with the task of caregiving, to try to walk even for a brief moment in the path of a caregiver. I then further challenge you to put yourself in the place of our vulnerable seniors, who but for the critical services funded through the D.C. Office on Aging, would be in a nursing home.

I trust that our D.C. government will show compassion and support for its older citizens, as well as their caregivers providing sufficient funding, and certainly not cutting funding for the DC Office on Aging. Our seniors have built and sustained this wonderful city, and they deserve our best, not our leftovers; keeping in mind that we too may someday walk this way.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

City Council Hearing 4/2/15

Good morning Chairperson Bonds and other committee members on Community and Housing Development 2016 Budget Hearing. My name is Janis Williams and I have been a member of Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center for six years. I am happy to testify today on behalf of the members of Hattie Holmes in summarizing the benefits of programs provided by our professional staff and contractors as they may impacted by the impending cuts to senior centers under the District of Columbia Office on Aging.

We are most privileged to enjoy a very comprehensive “wellness” program under the leadership of our Director, Theresa Moore, who methodically plans our programs most effectively on a monthly calendar and also provides courses in Healthy Living. In addition, Stephanie Peters, Health Promotions Specialist, brings classes to our members on what happens to the body, such as IBS, diabetes screening, arthritis, blood pressure and heart related conditions.

In addition, a very essential component of our program includes an *extensive exercise program*, provided by our Fitness Expert, Arthur Dunbar. This program is most essential in that it provides physical strengthening, flexibility, coordination, balance, aerobic conditioning and mental stimulation through exercise, which is essential to physical and mental well-being.

This coupled with the classes we attend on nutrition and food preparation conducted by Kristina Vera, Nutritionist/Dietitian, we have a well-rounded daily program.

Our Activities Coordinator, Gwen Green is currently coordinating plans to expose our seniors to more arts and crafts, trips, and additional physical activity to include bowling and tennis, to be added to the calendar as well.

In addition, there are other instructional hobbies provided at our center which include quilting, crocheting, and yes, even “Hand Dance” instruction which is the official dance of DC by proclamation from the City Council. Thru the dance instruction we derive additional benefits of exercise, body strengthening, stress reduction, cognitive skills, counting, thinking patterns, improved memory, coordination, balance, and overcoming challenges, improved mental focus.

Our beginners Spanish Language class is instructing seniors to learn a new language enabling us to be equipped to relate to the Latin community. This class challenges memory, pronunciation, verb conjugation, focused study and, of course, lots of patience. Our seniors, however, are very committed to this class.

If at all possible, we would appreciate funding for additional essential exercise equipment might be purchased to accommodate our growing numbers of seniors who are being brought to our center by their caregivers for exercise, lunch, trips and socialization. This would bring us in line with other wellness centers. Also, because of our growing numbers we request 3-4 additional computers so that more seniors can attend the classes for computer instruction.

Many of our seniors depend solely on the Seabury Transportation contractor to pick them up five days per week and as a whole all our members very much appreciate the reliance of this service.

This service also affords the opportunity to participate in various trips to stores, museums, historical sites, and programs monthly. Hattie Holmes members do hope that the funding for these programs and activities will not be diminished and because they are vitally important to our seniors' quality of life.

In closing, I would like to thank you, Ms. Bonds, for the earlier 2014 proposed legislation which attempts to improve the lives of seniors who are homeowners and would give additional tax breaks to our older seniors. We do hope that the legislation will be reconsidered and passed in the future.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak today.

Submitted by Janis Williams

Member, Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center

WE ARE FAMILY

Senior Outreach Network



Testimony of Mark Andersen, Co-Director, We Are Family

DC CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

April 23, 2015

Dear Councilmember Bonds and other members of the Committee on Housing & Community Development,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify before your committee.

My name is Mark Andersen, and I am Co-Director of the We Are Family senior outreach network, a participant in the Senior Advisory Coalition and the Fair Budget Coalition. ***I am here to oppose the Mayor's proposed cut of \$2.3 million from the DC Office On the Aging (DCOA), and urge the D.C. City Council to find additional revenue by raising income taxes on DC residents who make more than \$100,000 to expand DCOA's services. In general, we must prioritize meeting the needs of low-income residents in our increasingly affluent city, fighting displacement created by gentrification and the consequent disappearance of affordable housing.***

We Are Family brings services, advocacy, and friendship into the homes of more than 600 isolated low-income seniors each month, seniors that reside primarily in Wards One and Six, in neighborhoods that have histories of concentrated poverty and the social problems that accompany such deprivation, and that now face the ambivalent repercussions of gentrification. Many seniors – largely folks who have worked their whole lives, patiently toiling and persevering through segregation, riots, drug wars, and more – now are at risk for displacement, even homelessness. In the face of this, We Are Family doesn't wait for problems to come to us; we go out into the community to find – and meet – the need. We do all of this ***without funding from the DC Office on the Aging***, with a single full-time staff member, a half-time co-director, and hundreds of volunteers, through a network of caring eyes and ears built up from our grassroots base among senior leaders residing in our service areas.

Even though we are not a DCOA grantee, we fully support DCOA, since its fate – as that of the other social safety net services – will inevitably impact our seniors. Sadly, there is a grave danger that the life-or-death needs of elderly as well as the poor and marginalized may continue to be swept aside. We are called to make sure that the social safety net is fully funded as the cost of living rises for low-income residents in our economically booming city.

The reality is that while we can always find funding for sport stadiums or upscale development, the poor are often forgotten. This on-going underfunding is a special insult to our low-income seniors, those who built our community but who suffer because they are not a priority in our budgets. We can't pretend that inequality isn't growing, that poor people aren't being displaced—even thrown away—as we consistently choose other self-serving priorities.

The need of our seniors is immense, it is increasingly unmet, and it is growing... in the short term due to the economic challenges created by gentrification and a long pattern of service cutbacks, but in the medium- to long-term by a demographic shift in our aging population that is ominous and potentially catastrophic, if we do not begin to plan for it now. Government action is essential. Non-profits cannot be expected to pick up the slack – our resources are too strapped already after trying for so long to meet the growing needs with fewer resources.

We should take this opportunity to be bold, to stretch ourselves to not only fully fund DCOA, but strive to end homelessness among our seniors—and beyond—by supporting additional funding of the Local Rent Supplemental and other affordable housing programs. DC has the resources to fund these initiatives—sales tax increases can't be our only recourse, progressive revenue-raising measures like income tax increases can and MUST be part of a fair budget, one that puts human needs first. While We Are Family has a special allegiance to the seniors who built our community, and believe they have a unique claim on our compassion, we understand that our seniors will not flourish, or be protected, if we do not prioritize the poor, marginalized, or vulnerable in the community as a whole.

As such, I am here to ask that human needs -- especially those of the most vulnerable -- be our central indicator for the moral measure of our city's budget. In particular, after years of cumulative, crippling cuts, we have to work to preserve – and improve – our network of day centers, nutrition sites, and other services for low-income seniors, while pressing forward towards a fully funded social safety net that protects all the vulnerable in our community, provides affordable housing and that begins to prepare for the longer term challenges now looming on the horizon.

We cannot accept a \$2.3 million cut for DCOA, but must push for the \$2.8 million increase itemized by the Senior Advisory Coalition. We question the justice of the sales tax increase but support additional funding for The Housing Production Trust Fund, Local Rent Supplement, Permanent Supportive Housing and other affordable housing programs, as well as critical services for those in need. It may not be politically easy to find the resources to do justice to DC's most vulnerable—beginning with low-income seniors—but it is essential, a test of our moral worth. The City – including this Council – has made many promises to the seniors who built our community. It must ensure that those whose shoulders we stand upon are not forgotten or abandoned, seen as all-too-expendable. Those with more resources must inevitably accept that they must shoulder a greater burden—it is only right and just.

In general, we must remember to put human needs first – as this is indeed the yardstick by which we all will some day be judged: how we responded to needs of the least of these sisters and brothers among us, beginning especially with the elders who have made our very lives possible. Thanks for your consideration of these thoughts.

Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center 2016 Budget Presentation

Good Morning Counsel Chair Person Bonds. I appreciate the opportunity to appear before you this morning to discuss the FY 2016 budget for our senior wellness center. My name is Patricia Hairston and I am a proud member of the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center, located at 324 Kennedy Street, NW. Teresa Moore is our director.

Hattie Holmes is one of the largest senior centers in the city; approximately 1,800 seniors are on the rolls, with over 120 taking advantage of the programs on a daily basis. In addition to the 120 daily members who engage in the various programs, we also have a growing lunch program that includes a well-balanced salad bar that attracts our seniors.

Our programs include chair aerobics, Pilates, stretch and tone, computer training (beginners and intermediate), piano lessons, quilting and crocheting lessons, line dancing, massage, arthritis exercises, and a state of the art fitness center with treadmills, elliptical machines, stationary bikes, and circuit weights. We have had to shorten some of the exercise classes in order to meet demands. We are literally bursting at the seams.

Dr. Thompson, Office on Aging, presented the Mayor's 2016 proposed budget which included a \$1 million cut in the six senior programs in the city. We are concerned that this cut will affect our core services. Last year, in addition to the \$300,000 budget, we were awarded an additional \$225, 000. As a result of the increased funding, new staff have been hired and new programs have been added to the schedule that were requested by our members; such as Zumba, yoga, enhancement of the nutrition program, health promotion classes, hand dancing, enhanced aerobics, and additional computer classes. Also, with the additional funding we were able to expand our hours to keep the center open later three nights a week and to offer Saturday exercise and lunch.

Dr. Thompson stated that the reduction in the budget would not affect our core programs; however, we're unclear as to how this reduction could be accomplished without having a detrimental effect on our current programs. In an effort to accommodate the proposed cuts, and after looking carefully at our programs, we could understand the elimination of our Saturday aerobics and luncheon programs to meet this budget issue. We want to make sure that our needs will still be met with the new budget proposal. If

we were made to operate with less than our current budget, after making the aforementioned adjustments, we may be forced to cancel the new programs, and possibly lose staff.

We are appealing to you to keep our present budget in place for FY 2016.

Again, thank you for allowing the Hattie Holmes Seniors to voice our concerns.

WE ARE FAMILY

Senior Outreach Network



Testimony of Ronald Grey, We Are Family Board of Directors

Committee on Housing and Community Development April 23, 2015

Good morning Councilmember Bonds and the other members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Ronald Grey, and for ten years I was the president of the Kelsey Apartments Resident Association, a Section 8 subsidized senior building with 150 units in the Columbia Heights area. Today I am representing the We Are Family senior outreach network, which is part of the Senior Advisory Coalition as well as the Fair Budget Coalition. I have lived in DC since 1947.

Although the DC Office on the Aging (DCOA) does not fund We Are Family, we know how critical their services are. I am here because Mayor Bowser proposes to cut the DCOA budget by \$2.3 million. While I know that money is tight, the services that DCOA provides are too important to cut. In fact, they should be expanded to meet a growing need. I urge you to raise taxes for richer folks to help fully fund DCOA, and all programs for DC's needy.

Right now, anyone who earns \$40,000 a year pays the same rate of income tax as a millionaire, and that doesn't make any sense. The rates of DC taxes need to be higher for folks who make more money because they can afford it, we can't. Any extra revenue needs to be directed to building up the programs needy folks depend upon, and have been so often slashed.

I know there is a proposal to increase the sales tax to support additional resources for affordable housing and the homeless. I support this aim, but can't help but notice that this tax increase will hit low-income people most. Why can't the rich pay a bit more to support those in need? We should have an increase in income taxes to pay for needed services!

As a low-income senior and a We Are Family board member, I know these social services are critical. I see the needs of seniors around me growing

every day. One of my responsibilities through my work with We Are Family is to find out who is in need and get them connected to the services they otherwise might not know about, or have trouble accessing.

Beyond We Are Family, I also worked for years as a home health aide. I've seen the impact of past cuts up close and personal. Every time there is a budget gap, DCOA and low-income seniors get hit hard, like poor folks in general. When there is a budget surplus, there are always other priorities seen as more important. This can't go on. Small losses really add up for folks living off of Social Security or retirement; it can mean life or death.

It is not only DCOA that has been hit. Many programs for low-income people have been cut or not fully funded in the past, like Local Rent Supplement and Permanent Supportive Housing, affordable housing programs for the homeless or those in danger of being homeless. This heartless, thoughtless approach really hurts those who are already suffering so badly.

Instead of sustaining the status quo, we need to make sure to increase funding for social services by raising taxes for richer folks to protect and expand the safety net, since they are the ones who can most afford a little extra bite in the pocket book. Then we don't have to grab more from those who have almost nothing, and who cannot afford to lose anymore.

It costs less to keep folks in their homes than to have them in the shelter system or in nursing homes. We think we are saving money but we are wasting money and lives with our misplaced priorities.

This has to change, and we have to do better by our seniors and all our low-income people. DC is for everybody, not just the rich... and especially we have to look out for the seniors, because we built this community.

DCOA is a critical part of DC's safety net – please make sure it and other programs for poor folks are not only protected but expanded. We are counting on you to stand up for us... please don't let us down.

Ronald Grey 3322 14th Street NW #243 WDC 20010 202-276-7227

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Testimony for the District of Columbia Office of Aging

FY2015 Program Oversight Hearing

Before the District of Columbia City Council

Committee on Housing and Community Development

Council Member Anita Bonds, Chairperson

April 23, 2015

Good Afternoon Chairperson Bonds, and the members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Regine Clermont, Program Director of the Home First Residences (HFR) and Age-In-Place ® programs, a housing service program of Seabury Resources for Aging. We are also members of the DCOA Senior Service Network, Councilmember Mc Duffie's Ward 5 Senior Steering Committee, the Long Term Care Coalition, and the Senior Advisory Coalition. Thank you again for this opportunity to discuss our distinct and impactful programs and the vital role that the DC Office on Aging plays in them. I wish to personally thank Dr. Thompson, his staff, and Councilmember McDuffie for their continued support of these programs. As a community based provider, our partnership with DCOA is invaluable and our program simply would not exist without its technical and financial support. 65% of our program budget is funded by DCOA.

I am here today in support of my fellow colleagues to ask the District not to cut the DCOA budget by \$2.3 million. As the District moves towards implementation of the Age Friendly City Initiative, and the national trend is to keep seniors in their communities, these cuts will adversely affect seniors in the areas of nutrition, socialization, and housing.

Both Age In Place and the Home First Residences are small and impactful programs that provide an alternative approach towards housing options for older DC residents. Home First Residences provides permanent supportive shared housing to 20 formerly homeless low income seniors in Ward 5. Over the past 33 years, HFR has provided housing to over 135 formerly homeless seniors. The average length of stay is 12 years, and the average age is 75 years old. Two of our residents have resided in the program for over 28 years. Many of our residents only have SSI benefits, thus the average rent is only \$350.00 for the two independent living homes, and \$1,100 for the 24 hour caregiving supported licensed home.

Age-In-Place, a volunteer based program, provides free home maintenance and yard work throughout the year at no cost to seniors residing in Wards 4, 5, and 6. This year Age-in-Place is celebrating 20 years of service. In that time we have completed over 5,000 service projects with 35,000 volunteers who have served 125,000 volunteer hours. Based on the hourly volunteer rate in the District that is a saving of almost \$5,000,000

Home First, like many of the nonprofits who will testify today, faces many challenges in meeting the growing demands for older adults “aging in place.” As part of the continuum of care across the city, we help seniors who have difficulty maintaining their homes, and who otherwise would have to move into nursing homes, or face eviction. Over 32% of the District seniors are at or below poverty.

As the senior population continues to grow many older adults in the District of Columbia will be seeing a rise in economic hardship as they age in place. Many are not able to afford to remain in their houses or apartments without community services. Between the rise in health care costs, food deserts which make quality nutrition difficult to access, increase in homelessness

among older adults, and lack of access to affordable quality services - getting older in DC with a moderate income, let alone a low one, has become a difficult, dangerous path. Wellness centers, nutrition sites and day programs address many of these issues; sustaining a senior's well being, socialization, physical exercise, and nutritional needs. I am deeply concerned as over half of my residents attend these programs and also rely on the Connector to transport them.

It is also economically sustainable to keep seniors in their homes. According to Washington Post article (January 2, 2014 by Tamara Bahrapour), the average cost of in home care is between \$30,000 to \$60,000 as opposed to nursing home placement in DC, which is \$110,000. This article further supports the need for the District to invest in preventive programs such as ours and other affordable housing services. (I would delete this paragraph or replace with independent evidence as the article is old)

As stated by my colleagues, the need for additional dollars to serve the City's most vulnerable is vital. DCOA's support is critical in operating all of our programs and are grateful that DCOA has tried to minimize the impact of budget cuts in the community. However, the needs are already not being met with the current level of funding, therefore any cuts to DCOA's budget will greatly impact services and be a disservice to DC seniors. My request to the Council is that DCOA continue to fund the programs *at least at the current level of support*.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak on behalf of Home First residents and AIP clients and to voice my support for the DC Office on Aging to receive additional dollars to serve the 100,000 seniors across the District.

**EAST
ROCK CREEK
VILLAGE**

**Dedicated to helping seniors
in upper Ward 4 to live well and thrive**

www.eastrockcreekvillage.org

Post Office Box 60622

Washington, DC 20039

April 23, 2015

**COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
BUDGET HEARING, DC OFFICE ON AGING**

**GOOD DAY, MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE
COMMITTEE. WE THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO
SUBMIT TESTIMONY FOR THE FY 2016 BUDGET HEARING FOR THE
DC OFFICE ON AGING (DCOA). WE ALSO THANK DR. JOHN
THOMPSON AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR LEADERSHIP AND
SUPPORT OF PROGRAMS THAT HELP DC'S SENIORS LIVE BETTER
LIVES.**

**WE ARE HERE TODAY IN FULL SUPPORT OF THE DC OFFICE
ON AGING IN THEIR CAPACITY TO FUND AND PROMOTE AGING IN
PLACE FOR SENIORS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE EFFORT
TO MAKE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AN "AGE-FRIENDLY CITY."**

I AM HERE ON BEHALF OF EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE (ERCV), A NON-PROFIT 501(C)(3) CORPORATION, A SENIOR VILLAGE IN DEVELOPMENT TO SERVE SENIORS IN UPPER WARD 4 OF DC. WE ARE DEDICATED TO OUR MISSION OF HELPING SENIORS TO LIVE WELL AND THRIVE IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS OF BRIGHTWOOD, COLONIAL VILLAGE, CRESTWOOD, MANOR PARK, NORTH PORTAL ESTATES, SHEPHERD PARK, AND TAKOMA DC. OUR MEMBERS WILL BE DRAWN FROM THE NEARLY 7,200 SENIORS WHO RESIDE THERE AND WHO MAKE UP 28% OF THE NEARLY 25,600 CITIZENS WHO LIVE WITHIN ERCV'S BOUNDARIES.

OUR JOURNEY TO START A SENIOR VILLAGE BEGAN OVER 2 1/2 YEARS AGO BECAUSE THERE IS CURRENTLY NO SENIOR VILLAGE IN WARD 4. THIS SITUATION IS SURPRISING GIVEN THE FACT THAT WARD 4 HAS SUCH A LARGE NUMBER OF SENIORS—AN ESTIMATED 21,421 SENIORS OUT OF 75,773 RESIDENTS.

NON-PROFITS ARE BETTER SUITED TO ACCOMPLISH SOME TASKS THAN GOVERNMENT. SENIOR VILLAGES HARNESS THE ENERGY OF NEIGHBORS ACTING AS VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THEIR SENIOR NEIGHBORS AGE IN PLACE. PRACTICAL HELP, SUCH AS TRANSPORTATION TO THE DOCTOR'S OFFICE OR GROCERY

STORE, IS THE MOST FREQUENTLY REQUESTED SERVICE OF DC SENIOR VILLAGES. OTHER SUPPORTIVE SERVICES INCLUDE COMPUTER HELP, CHANGING LIGHT BULBS, DE-CLUTTERING, LIGHT HANDYMAN CHORES, GARDENING ADVICE, PET CARE, CONVENIENCE SERVICES, AND REFERRALS TO VETTED THIRD PARTIES FOR BIGGER HOME REPAIRS. SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL OFFERINGS KEEP SENIORS CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITIES AND HELP PREVENT THE MENTAL DEPRESSION THAT STEMS FROM THE SOCIAL ISOLATION OF SENIORS.

IN THE PAST, THE DC CITY COUNCIL HAS SUPPORTED THE DEVELOPMENT OF SENIOR VILLAGES WITH DIRECT FUNDING THAT INCLUDED A \$10,000 GRANT TO DUPONT CIRCLE VILLAGE AND A \$25,000 GRANT TO PALISADES VILLAGE IN THE 2007-2008 TIME FRAME.

ACCORDING TO DR. THOMPSON, THE DC OFFICE ON AGING HAD TWO SEPARATE ROUNDS OF FUNDING FOR VILLAGES AND DCOA AWARDED GRANTS TO AT LEAST 4 VILLAGES WE KNOW OF—ABOUT \$20,000 TO CAPITOL HILL VILLAGE IN THE 2007-8 TIMEFRAME, \$25,000 TO NORTHWEST NEIGHBORS VILLAGE IN 2009, AND \$15,000 APIECE TO BENNING HEIGHTS VILAGE AND

DEANWOOD VILLAGE IN 2013. HOWEVER, WHEN WE APPLIED IN 2014 ON BEHALF OF EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE, THE DC OFFICE ON AGING INFORMED US THAT NO GRANT FUNDING WAS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE FOR SENIOR VILLAGES.

START-UP COSTS FOR SENIOR VILLAGES ARE RELATIVELY HIGH—USUALLY \$20,000 TO \$25,000. THERE ARE INITIAL COSTS OF INCORPORATION AND FILING FOR 501(C)(3) STATUS FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ALL OF WHICH OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS COVERED THROUGH PERSONAL DONATIONS. THEN BEFORE ONE CAN OPEN THE VILLAGE DOORS, MEMBERSHIP AND VOLUNTEER MANUALS MUST BE PRINTED, ALL VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO BE TRAINED, CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS HAVE TO BE PERFORMED ON ALL VOLUNTEERS BEFORE THEY CAN PROVIDE SERVICES, AND LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS AND THE VOLUNTEERS NEEDS TO BE SECURED. HIRING AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND LEASING OFFICE SPACE ALL COSTS MONEY AND MUST BE DONE BEFORE A VILLAGE CAN OFFER SERVICES TO ITS MEMBERS.

WHILE THE DC COUNCIL AND DCOA HAVE PROVIDED CRITICAL, PRIOR FUNDING FOR SENIOR VILLAGES, WE URGE THE

DC CITY COUNCIL TO PUT \$100,000 IN GRANT FUNDING FOR SENIOR VILLAGES IN THE FY 2016 BUDGET OF THE DC OFFICE ON AGING SO THAT IT COULD SUPPORT THE LAUNCH OF AT LEAST FOUR MORE VILLAGES TO HELP SENIORS AGE IN PLACE. EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE CANNOT LAUNCH UNTIL IT RAISES \$16,000 MORE TO ADD TO THE \$9,000 WE RAISED SINCE DECEMBER 2014. WE ARE CONFIDENT WE WILL OPEN OUR DOORS BY THE END OF 2015, BUT WE WOULD HAVE OPENED SOONER IF WE HAD BEEN AWARDED A GRANT FROM DCOA WHEN WE APPLIED LAST FALL.

IN CONCLUSION, THE DC OFFICE ON AGING HAS DONE AN OUTSTANDING JOB HELPING SENIOR VILLAGES GET STARTED. WE ARE VERY GRATEFUL TO DCOA FOR THE AWARD OF A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT TO EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE THAT IS HELPING US MARKET OUR MESSAGE, RECRUIT MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS, AND SHARPEN OUR FUNDRAISING SKILLS.

**Testimony on District of Columbia Office on Aging Budget Oversight Hearing
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
The Honorable Anita Bonds, Chairperson
April 23, 2015**

Presented By:

*Paulett D. Costley, Director of Senior Services,
East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc.*

Good Morning Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Paulett Costley. I am the Director of Senior Services at East River Family Strengthening Collaborative, Inc. (ERFSC).

Since 2009 **ERFSC operates three grants funded by the DC Office on Aging. They include the Ward 7 ADRC; the Washington Seniors Wellness Center and the Weekend Nutrition Program** is also a member of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition. The Senior Services Division is tasked with providing services for seniors in Ward 7, by connecting seniors to service providers and assisting them with navigating systems to obtain services, providing a venue to promote health and wellness through a variety of fitness activities and health dialogue and providing a Saturday weekend program extending to six days, the opportunity for seniors to socialize, have a meal and have health dialogue. The overall goal is to put services in place that are needed for seniors too remain in their homes and community.

We appreciate the opportunity to present testimony before you today. We would like to acknowledge the work that is being done by Dr. Thompson and his team at the DC Office on Aging for their efforts to provide needed services for seniors in the District.

Through the Office on Aging and the Senior Advisory Coalition efforts, over the last several years, Aging services have experienced an increase in funding that has resulted in the ability to provide additional staffing for Social Services, increased number of recipients of Home Delivered Meals, improved Transportation and expanded wellness activities. However, with this growth there continue to be an increase, in the needs and services of the senior population that we serve and those residents who have become new seniors during this period.

While the Mayor's budget requires a \$2.2 million cut from the DC Office on Aging budget and DCOA has proposed no cuts for the ADRC's, there is still a need for additional funding in FY 2016 to support the expanded services of the ADRCS's, such as:

Case Management

In Ward 7 specifically, there is a need for two additional Social Workers. We currently have a waiting list of over 60 referrals from seniors in need of critical social services, with new referrals coming every day. With the additional social workers we will be able to eliminate this waiting list and provide seniors with services in a timely manner.

Home Delivered Meals

For the home delivered meal clients, there is a need for In-Home Nutrition Counseling and Nutrition Education, with the expansion of the Home Delivered Meals program, we are able to assess and reassess clients as needed, better manage and monitor delivery concerns and assess clients as required. In doing so, we are finding that more participants are in need of Nutrition Counseling and/or Education. Seniors are challenged with concerns of “how to stretch my food dollars, how to prepare meals to meet my nutritional needs, what are my nutritional needs” and a number of other nutrition concerns. From our Nutrition Screening, we have determined that of the 724 recipients of Home Delivered Meals in Ward 7, 387 are at risk nutritionally. This is based on information provided from the Nutrition Screenings.

However, with our current staff we are not able to provide the needed in-home Nutrition Counseling or Nutrition Education to those clients receiving Home Delivered Meals that are at Nutritional Risk. In order to meet this need, we need an additional Nutritionist devoted to doing in-home Nutrition Counseling and Nutrition Education.

The current Nutritionist manages all of the congregate meal sites, conduct Nutrition Education at the sites and does emergency in-home Nutrition Counseling.

Wellness Centers

The Washington Seniors Wellness Center is unique in that it has had extended hours on Mondays and Wednesdays and two Saturday morning fitness sessions for several years. There is also a Weekend Citywide Nutrition Program located at the Wellness Center that is funded through the third grant. It provide services for over 100 seniors, averaging 75 to 85 participants each Saturday. This program provides a variety of activities and is very similar to a congregate meal site.

The WSWC received \$100,000 in additional funding in FY 2015. These funds were used to expand new classes, core programming and improve staffing as we already had extended hours and a weekend program. If these funds are cut it will impact core programming, cancelling classes and possibly decreased hours or salary reduction for staff. We would like to retain this funding.

Finally, last year the DCOA commissioned an Actuarial study, to study reimbursement rates and make recommendations for adjusting them. As a result of the study, the recommendation was to increase the reimbursement rates by 8.9%. We recognize that implementing this recommendation would prove to be challenging without additional funding. In conclusion, we have made considerable progress in increasing and providing services for seniors in the District of Columbia and there is still much more to be done. We would like your support in increasing rather than decreasing the DCOA Budget so that we may be able to continue the ability to provide needed services for our senior population.

DC Office on Aging Budget Hearing before the
City Council Committee on Housing and
Community Development

Presented by Alma Harris

Family Matters of Greater Washington Deaf
and Hard of Hearing Senior Center

April 23rd, 2015

John Wilson Building

Hello Chairwoman Bonds and Council members. My name is Alma Harris. I attend the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior day program at Fort Dupont Park Apartments in Ward 8 of DC. The Family Matters Deaf and Hard of hearing program is funded by the DC Office on Aging. I have been coming to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing program since September 2014, and let me say that it has changed my life. I come to the program to participate in activities such as exercise classes, arts and crafts, and Nutrition Education from Ms. Minor, our Nutritionist from Family Matters. We also go on trips. This month we even had a trip planned to see the cherry blossoms thanks to transportation provided by Seabury.

I have such a good time coming to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program fellowshiping with other seniors.

I am a retired worker from the Washington Nursing Facility in the field of Nursing. Due to illness, I had to stop working when I was 66 years old. I'm a senior who does not like lying around at home all day. I began to feel sad because I had no place to go after retiring. When I found out about the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program for seniors, I was so excited and began coming to the program. Now, sometimes I enjoy coming to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

program more than being at home. I am even trying to get other people to come to the Center to share in the wonderful time I am having.

I am here today in support of the DC Office on Aging which funds the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program. Please provide enough funding to DCOA so they can continue to provide services such as these to seniors in Washington. Please do not cut the DC Office on Aging's budget. I know there are many seniors with similar problems of isolation and without the assistance provided by the DC Office on Aging many seniors would be lonely. I would like to stress the importance of increasing funds for the Senior Service Network funded by the DC Office on Aging. I really appreciate the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program and the staff, Margaret, Jerald, and Joel.

Funding for these programs gives us the ability to maintain our independence and to be productive members of our communities.

Without programs such as the Family Matters Deaf and Hard of Hearing program I do not know where I would be. Since coming to the Center, I can sleep peacefully through the whole night knowing that I have a place to go in the morning that will help me.

Thank you Councilmembers for the opportunity to speak with you today.

**Testimony for the District of Columbia Office on Aging
2016 Budget Oversight Hearing
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Council Member Anita Bonds, Chairperson**

April 23, 2015

Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development, good morning!

Introduction

My name is Joe Resch, I am the Chief Executive Officer of Seabury Resources for Aging. Seabury provides direct services to more than 15,000 older adults and caregivers annually and we are celebrating our 91st year of service. I am grateful for the opportunity to testify today.

Services

Seabury is a member of the Senior Advisory Coalition and partners with the DC Office on Aging in three service categories: transportation, the Aging and Disability Resources Centers/Lead Agencies, and housing and assistance with home and yard maintenance. Specifically, our programs are: Seabury Connector, Seabury Aging Services in Wards 5 and 6, and Home First Residences and Age-In-Place.

Program Directors and customers are here today to testify about what we do and the thousands of DC residents who rely on our services and the DC residents who cannot access our services because the resources aren't there.

Dr. Thompson and his staff have prepared a sound budget, but any budget that is flat or absorbs cuts, is a step backward and means that the older residents of the District of Columbia will be underserved. I am here to advocate that the Council increase the funding for the DC

Office on Aging and its service providers. Otherwise the City is turning its back on long time residents, taxpayers and voters in their most vulnerable years.

What do we say when someone in Ward 6 is put on a wait list to access a social worker, because we don't have enough and the caseloads being carried are too large? What do we say to someone in Ward 5 when they are put on a wait list for a home delivered meal? We have hundreds of people a month that we can't take to the doctor because we don't have enough drivers? There aren't enough resources.

And then there is fair treatment for the service providers, our staff, who often work 50 or 60 hours a week to address the needs of the city's elderly and we can't give them a cost of living increase much less recognize their devotion, excellence and service to their clients and customers.

It is said that a culture is judged by the way it treats its older citizens. If DC truly wants to be an Age-Friendly City, it has to do better than the DC Office on Aging budget presented today.

I want to close with a thank you and kudos to Mohamed Mohamed, the Associate CFO of the Office of Finance Resource Management. I had raised a concern at the Oversight Hearing in February that OFRM was responsible for the delay in payments at the beginning of the fiscal year. I met with Mr. Mohamed and his staff and reviewed the records and the process, and realized that OFRM was not responsible for the delay. As long as there is no interruption in the processing of invoices before they are sent to OFRM, payments should be seamless from one fiscal year to the next. We are looking forward to a seamless transition this coming year.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

**Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging
Budget Oversight Hearing before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015**

**Presented by Vivian Grayton, Director
Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5**

Written Testimony

Good Morning Chairwoman Bonds and the members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Vivian Grayton and I am the Director of Seabury Resources for Aging / Aging and Disability Resources Center for Ward 5 and I am also representing the Director of Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 6. I am joined by my Seabury colleagues and our mission is to provide personalized, affordable services and housing options to help older adults live with independence and dignity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today. Seabury is a member of the DC Office on Aging's Senior Service Network and the DC Senior Advisory Coalition and my colleagues are here today.

Services & Personal Impact

The Aging & Disability Resource Centers are committed to providing valuable and cost-effective services.

We serve moderate to low income seniors who depend on our services as well as dedicated caregivers. We provide essential services including case management, counseling, health promotion, nutrition education and counseling to promote healthy lifestyles of older adults and crisis intervention services. Our ADRC coordinate life-sustaining home delivered meals to homebound seniors, and serve meals and coordinate activities and trips at our 17 nutrition sites. Our activities and annual events help prevent isolation and encourage socialization. And in Ward 5 an emergency food pantry provides a vital service. In FY 2015 Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5 and 6 ADRC's provided services to 4554 customers in Ward 5 and 4,211 customers in Ward 6.

Citywide Senior Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired

In addition, Seabury Ward 5 operates the citywide Senior Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired for over 25 older adults that have daily access to Braille and independent living skills training, trips and other recreational and educational activities and we are currently recruiting for a volunteer computer teacher.

As you can see our services have a significant impact on the clients we serve and we need continued and increased funding in order to properly serve our clients.

Funding

We are very thankful for increased funding this year and depend heavily on a DC Office on Aging grant. Although DCOA has said that reimbursement rates would go up on October 1 it is hoped that the promise will be kept. Ward 5 has to fundraise in order to maintain our current programming and Ward 6's entire budget is funded by DCOA.

Success Story – Ward 5

Mr. P is an African-American Muslim with a 12th grade education, a Washingtonian and a Ward 5 resident. He is married to a foreign-born woman with very limited English language fluency and both he and his wife have challenging health issues. Mr. P has prostate cancer, arthritis, cataracts and high blood pressure and he takes five medications daily. He was a self-referral due to this diminished physical health.

Mr. P. and wife had no working furnace for over three (3) years and no energy assistance, he had no home health agency services or personal care aide, and his electric scooter was broken on one side. When Mr. P. referred himself and wife to Seabury – Ward 5 case management services, Mr. P received help with his energy bill and a brand new furnace was installed in his home. His physician has finally sent a prescription for repair of the three year old scooter under Medicare and a repair company has now been acquired to repair this durable medical equipment. Mr. P. is now with a home health agency and is awaiting a slot from the waiting list in order to be assessed to begin receiving Medicaid waiver services as prescribed by his physician and the program.

With the support of the Ward 5 ADRC, Mr. P. has obtained the essential services needed to remain in his home with the necessary supports and heat and the ability to live independently with his wife in dignity. He is extremely appreciative of the work put forth from our Agency.

Success Story – Ward 6

Social Workers responded to a power outage emergency call at 4:30 pm from Kentucky Courts Senior Apartment Complex operated by DCHA which affected eighty seniors. This complex is located at 340 13th Street SE, 20003. Social Workers purchased and distributed cases of water from Harris Teeter to seniors experiencing signs of dehydration. Social Workers assessed seniors sitting outside in the courtyard seeking relief from the heat. Social workers met with the complex and area managers and provided supportive information including case management, help to access PCAs, heavy duty housecleaning, senior wellness center, congregate meal sites, and transportation for group trips.

Workers offered to come back at a later date to present service information at resident meetings. Pepco informed residents and staff that power would be restored around 8:00 pm. Social Workers stayed with Kentucky Courts residents until Red Cross was able to take over and offer support. Social work staff provided residents and the managers with Seabury brochures and contact information and invited them to contact Seabury Ward 6 in the future regarding the needs of individuals or group activities.

FY 2016 DC Office on Aging Budget

We plan to submit our FY 2016 DC Office on Aging Grant Application in order to continue to fulfill our successful mission of providing quality and life-sustaining services and programs to older adults and caregivers. Although Wards 5 and 6 home-delivered meals weekend and weekday are frozen, additional monies to support the frail elderly is needed due to the increase in the aging population in our service areas. Wards 5 and 6 need to not only maintain their current funding, but need additional funding to provide:

Ward 5 additional funding

DC Living Wage will continue to increase at the same rate and so we anticipate needed a 2% salary increase to keep pace \$95,394

Data Management Specialist - \$44,603

Full Time Receptionist - \$37,000

Site Manager – Center for the Blind & Visually Impaired \$15,862

Ward 6 additional funding

DC Living Wage will continue to increase at the same rate and so we anticipate needed a 2% salary increase to keep pace \$21,396

(2) Social Workers - \$128,538

(2) Nutrition Site Manager - \$31,724

(7) Nutrition Site Aides - \$111,034

Full Time Community Planner/Outreach Coordinator - \$56,546

Office Data Manager - \$53,000

Facilities Manager - \$15,862

Support DC Office on Aging

We continue our support of the DC Office on Aging as they are an important partner in our mission. We look forward to continuing to work with Dr. John Thompson and his staff.

We are depending on continued support from the DC Council and the DC Office on Aging to provide essential services to older adults in the District of Columbia.

Thank you for your support of the District's older adults and for the opportunity to appear before this committee today.

TESTIMONY

TO THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING
FY'16 BUDGET HEARING

BEFORE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

LESTER M. WYNN
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

SEABURY CONNECTOR/TRANSPORTATION

SEABURY RESOURCES FOR AGING

additional dispatcher, and the conversion of one (1) Service Center position from part-time to full-time.

The Connector aims to do more than take its customers from point A to point B. Our intent is to provide senior citizens with a similar feeling of control over the timing and the route to their final destination, similar to that felt in their own vehicles. In addition to providing independence, the Connector strives to enable seniors to maintain their sense of security and dignity.

Ridership has increased by 19% as indicated by the following:

During this period of October 1, 2013 through March 31, 2014, the Connector provided 61,959 Units. During October 1, 2014, through March 31, 2015, the Connector provided 73,742 Units of service.

Aside from our free transportation services, the Connector manages an Alternative Transportation Program. This program oversees the Connector Card, which is a subsidized Visa Debit Card that can be used for taxis and other types of ground transportation. Additionally, this program is responsible for researching and developing other transportation options to service the needs of seniors within the District of Columbia.

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON MS. ANITA BONDS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS. MY NAME IS LESTER M. WYNN – PROGRAM DIRECTOR OF SEABURY RESOURCES FOR AGING CONNECTOR TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO TESTIFY BEFORE YOU TODAY. WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF DR. THOMPSON AND HIS STAFF.

The Seabury Connector, with the support of funding from the DCOA continues to provide vital transportation to seniors 60 years of age or older residing within the District of Columbia. In addition to providing transportation to day care and wellness centers, the Connector also provides transportation to senior citizens requiring transportation to medical appointments and social service programs throughout the District of Columbia. Most importantly, the connector provides these services without any charge to the customers.

As some turns 60 years of age every day, the Connector must be able to adapt to growing demands of its services.

The Connector provides curb-to-curb service to numerous locations within the district. However, the growing demand on our system means that users must exercise patience and flexibility. In order to keep up with the growing demand the Connector requires 10 additional drivers, one (1)

In addition to providing transportation services, the Home Delivered Meals staff delivers nutritious meals to homebound seniors residing in the District of Columbia. From October 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015 Home Delivered Meals staff delivered 36,697 nutritious meals city wide. In summation the Connector requires an additional \$665,000. This funding would be utilized to cover the operating costs (insurance, fuel, and maintenance) of vans and other vehicles used by Connector to meet participants' transportation needs, such as rides to and from senior centers, medical appointments, and grocery shopping.

Additionally, some of the funding would be used to support home delivered meals program and the alternative transportation program.

All of us at Seabury Connector greatly appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony. We recognize that given the financial climate we need to be prudent in our requests, yet at the same time ensure that our services continue to provide seniors with maximum access to medical care and essential services. We are committed to working with the Council in any way possible to advocate for adequate resources for reliable transportation for the seniors of the District of Columbia.

ON BEHALF OF SEABURY CONNECTOR, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK DR. JOHN THOMPSON AND HIS STAFF FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT AND I ALSO WOULD LIKE TO THANK THIS COMMITTEE FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY.



TESTIMONY

TO

**The District of Columbia Office on Aging Physical Year 2016 Budget Hearing
Before the District of Columbia City Council Committee on Housing and
Community Development**

Council Member Anita Bonds, Chairperson

Presented by Ms. Carolyn Dia

Advisory Member Seabury Connector Transportation

Good Morning Chairman Anita Bonds and Members of DC City Council of the District of Columbia, my name is Carolyn Dia; a senior citizen a resident of Ward 4 in the District of Columbia. I am happy to testify before you and members of the City Council on behalf of Seabury Connector Transportation.

I am 65 years of age, I began riding with Seabury in 2012. Last year, I had a new knee replacement and steel rods put into my left leg.



Part of the senior services network
supported by the DC Office on Aging



2.

Also, a couple of years prior, a steel plate was placed into my right foot. As a result of the surgeries, I became temporary disabled and required special care. This is where Seabury became instrumental in my life and provided me free regular scheduled medical transportation service two to three times a week, to and from my medical appointments. This enabled me to continuously monitor my health needs which helped me to remain independent.

Because Seabury offered me free medical transportation service, I am able to use the savings that I normally would pay for transportation towards prescriptions, food and other necessary items of need.

During my temporary disability, Seabury drivers provided me with personalized transportation service, by assisting me on and off the bus, as I was unable to manage departing the bus alone.

In closing, I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Seabury Connector for continually providing for me scheduled medical transportation services.

April 23rd, 2015

DCOA Budget Hearing: Seabury

Hi, my name is Dorothy Carracedo. I am 77 years old. I am a DC native; born, raised and educated in this city.

I was introduced to Seabury services in 2013. At that time I did not realize I had previously worked for Seabury through the NCBA program several years ago. I am a recipient of Mom's Meals, Seabury Connector transportation, and Seabury Case Management. I first met with my worker, Christine Kenny, after my son called about the meal program. Ms. Kenny interviewed me and I began to talk about other things that were bothering me that I could not get done such as EPD Waiver certification, medical equipment, which Ms. Kenny got herself and brought to me. Throughout our time together we have worked on transportation, handling concerns with aides, she checks on me, and helped me with re-registering for Waiver when the services were cut off, and so many other things.

We are all living longer. Recently I saw a 91 year old woman back in the workforce. Unfortunately, I have many ailments that limit my abilities but with people like Christine Kenny and everyone at Seabury I feel like we will be served very well. I don't know what I would have done without them.

One of my friends recently came home from the hospital and is being interviewed by Seabury. I have another neighbor that is seeking Seabury's assistance after I referred her. But I know Seabury needs more staff to help everyone and they cannot have more staff without more funding. Without funding my neighbor will need to wait on a waiting list. I know that she and many others need Seabury. When people ask me where do I get my help I always say Seabury is my crutch. I'm hoping Seabury will receive more funding to continue helping us.

I am very much pleased and happy with my affiliation with Seabury. Even on holidays I can call Seabury and get the strength and support I need.

I want to thank you for having me today and in the name of Our Savior Jesus Christ I want to thank you all.



**Testimony Submitted for the DC Office on Aging Budget Oversight Hearing
Before the DC Council Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015**

Paula Reichel, DC Regional Director
preichel@capitalareafoodbank.org, 202-644-9827

Good afternoon Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee. My name is Paula Reichel and I am the DC Regional Director at the Capital Area Food Bank. The Capital Area Food Bank is the largest hunger relief organization in the DC region, reaching over 540,000 individuals at risk of hunger through direct service and a network of more than 500 non-profit partner agencies. The food bank has administered the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) as a grantee with the DC Office on Aging since 2012 and is a proud member of the DC Senior Advisory Coalition.

Today the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger will release its annual report on the number of seniors facing the threat of hunger across the country. The report brings to light a startling trend of rising senior hunger in Washington, DC. In 2011, 12.3% of DC seniors faced the threat of hunger. That number grew to 15.2% in 2012 and in 2013, the most recent year for which data is available, jumped to 20.27%, a 33% increase over the previous year. This trend has major implications for senior health. Food insecure seniors are more likely to experience a heart attack and more likely to be diagnosed with chronic diseases like asthma, depression, and heart failure than their food secure peers.

An investment in nutritious food access for DC seniors is an investment in prevention, the value of which is compounded through health care cost savings, enhanced economic opportunity, and the preservation of vibrant, multigenerational communities. As such, the Capital Area Food Bank urges the DC Council to maintain current levels of funding for CSFP and SFMNP at \$455,000 for FY16. This allocation will support our meeting the needs of the 5,300 DC seniors who currently participate in the program, while allowing us to fully realize our strategies for program expansion and enhancement.

CSFP and SFMNP provide low-income DC seniors across all eight Wards with 30 pounds of healthy groceries per month and vouchers redeemable for fresh produce at farmer's markets during the growing season. CSFP participants appreciate the health value of the foods provided which encourage them to prepare nutritious meals, improve their eating habits, and remain active in their home and in their community. The groceries also offset their food costs, providing participating seniors with over \$600 in annual savings. To complement the basic program offerings and, in response to demand for

fresh produce, in FY15 the food bank began offering fresh fruits and vegetables monthly at its two walk-in centers and distributed Produce Plus checks in addition to SFMNP vouchers.

FY15 also brought many challenges. Stricter scrutiny of program regulations led to a drop in program participation. As a result, the food bank made significant changes to the existing organizational structure, integrating outreach into each programmatic position while creating an Outreach Coordinator position which reported directly to the program Director. The program was also rebranded as Grocery Plus, a name which spoke to the program's core function and resonated more strongly with participants.

In mid-February 2015, the food bank was informed by DCOA that the lease at our Congress Heights Walk-in Center was due to expire at the end of that month and that the building was being sold. Congress Heights was one of the program's two remaining walk-in centers. Unlike the food bank's 56 community distributions which operate once monthly, our walk-in centers operate daily throughout the month. Prior to its closure, the Congress Heights Walk-in Center had operated continuously as a CSFP distribution site for nearly eight years and served 650 seniors, most from Ward 8 neighborhoods.

Although DCOA was able to negotiate a lease extension into April, they were unable to identify a replacement site through DGS, which asserted that there were no buildings available in their portfolio. As a result of not identifying a replacement walk-in facility, the food bank had to reassign the majority of seniors from Congress Heights to its one remaining walk-in center in Ward 7, located eight miles away. While the repercussions of this move have yet to be fully realized, we anticipate the change to result in a significant drop in participation. As one participant reported, changing centers means that he will go from walking a short distance in his neighborhood to taking three buses each way to pick up his monthly groceries.

Despite these challenges, the Capital Area Food Bank looks forward to continuing to grow our partnership with DCOA. We are pleased with the agency's efforts thus far under the leadership of Dr. John Thompson to coordinate its senior nutrition programs through universalizing the intake process, creating a shared data system, and forming a Nutrition Task Force which will convene for the first time later this month. We are hopeful that these actions will result in greater overall program reach and a stronger safety net for the District's growing senior population.

Testimony Given by
Deborah D. Nix, Founder and Executive Director, The Keys to Canaan
Before Committee Chairperson Anita Bond
Committee on Housing and Community Development
FY16 Budget Oversight Hearing
Thursday, April 23, 2015

Good afternoon Councilmember Bond. My name is Deborah Nix. I am the founder and executive director of The Keys to Canaan. Thank you for allowing me to testify at the Department on Aging's fiscal year 2016 budget hearing.

The Keys to Canaan provides programs and supportive services to families living primarily in Southeast, Washington. We have worked with families in Barry Farm, Benning Terrace and Potomac Gardens. Our programs include the Ward 7 Benning Senior Village that is derived from an evidence-based model out of Boston, MA.

In 2013, The Keys to Canaan participated in the Department on Aging's pilot program to start a Senior Village in Ward 7, in the Benning community. Due to the economic needs of most of our seniors, East of Anacostia River, the concept behind this Village was to not charge a membership fee, as most villages do. Our Village services, in partnership with First Rock Baptist Church, include a weekly a fellowship program, which provides a hot breakfast and lunch, transportation to and from the program, a monthly exercise program, completion of minor home improvement projects, access to computers, printing, copying and faxing, referrals, and phone calls to check on our seniors.

The goal of our Village is to provide the Seniors in Benning with the support they need to age safely in their homes. With your help and in partnership with the Department on Aging we hope to further develop our Village and support our

Seniors in Ward 7. Therefore, I would like to ask that the Senior Village funding be fully restored in the FY16 budget. This will allow The Keys to Canaan team the opportunity to continue to provide quality programs and services to our seniors.

Thank you very much for leading the fighting for our Seniors. I am available to answer any questions that you may have.

Testimony Submitted to the Commission on Health
for the 2016 Budget Hearing of the D.C. Office on Aging
April 22, 2015

Submitted by:

Jan Allen May
Executive Director
Legal Counsel for the Elderly
601 E Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20049
202-434-2120 Office
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Good day. My name is Jan Allen May and I am the Executive Director of Legal Counsel for the Elderly. LCE delivers client-centered legal services to D.C. seniors, with a special emphasis on those most in need: elders with unsafe living environments due to landlord neglect or malfeasance, seniors facing foreclosure, older victims of predators and scam artists, those threatened with eviction and homelessness, and seniors who need assistance to pay for food, housing and other basic living necessities. We are also a founding member of the Senior Advisory Coalition. LCE is able to carry out much of its work as a result of a grant from the DC Office on Aging. We are testifying today to reaffirm the importance of DCOA funding to the lives of our clients whose demand for these services are ever increasing.

Using a holistic approach to help at-risk seniors, LCE combines both legal and social work services in order to fully respond to the root causes of the problem and create long-term, systemic solutions not only for the seniors we serve, but also for housing providers, the D.C. courts, and concerned friends, neighbors and family members. Our multipronged program consists of legal representation, community education and policy advocacy.

Founded in 1975, Legal Counsel for the Elderly champions the dignity and rights of vulnerable D.C. seniors by providing free legal services. Our clients are D.C. residents age 60+, and in 2014 we helped more than 6,000 older neighbors in need. With thousands of hours of volunteer time contributed by 500+ volunteers each year, LCE is able to provide a wide-range of services—legal, psychosocial, financial, educational—in a cost-effective way. Our primary goals are to serve and empower thousands of low-income seniors each year in those areas of law involving “basic human needs”: income, housing, long-term care, personal autonomy, and consumer protection. We garnered over 13 million dollars of benefits for seniors in the District of Columbia in calendar year 2014.

We wish to thank the Council for supporting funding to the DCOA and thus the importance of DCOA's vital services. We appreciate that the Office on Aging has taken steps to ensure that most grantees will not suffer budget cuts in FY 2016. We also applaud the fact that DCOA has committed to raising the reimbursement rates for its grantees, rates that have remained the same for many years. Ultimately of course the overall budget needs to be increased so as not to cause a diminution of services. The budget for our legal services has been essentially flat for years despite significantly rising costs during that same time period. About 73% of the funding we receive from DCOA is for the long-term care ombudsman program and only 27% is for legal advice and representation of community residents. Thus DCOA pays for about 3 FTE attorneys though we have about 9 attorneys working to achieve the objectives of the DCOA grant which we then have to subsidize from other sources. We have to supplement our own resources to deliver our DCOA funded services in part because DCOA funds reimbursement rate is inadequate-a fact that DCOA's independent auditors noted in their report. DCOA and its grantees are long overdue to receive a significant increase in its funding simply to maintain the same level of services. We are aware that this is a tight budget year but the reality is that with flat funding we either have to turn people away or have older people wait way too long for services. The Senior Advisory Coalition has made these points time and again to both the Executive branch and to the Council. In our discussions, all these individuals seemed to be in agreement with the need for significant additional funding for DCOA.

One last point: DCOA's website publishes the grant dollar amounts for each grantee and the "burn-rate" --that is how much of the grant has been spent. This data is out of date and inaccurate and has been for some time. DCOA has been notified numerous times by multiple grantees concerning this issue, but nothing seems to happen. Based on what they have had posted,

a reader would logically but erroneously conclude that DCOA has not been spending its money, that the grantees have not been using the money and that therefore DCOA does not need money.

This is patently false. Right now the data on DCOA's website for my own organization is off inaccurate by 210% since their data only accounts for one month (October) though it purports to account for the entire first quarter. Other grantees have reported to me and to DCOA a similar situation. We recommend that either this information be removed from the website or be strictly kept up to date and accurate. To publish outdated and/or erroneous budget information is at best misleading and at worst does a real disservice to DC's seniors, DCOA and the Senior Advocacy Network.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ms. Joyce Pratt Hearing Speech

Good Afternoon,

My name is Joyce Pratt and I am a participant in the Grocery Plus Program, which is formerly known as the USDA Commodity Supplemental Food Program. I have been receiving my monthly food package for approximately 14 years. Due to my fixed monthly income it makes it very difficult to pay rent, purchase medicine, and then have to purchase nutrition food, it almost impossible.

However, the monthly food I receive from the Grocery Plus Program is a huge help and it allows me to eat healthy, and in the summer months I'm able to purchase fresh produce from local Farmer's Markets with the vouchers I receive from the program.

As a resident of the District of Columbia for 77 years, I would like to see the Grocery Plus Program continue for the senior. Without this program many seniors would face serious health problems and go hungry.

So in closing, I would like to encourage you think about us senior residents and provide the necessary funding to keep this program going....God knows we need it!....Thank You.

Ms. Linda Brown Hearing Speech

To: Councilmember Bonds : Committee on Housing and Community Development : DC Office on Aging

Good morning, DC City Council.

To advocate for 1. Grocery Plus. 2. Capital Area Food Bank. 3. So Others Might Eat. 4. DC Office on Aging. 5. DC Senior Advisory Coalition (Budget Goals).

I reside in a senior community in Ward 8 and a participant in the Commodity Supplemental Food program and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition program. My favorites are the dry milk for cooking and love grits.

These Capitol Area Food Bank programs are very important to insure physical and mental health to seniors living in poverty.

On April 17th the Ward 8 site moved to Ward 6. Grocery Plus program, need funding, feeding the poor is a great undertaking .

Remember what Jesus said about the poor!

Advocacy, lets help get a green light to FY16 Budget Goals.

DC City Council can make sure living wages become standard.

Thank you so much for your time and effort .

Sincerely,

Linda Brown

Testimony
Committee on Housing & Community Development
April 23, 2015

Good morning Councilmember Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Rosa E. Pizzi and I am the Executive Director of Vida Senior Centers.

Vida operates three sites in the District, 1842 Calvert Street, 1330 Missouri Avenue and Vida manages the programs Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kenney Street NW for the District.

In total, Vida will assist over 800 seniors per year and the number is growing.

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Like my colleagues and peers I am here representing Vida Senior Centers and its participants because we want to be sure that we can meet the needs of the fast growing population of elders/senior in this great city.

Understand that we are in the business of caring for others. We know that there are other needs; we all want to reduce homelessness, especially for seniors, eliminate child abuse, eliminate dropout rates, etc. But there is one thing that we cannot do and that is to stop anyone from turning 60 years of age.

Recent reports tell us how beneficial the services we provide at our senior centers and wellness centers benefit our participants and we all know that helping them age in place is much less costly to a community than long term care.

I ask you to please consider the following:

First Vida Senior Centers still has sixteen seniors that have been waiting for over a year for transportation services to our two locations at 1842 Calvert Street NW and 1330 Missouri Avenue NW. These are low income and very poor elderly Latino/Hispanic residents from all eight wards that remain isolated and in need of nutrition, socialization, health and wellness as well as all of the programs and services available at our senior centers. Please consider providing the \$150,000 to the Office on Aging so that Seabury can provide transportation for these

seniors so they can benefit from our services. Others will also benefit with transportation to and from medical appointments in between drop-off and pick-up from the senior centers.

Secondly, Vida manages the program operations at Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center in Ward 4. Currently, Hattie Holmes provides extended hours and includes being open on Saturday mornings. Lack of transportation impacted attendance as the neediest clients, especially in terms of food insecurity, could not take advantage of the services because there was no transportation provided for the extended weekend hours. However, a much needed staff person, an Activities Coordinator, was added to help attend to the extended hours and to help coordinate the numerous daily activities provided at the Center. Hattie Holmes averages over 100 seniors per day Monday thru Friday and the services of this position continue to be necessary. It is important that these core services are not impacted by budget cuts.

Third, the enrollment at the Vida Brightwood location has grown to the point where a full-time staff member is needed to keep the Center open and available to the seniors in the community full time. Right now, staff from the Calvert Street location spend one day each at Brightwood which impacts the large number of seniors that come to Calvert Street.

The staff is working with the Board to increase our level of fundraising, but your assistance of an additional \$80,000 for staff and overhead would be greatly appreciated at this time.

I want to recognize the efforts of Dr. Thompson and his staff. They are always readily available and helpful.

Thank you for your time and hard work on behalf of all of the seniors and citizens of the District.

Thank you.

Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging Oversight
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
The Honorable Anita Bonds, Chairperson
April 23, 2015

Presented by
Thomye Cave, Executive Director
Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center, Inc.

Good morning, Chairperson Bonds and members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My Name is Thomye Cave and I am the Executive Director of Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center, Inc. and a member of the Senior Advisory Coalition. Thank you for this opportunity today.

Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Day Care Center, Inc. offers a comprehensive system of person-centered, therapeutic and supportive community based services for functionally impaired, older Washingtonians, including those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, to help them remain in their homes and communities. We are supported by the DC Office on Aging and our programs promote healthy, active engagement of impaired, at-risk, older adults and serve, for many, as their only link to the community. Some of our programs include, physical, occupational, art and recreational therapy, intergenerational health/wellness, toddler therapy and Montessori based activities for our Memory Care program, counseling, caregivers' support group meetings, and an extended day program for working caregivers, just to name a few. The average age is 82 and ninety-six percent require assistance with three or more activities and/or instrumental activities of daily living. Some come to us in wheelchairs and through our therapeutic programs are able to improve functioning to using walkers or canes. Were it not for support from the DC Office on Aging, they would be at the greatest risk for institutionalization.

Madam Chair and members of the committee, our older adults need and deserve your help. According to the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, in "2013, 20.3 percent of seniors in DC faced the threat of hunger. That shows a **33 percent increase from the previous year.**" With DCOA's support and through Terrific Inc., our lead agency, we serve as a lifeline and ensure that elders like our 82 years young gentleman who lives alone and has no relatives in the area receive at least one nutritionally balanced meal by attending the Center. The Office on Aging can do more and we can do more but only so with adequate funding. Our older adults, our seniors, our seasoned citizens, our silver foxes need your help. There is a sense of urgency and no matter how creative we are, we cannot do more with less.

There's an old African Proverb that says, "if you want to walk fast, walk alone, but if you want to walk far, walk with others." Walk with DCOA by providing adequate funding so that we, the community based organizations, may walk far and continue to give hope, inspire, challenge, and as our 90 years young participant says, gives him a "reason to wake up in the morning."

Walk with DCOA to help us continue on a path to stabilize cost-effective community services and improve service quality. For those on whose shoulders we stand, for those whom were there with a helping hand – Walk with DCOA, walk with community service providers as we champion the cause of aging - Walk with us...

Again, thank you for the opportunity.



Testimony of Meg Duffy, Program Director, Jumpstart, Washington, DC

**Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015**

Good morning. My name is Meg Duffy and I am the Program Director for the Jumpstart program in Washington DC. I would like to thank the Committee on Housing and Community Development for giving me the opportunity to speak about the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program.

In low-income neighborhoods, children start kindergarten 60% behind their peers from affluent communities, leaving them woefully unprepared. For Jumpstart, this statistic is one of the driving forces behind the work we do every day. Jumpstart is a national early education organization that, for the last 20+ years, has been working towards the day every child in American enters kindergarten prepared to succeed. In order to combat this statistic, Jumpstart came up with a simple idea. We would recruit college students and older adults and engage them in service in the community. Our program would partner with preschools that serve a majority of children identified as low-income and provide them with a yearlong, structured, intentional program which would focus on developing, supporting and strengthening the language, literacy and social skills necessary for the children to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. Since 1993, when Jumpstart began, we have done just that. Our program has trained over 36,000 college and older adult volunteers to work with and support preschool children in developing these important skills. To date over 76,000 children have been served by Jumpstart.

Across the country last year, Jumpstart engaged over 4,200 volunteers and these volunteers served 11, 300 children. Last year, in DC alone, our program served over 760 preschool students in various early childhood education programs and centers. Jumpstart volunteers spend, on average, 10-15 hours per week preparing to work with the children or actually engaging the children in the Jumpstart session. The sessions themselves are held twice a week for 2 hours and focus on helping the children to better name and identify letters and their sounds, introducing them to new and interesting vocabulary, strengthening their book and print knowledge and developing phonological awareness. The development of these skills and many others are what will help the children to find later success in school. We know that our

program is a success by the data we have collected on the children at the start and end of each Jumpstart program year. For the children who were part of the program in DC last year, almost 90% of them made gains in language and literacy skills over the course of the program year. On average, over 43% of the children served by Jumpstart DC demonstrated substantial gains of one developmental level or more on the Jumpstart School Success Checklist, which is the tool we use to measure the progress and gains children make while part of Jumpstart.

Based on the data collected, the feedback received from classroom teachers, parents and Corps members, we know how important Jumpstart is in the lives of the children we serve. It is through the generous support of the DC Office on Aging and other supporters and funders that we can continue to do the work we have been going for over 20 years and allows us to continue to put children first!



Testimony of Jamarl D. Clark, Jumpstart's DC Community Corps Program Site Manager

**Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015**

My name is Jamarl Clark and I serve as the site manager of Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps program. I would like to thank the Committee on Housing and Community Development for giving me the opportunity to speak about Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps program.

The Jumpstart Community Corps program started in 2004 with the intent of creating meaningful, intergenerational relationships between preschool children and community members. Community Corps started in Boston then moved to Los Angeles, and Atlanta and finally in 2013 Jumpstart brought the Community Corps program to Washington DC.

This year Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps has partner with DC Office on Aging to use an intergenerational approach to engage DC's older adults (aged 55 and older) to deliver Jumpstart's innovative program to preschool children (ages 36 to 59 months) from under resourced communities. Jumpstart recruits and trains older adult volunteers, known as Community Corps members, who receive more than 40 hours of training in early-education and leadership and serve in preschool classrooms for 200 hours throughout the academic year. Corps members work together in teams to engage small groups of preschool-age children in the development of essential language and literacy skills. These volunteers implement an evidence-based, developmentally-appropriate curriculum, intentionally designed to deliver language and literacy instruction to children in under resourced communities, ensuring they enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps this year currently serves in two DC Public Schools, Noyce and Langdon Education Campuses, both located in Ward 5. These volunteers our impacting the lives of 60 preschoolers in the District of Columbia.

As, site manager of Jumpstart's DC's Community Corps program I have been fortunate to witness not only children lives transform but also Corps members. Corps members walk away valued by the community they serve. Corps Members walk away inspired when they see a child write their name for the very first time. Corps Members walk away knowing they have left a legacy, that you can do anything that you put your mind to.

By Jumpstart and DC Office on Aging focusing on the child, his or her family, and the older adult volunteers provides a comprehensive program to ensure children enter school prepared to succeed.



Testimony of Wilma Jones, Corps Member of Jumpstart's DC Community Corps Program

**Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015**

I am Ms. Wilma Jones, and currently serving as a Corps Member with the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program. I would like to thank the Committee on Housing and Community Development for giving me the opportunity to speak on how the funds received from DC Office on Aging have been beneficial towards the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program and most of all myself.

Teaching is my passion! I have spent most of my professional career working with college students at Howard University all the way to working with students with special needs in DC Public Schools for over twenty years. I am fortunate now to use my professional background in education to help preschoolers excel in the classroom by participating in the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program.

I've been blessed to have four beautiful children. The District of Columbia has been instrumental in providing great services, like mentors and tutors to assist me with equipping my four children to be successful in the 21st century. My youngest son, Zumie, has multiple disabilities including down syndrome and has had a kidney transplant. I have to take Zumie to several doctors' appointments and meetings with his school and have come to rely on the support and services the District has been able to provide. The Jumpstart DC Community Corps program allows me to give back to my community as the District of Columbia has given to my family over the past several years. The Jumpstart DC Community Corps program, the children I serve, the teachers I work with, and the team members I share this awesome experience with, inspire me daily just as my son, Zumie does.

As a senior citizen I feel a sense of pride! As senior citizens we are not given many opportunities to use the skills and wisdom we have acquired over our lifetime to

give back to our community. The Jumpstart DC Community Corps program gives us that pride and opportunity.

I leave you with the words of Mahatma Gandhi, the preeminent leader of Indian independence movement “*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*” I’ve been fortunate to lose myself in serving the future of this city, the preschoolers we work with in the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program!



**Testimony of Willetta Christian, Team Leader of
Jumpstart's DC Community Corps Program**

**Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Housing and Community Development
April 23, 2015**

My name is Ms. Willetta Christian and I am a senior citizen. I am a proud Team Leader for the Jumpstart DC Community Corps program.

As a retired DC Public Schools, Special Education Teacher, being a Jumpstart Team Leader provides me the opportunity to connect with our young scholars and continue in my role as an educator intergenerational.

Jumpstart Corp Members believe that as senior citizens, we can offer our years of real world experience regardless of our employment, to serve in the DC community. Jumpstart scholars benefit from the collaboration and teamwork of the Corp Members. The young scholars are empowered by the poems, songs and activities that are planned to teach and engage them in activities that will continue into their next level of learning.

My colleagues look forward to participating Tuesday and Thursday each week for two and a half hours. We reminisce over songs we entertained in youth that are sung today; the "remix" is exciting when the young scholars give us the new version.

Jumpstart DC Community Corps program is an investment in the future of DC. We take this investment in the future of the young scholars and the future of this global society to heart. Working towards the day every young scholar in America enters kindergarten prepared to succeed.

After I retired from DC Public Schools as a Highly Qualified educator, Special Education Teacher, I chose to serve at Jumpstart as my colleagues. I am also a Vietnam Veteran, United States Marine Corp. With this background of service, Jumpstart for me is a natural.

As a Corps Member for Jumpstart I was given an opportunity to travel to Boston in April, 2015 and see where Jumpstart began. This invaluable opportunity provided

me with insight and information that Jumpstart DC is able to incorporate and provide for our young preschool scholars.

In my tenure as a corp member and Team Leader under the leadership of Mr. Jamarl Clark, the growth of the young preschool scholars is academically awesome. Letter recognition and literacy skills are a process that is a plus for Jumpstart and Washington DC.

Thank you for allowing me to share such a positive volunteer experience with you and us at Jumpstart is excited to be a member of this exciting initiative.

“Jumpstart!”

Testimony for District of Columbia Office on Aging Budget Hearing

April 23, 2015

Presented by
Annette Leath, Chief Program Officer,
Family Matters of Greater Washington

Good Afternoon. Chairwoman Bonds, Members of the Council and Dr. Thompson, I am Annette Leath, Chief Program Officer for Family Matters of Greater Washington and testifying today, on behalf of our President and CEO, Tonya Jackson Smallwood.

Founded in 1882, Family Matters is one of our nation's oldest, leading social enterprises in the delivery of human and health services for individuals in need. We create and deliver compassionate solutions that empower, enrich and elevate all ages. We are proud of our rich history of delivering exemplary services for children, family and seniors throughout Washington, DC for more than 133 years.

Family Matters is also a member of the D.C. Senior Advisory Coalition (S.A.C), a membership organization of over 30 non-profit organizations. We advocate for improving the quality of life for seniors in the District of Columbia, especially vulnerable and low-income seniors.

We appreciate our partnership with DCOA and the opportunity to be a part of a network of support for those in need. We currently hold the DCOA grants as the

Lead Agency for senior services in Ward 8 and we manage the Senior Works and Golden Washingtonian programs.

As the Ward 8 Lead Agency, Family Matters of Greater Washington provides health promotion comprehensive assessment, case management, nutrition counseling and education, recreation/socialization, congregate meals, counseling, and home delivered meals to seniors in Ward 8. As a part of our 5 congregate meal nutrition sites, we operate the citywide Deaf and Hard of Hearing Senior Center, the only such program providing comprehensive services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing seniors in the District.

For our Senior Works program, we engage seniors who want to use their skills and life experiences to improve their communities by helping connect them with internships and volunteer opportunities that in some cases, can lead to paid positions.

We are also proud of our Golden Washingtonian program. It is an informal club that brings seniors together for special events that help them connect with other seniors and combat isolation. The program includes events like the Salute to Centenarians, the Ms. Senior DC and Ms. Senior America Pageant, and the Mayor's Holiday Celebration.

The primary focus of all of our senior programs is to help seniors to maintain their dignity as they advance in age, and assist them in continuing their independence which can lead to a better quality of life. We do this through advocacy, provision

of meals, health and nutrition counseling, long-term case management, respite care assistance, transportation assistance, recreational activities, and support for the deaf and hard of hearing. We are pleased to work in partnership with the DC Office on Aging on many of our senior programs and would like to recognize them for their hard work, on behalf of District seniors.

We understand that DCOA faces proposed budget cuts of more than \$2 million dollars, an amount that we fear will have a detrimental impact on the health and welfare of the District's aging population. There are currently an estimated 100,000 older adults living in the District. Among these, 26% are living below 100 percent of the federal poverty line and 37% are living below 200 percent of the federal poverty line, according to data from DC Hunger Solutions. A budget cut of more than \$2 million dollars will mean that DCOA will have fewer resources to support greater needs and could result in more District seniors slipping even further below the poverty line or facing the threat of hunger.

We currently partner with Catholic Charities and Mom's Meals to provide home-delivered meals to homebound seniors living in Ward 8

I would like to read to you the words from one of our Family Matters Ward 8 seniors that receive home delivered meals from Mom's Meals. She wrote the following:

“I would like for you to know that I am so thankful for Mom’s Meals and I am very thankful to be able to get them. I had lost so much weight and had begun to give up , but now that I am eating properly I am gaining my weight back. I

We are also hopeful that Lead Agencies will be able to manage our own, home delivered meal slots. This would enable us fill all slots immediately, when someone leaves the program, and enroll someone who desperately need meals.

According to a 2014 study prepared for the National Foundation to End Senior Hunger, food insecure seniors have significantly worse health outcomes than food secure seniors. Just think, they are 50% more likely to be diabetic, three times more like to suffer from depression and 60% more likely to have heart failure.

We have many testimonies of seniors in Ward 8 alone; who are receiving home delivered meals from DCOA through Family Matters. These meals are essential to the day to day lives of many vulnerable seniors who are desperately in need of home delivered meals. Adequate funding for the DC Office on Aging is important to ensure that our seniors are receiving the proper services to age in place with dignity and respect. The services provided by the DC Office on Aging, such as case management, counseling, congregate meals and home delivered meals are a lifeline to many seniors in the District.

As the population of seniors continue to grow it is important that the budget for DCOA will also grow, and match the needs of the ever increasing population of senior. According to the DC Office on Aging Senior Needs Assessment data, the

District's senior population was projected to be 72,000 by 2030. However, the senior population in the District has already exceeded the 100,000 plateau.

We are grateful that DCOA will not cut funding to the Lead Agencies and other senior service grants in FY 2016 however we are still concerned about the proposed cuts, of more than two million dollars, to DCOA and the impact that it will have on our seniors. We want to continue the momentum that DCOA currently has in improving their lives.

The Office on Aging, under the leadership of Dr. John Thompson has made great strides in the past several years in service provision to older adults. The most visible result is that transportation services have been modernized and expanded, many more seniors have access to nutritious meals, and essential social work services are helping people access the help needed to remain in their community. But we need to do more. We respectfully request a budget increase of \$2.8 million dollars to expand vital services for older DC residents, attract and retain skilled staff and prevent loss of services and programs.

As DC's aging population continues to grow, it will take all of us working together to reverse the trend that led to fewer non-profit organizations like ours, being able to serve communities, when the grants available are not sufficient to cover the costs of the programs.

As you weigh your decision in revising the Mayor's budget, I hope that you will take into account, the needs of a very vulnerable group of District residents, our seniors, some whom are homebound and in need of a meal, and may also be either deaf, hard of hearing and homeless. We urge the DC City Council to fully fund senior programs so that the burden of providing vital services will not fall disproportionately upon the nonprofit community.

We look forward to continuing our work in partnership with DCOA and we are grateful to see such improvements, but we also understand that there is still much work to be done. We must continue to work together to respond to DC's growing senior population and ensure that these important services are in place and that the budget reflects the message that seniors are a priority in this city.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify and it is my hope that with all of us, seniors in the District, will have access to the programs and support that they need to live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. I leave you with just one question. When will the cuts end, if not with you...then who?

Thank you

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE ON AGING FY '2016 BUDGET**

**by
Carolyn Dungee Nicholas, President
Hilda & Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc.**

October 23, 2015

Good morning! I am here this morning to testify on behalf of the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc., in support of adequate funding for the District of Columbia Office on Aging in FY '2016.

The mission of the District of Columbia Office on Aging (DCOA) is to promote longevity, independence, dignity, and choice for District of Columbia residents who are age 60 and older.

Office on Aging programs and services, which include a broad range of legal, nutrition, social and health services, are crucial to allowing seniors to age in place within their communities, including transportation services, senior wellness centers, congregate and in-home meals and nutrition programs, employment and job training, in-home care, adult day care, nursing home care, caregivers' respite and support, recreation and special annual events, case management, and information and assistance are provided to only a small percentage of elderly DC residents.

According to the 2012 U.S. Census Estimates for the District of Columbia, 103,483 - or 16.4% of the District's population is age 60 or above.

According to those same Census estimates, in 2012, the elderly population (persons 60 years and above) had grown since 2010 by 30,600 residents.

It was further estimated that by 2015, almost 17% of the District of Columbia – or one of every seven District of Columbia residents – could be at least 60 years of age and older.

Yet, although 16.4% of the District's population is age 60 or above, although the District's elderly population has grown since 2010 by 30,600 residents, although it is estimated that by 2015 almost 17% of the District's population – or one of every seven District of Columbia residents – could be at least 60 years of age and older,

the proposed FY '2016 Office on Aging budget reduces the Office on Aging FY '2015 budget by \$2,355,078.00 (\$1,664,922.00 DC \$'s, 134,923.00 Federal \$'s, \$824,079.00 Intra-District \$'s).

The increasing number of elderly DC residents means that the quantity of services provided to elderly DC residents by the Office on Aging needs to be increased; not decreased. Currently, the Office on Aging serves about 35,000 – 40,000 of the District's 103,483 residents who are at least 60 years of age and older (or 34% to 39%). This includes transportation for those who do not drive, do not have easy access to public transportation and do not live near enough to a senior wellness center to walk to and from the center.

Wards 2 and 3 do not even have a senior wellness center. The residents of Wards 2 and 3 need a senior wellness center to benefit from the same community-based services for the elderly that the residents of Wards 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 receive.

With the \$2,355,078.00 proposed reduction of the Office on Aging budget, not only will the Office on Aging be unable to establish senior wellness centers in Wards 2 and 3, but other unserved elderly DC residents and underserved elderly DC residents throughout the City will not be provided services crucial to allowing them to age in place within their communities.

While the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc. understands that a budget increase for the Office on Aging may not be possible, given the District's projected \$200,000,000.00 budget deficit, the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc. nevertheless encourages the Committee on Housing and Community Development and the Office of Aging to not only maintain the FY '2015 Office on Aging budget, i.e., to restore the proposed \$1,664,922.00 DC \$'s cut from the Office on Aging budget, and the concomitant loss of \$134,923.00 Federal \$'s and \$825,079.00 Intra-District \$'s, but to add funds for a senior wellness center in Ward 2.

Given the number of seniors who reside in the District of Columbia, the number of seniors who receive community-based services from the DC Office on Aging, the number of seniors who need community-based aging services that the DC Office on Aging is unable to provide due to insufficient resources, the Hilda and Charles Mason Charitable Foundation, Inc. suggests that not only is it critical that the DC Office on Aging FY '2015 budget be sustained and hopefully increased, but that the D.C. Council replace the DC Office on Aging with a DC Department on Aging.

Twenty (20) states, including Maryland and Virginia, and the City of Chicago and Harvey County, Kansas, have Departments on Aging - or Departments on Services to the Elderly.

There are many more elderly residents of the District of Columbia than there are DC residents with behavioral health conditions and DC residents with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities. Further, the DC Office on Aging is responsible for serving individuals in these population groups if they are age 60 and over. Yet there is a DC Department on Behavioral Health and a DC Department on Disabilities Services, but there is not a DC Department on Aging.

Last, the DC Adult Protective Services Division should be realigned with the new DC Department on Aging, because the Adult Protective Services Division does not aggressively and proactively protect elderly DC residents from neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation, including guardianship and conservatorship abuse. Seventeen (17) states organizationally align adult protective services with the Department on Aging. The District of Columbia should follow suit.

Though the DC Office on Aging has no mandate to inform and educate elderly DC residents about neglect, abuse and financial exploitation, or protect them from neglect, abuse and financial exploitation, the Office on Aging strives to do so by:

- establishing as one of the five (5) goals of the Office on Aging CY '2013-2015 State Plan to ensure the rights of older people and prevent their abuse, neglect and exploitation;
- establishing prevention and prosecution of financial exploitation, neglect, and physical, sexual, and emotional abuse of seniors as one of ten (10) domains for the Age-Friendly DC Strategic Plan;
- participating in an annual Elder Abuse Conference to improve the capabilities of professionals working with the elderly about elder neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation by sharing statistical information, trends, new techniques, cases and other information relating to the topic;
- conducting workshops on elder neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation at the Mayor's Annual Senior Symposiums;

- routinely hosting presentations on elder financial exploitation at the DC Office on Aging;
- routinely hosting on-line workshops on elder financial exploitation;
- investigating and reporting neglect, abuse, and financial exploitation of elderly DC residents and coordinating with the DC Adult Protective Services Division and the DC Metropolitan Police Department to ensure that victimized seniors are protected from the immediate threat and receive required protective services for as long as they are required.

TERRIFIC, Inc.
Oasis Senior Center for the Homeless Aged
Ward 2 Senior Services

Written Testimony

My name is Dee Hudnell. I am 60 years old. I live in ward 2. I am a senior that uses services provided by DCOA and TERRIFIC, INC. When I first started attending TERRIFIC Inc.'s Oasis Senior Center, I was homeless. I have been a member at Oasis Senior Center for 2 months, and in those two months things have done a 180 degree turn for me.

I have obtained a SRO apartment. Which I know if it had not been for the staff at Oasis than I would still be homeless. When I first came to Oasis I was sick and felt like I had no one to turn to. I did not know where to go, and a friend pointed me in the direction of Oasis. She assured me that Ms. McQueen would help me. So, I stepped out on faith and came for an orientation at Oasis.

When I came to TERRIFIC I explained my issues and what I needed help with. The staff started working on my problems right away. They saw that I needed help and they did not tell me to come back. We started working that day. I felt like I finally had someone in my corner, and that I could count on. TERRIFIC advocated on my behalf in housing meetings. It lifted the weight off my shoulders. Ms. McQueen came out in the snow when Oasis was closed just to attend a rescheduled meeting with me. This resulted in me getting my current housing placement.

TERRIFIC, Inc.'s Oasis Senior Center has been like a heaven on earth. The atmosphere is commoning to my nerves. The staff is supportive and compassionate, because they realize that I am still healing from the experience of being homeless. They are a wonderful support system, and they realize how difficult it is to be in the streets. Through DCOA funded programming that occurs daily at Oasis, I have been able to learn to live a healthier style. I learned to balance my

meals through the balanced breakfasts and lunches provided. I learn to bring those same principles into my dinners. Also, through health talks given by the activities coordinator (Mr. Griffin) and nutritionist (Ms. Griffiths). The staff are willing to take suggestion on programming. They are willing to adjust to meet the needs of the seniors they serve. They take into account the special needs that surface when dealing with seniors and homelessness.

I am thankful for a Community based program like TERRIFIC, INC. If I did not have services by DCOA or TERRIFIC, Inc., I would be lost. I would not be as conscious about my health. They provide me and my peers with a support system. You have staff that are willing to help. They try to bring relevant subjects and materials with limited resources. Community based programs provides me with an opportunity to network with a group of peers in similar battles and struggles. Without Oasis I would not have housing, and I will be forever in debt of the staff of TERRIFIC, INC. and DCOA for being my shoulder to cry on.

My name is Timothea Howard. Currently, I reside in the Crestwood neighborhood of Ward 4. I'm newly disabled and at age 60 find myself in need of support and resources. I'm here today to testify on behalf of the DC Office on Aging and Terrific Inc., because without their help I would be in dire straits.

In 2012, I fell on concrete in the street injuring my left leg. Because the healing process was difficult, I suffered additional physical issues in both legs that resulted in very decreasing mobility. In 2014, I turned 60, I lost my job and health insurance, thus lost access to much needed physiotherapy.

When my unemployment benefits ended, the DC Office on Aging was my saving grace. The agency connected me to the service center near my home. Terrific, Inc., a contractor of the agency answered the phone and immediately took information that allowed them to provide immediate service. Within a days of my initial call, I was assigned a social worker who called to set the first appointment which was a home visit. I was relieved because it was winter and my mobility was less than reliable.

My home intake session with the social worker lasted three hours – it consisted of a multilayer interview, assessment of needs and resources, documentation of medical conditions and planning if future goals. By the end of the interview, I had a working plan in place and benchmarks to weekly assess my goals and outcomes. To date, I've met all the benchmarks including stabilizing my living situation and taking care of medical needs.

The DC Office on Aging and Terrific Inc., are successful because the organizations consistently:

1. **Answers the phone** - I cannot emphasize enough the importance of people in need hearing a live voice. When you are seeking help, trying to negotiate systems and processes, spending literally hours in voicemail systems is a waste of time and energy. It leads to frustration' stress and disillusionment at just the moment you need optimism and hope.
2. **Provides nuanced services** - tailored to the individual rather than a prescription. DC Office on Aging and Terrific Inc., view me as an individual with needs as well as assets to help myself. I received weekly check ins via phone, text and email from both my social worker and from referred agency that also offer services.
3. **Work with agency and urgency** – DC Office on Aging responds to both email and calls, more often than not, the same day. My social worker is empowered to seek resources, and actively seeks my partnership in changing my situation. Ms. Johnson Robinson and everyone I've spoken with at Terrific Inc., responds to my needs. I always feel I can call Terrific for help and they will be there.
4. **Consistent professionalism** – The Department on Aging and Terrific Inc., are respected by service sector professionals and peers. Both agencies are willing to bargain so that clients like me don't have to beg.

With all the current success, Things were not always this way. My life over the last year was beyond difficult. I struggled to get unemployment benefits almost losing my apartment in the process. I juggled trying to get a clear diagnosis of my injury with a treatment plan. At the same time, I was in chronic pain, lost significant mobility and was admitted to the hospital with blood clots in my lungs.

By Thanksgiving 2014, I was exhausted and depressed. Part of the exhaustion came from constantly trying to get information, services, and resources on my own. Calling agency after agency trying to get a live person was frustrating and demoralizing.

Showing up at agencies was not always possible because of mobility challenges.

Moreover, even when services were available, the number of agency that are physically inaccessible is astounding – for example, standing in line for registration or intake, waiting areas and lobbies that have no benches for the disabled to wait, offices located far away from entrances and elevators. These are all barriers that I have faced.

As a professional I worked as a program director for service agencies and in out of school time programs so it tenacious and persistent when it comes to getting through to people. But as a client, newly disabled, going from being self sufficient and independent to dependence on others was difficult beyond measure.

If the **DC Office on Aging and Terrific Inc.**, did not exist I would not be sitting here.

The DC Office on Aging needs to be fully funded. It is a life line to seniors, linking us to essential services and creating entry to organizations that are unresponsive. The staff provides vital answers to pressing issues for example I had legal representation in landlord tenants court to settle issues with my landlord avoiding eviction. At the same time, my social worker made a necessary referral to help get essential documents in place like a prime medical directive.

I came here today to support two agencies that represent the best in social services that deserve every dollar of public funding. I am living proof these agencies carry out their mission. Full funding for these programs constitutes public dollars well spent.

I thank the Council for this opportunity to speak. And I think Terrific Inc., for the opportunity to support their work on behalf of seniors in this city.

TESTIMONY OF MR. ENITAN OSUNKOYA

April 2015

DC Office on Aging Oversight Hearing

Good morning Chairwoman Anita Bonds and council members. My name is Enitan Osunkoya and I reside at 4825 North Capitol Street, NE. I am 68 years old, single and have resided, worked, and paid taxes in the NW and NE areas of DC for over 20 years, but all of a sudden the possibility of becoming homeless is staring at me. This is the bane of my testimony.

I retired in May 2014 and am now on SSDI. About a decade ago, I suffered a stroke that left me disabled with a right side hemiplegia. I mention this because when I moved to my present abode, I was given an apartment on the 3rd floor only accessible by staircase. When I became disabled, I requested for an apartment on the ground floor. That request has not been met and I've suffered all this time going out to work, church, and grocery shopping while walking with a stick and paralyzed right upper and lower limbs up/down three floors of stairs. By the time I get to my door, I am huffing and puffing, out of breath and fumbling for my keys to get to the door.

Presently the situation of the safety of the building/tenants has become comprised because the front door is unlock all of the time. This comprises the entire building inhabitants. Three weeks ago I experience a home evasion where I was accosted by two strangers. As a result I suffered physical injuries to my head and damage to my property. My personal items were stolen as

well. Ms. Bond not only do I not want to be homeless, but I also want to live where I will be safe.

The DC Office on Aging and the Ward 4 Office of TERRIFIC, Inc. with Social Worker, Mr. Dexter Reed as well as the nutritionist Ms. Deanna Nara continue to give the best in their support. Both agencies have been tremendous value and support to me. Working with this agencies, I was introduced to and got breaks (discounts) on paying for my utility bills, transportation to/from my medical appointments, discounted Metro Senior fare card and taxicab service etc. But the accommodations problem which I need most still remains unsolved, looming, and still gives me sleepless nights.

Meanwhile, please address something drastic that needs to be done about my accommodation problem as well as other seniors who are looking for affordable. I have no problems with the geographical location, but all of my ties, friends, roots, church, and community affiliation are in NW. How am I now at 68 years old going to start integrating in a completely new environment?

In regards to senior management, my medical situation which is complex and varied is being handled well, thanks to various government assistance programs like Medicaid and Medicare. I could not afford the numerous medication I'm on that are astronomically expensive now. Thank you TERRIFIC, Inc., DC Office on Aging, National Prescription Savings Network, DHCF and the DC City Council.

THE DC COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Chairperson, Ms. Anita Barnes

April 23, 2015

Presentation of Harold Valentine

Madam Chair, members of the committee good morning. My name is Harold Valentine, a resident of the Shaw community in Ward Six. I come before today seeking to have the DC City Council to increase the budget of the DC Office on Aging in fiscal year 2016. This increase will address the transportation issue among seniors in the greater Shaw community, and especially along the 7th street, and Lower Georgia Avenue corridors. Several years ago Madam Chair the Convention Center Circulator Bus stopped running from Arena Stage Southwest to 9th and O Street, NW, in the Shaw community. Since that time many seniors in the Greater Shaw area lack transportation, especially on Saturday's and Sunday's to shop and enjoy the many amenities of the "economic boom" in and around this city. To address this issue, I am proposing that the Committee on Aging form a tri-partite partnership, composed of a non-profit community based organization, the DC Office on Aging, and the DC Department of Transportation to create a "Transportation Production Trust Fund" similar to the DC Housing Production Trust. This Fund will assist in purchasing "buses" for the affected corridors (7th and Georgia Ave.) and will travel from Southwest to Howard University Hospital and other points in Wards (One, Two, Five, and Six). Besides the potential increase in the Office On Aging Budget Madam Chair, additional funding will come from the increase in ridership and revenue, as well as the DC Department of Transportation's Enterprise Fund. The money for this fund was, and is collected for Parking Space Inconvenience on the part of Contractors and other developers via D.DOTS (Permits Process). This fund is to be used for "Innovated Projects" to lessen community inconvenience. I submit Madam Chair, that the development in and around the Shaw community created both and opportunity and an

inconvenience for its seniors. Attached to this presentation are a list of the affected apartment buildings.

Affected Buildings:

1. The Foster House
2. The Gibson Plaza
3. Kings Tower
4. Immaculate Conception
5. Washington Apartments
6. Lincoln Wetmoreland Phase (One and Two)
7. Asbury Dwellings Apartments
8. The United House of Prayer
9. New Hope Apartments
10. The Hodge Apartments



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE ON AGING



Office of the Executive Director

May 14, 2014

Mr. Michael Joseph Sindram
6645 Georgia Avenue, NW #306
Washington, DC 20012

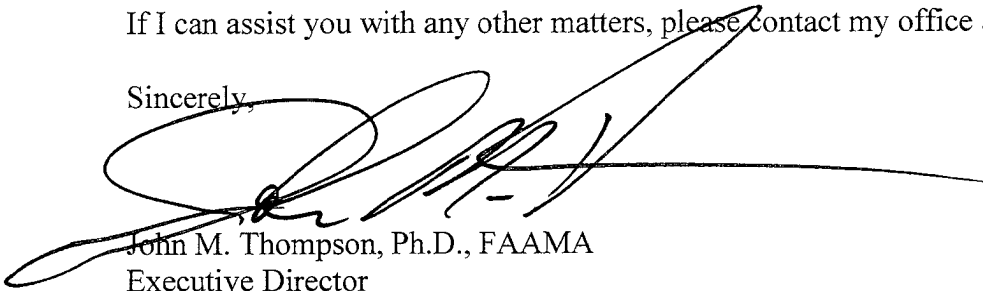
Dear Mr. Sindram:

It was a pleasure speaking with you at the Mayor's Budget Town Hall meeting at Turkey Thicket Recreational Center. I wanted to follow-up with you on the conversation that we had regarding the D.C. Office of Aging's involvement with assisting seniors with the national digital television conversion.

In 2009, the D.C. Office on Aging (DCOA) partnered with National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities to launch the "Keeping Seniors Connected" campaign. This campaign was designed to help seniors 60 years of age and older in the District of Columbia prepare for the national digital television conversion that took place on June 12, 2009. Through this initiative, DCOA worked with volunteers to educate seniors on the conversion and assisted them with getting digital boxes installed in their homes.

If I can assist you with any other matters, please contact my office at 202-724-5622.

Sincerely,



John M. Thompson, Ph.D., FAAMA
Executive Director



★ ★ ★ Government
of the
District of Columbia

**Office on
Aging**

RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, March 5, 2009

CONTACT: Darlene Nowlin
(202) 727-8364

DISTRICT LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO HELP SENIORS WITH DTV

Assistance is available to meet the upcoming all-digital television conversion.

[Washington, DC] – The DC Office on Aging has launched a new initiative, “Keeping Seniors Connected,” to help senior citizens 60 years of age and older in the District prepare for the national digital television (DTV) conversion taking place June 12. Through this new initiative, the Office on Aging will provide seniors in the District with the education and one-on-one assistance necessary to make the conversion to digital programming.

Clarence Brown, Ph.D., executive director of the Office on Aging said, “June 2009 will be here sooner than we think. Now is the time for us all to get up to speed on DTV: what is it; what does it mean to me; what do I need to do?”

To help seniors with the DTV transition, the Office on Aging will send DTV experts into the community to provide in-home assessments and converter box installation for seniors as needed. DTV experts will also help seniors understand the converter box coupon program, install converter boxes, provide training on new converter box equipment and answer any questions seniors may have regarding the DTV transition and new technology.

“We at the Office on Aging encourage every senior in the District to educate themselves on this important issue and take the necessary steps to prepare for the conversion,” Dr. Brown added.

For more information, contact the DC Office on Aging at (202) 724-5626 or visit us online at www.dcoa.dc.gov.

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Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging Oversight
Before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
The Honorable Anita Bonds, Chairperson
April 23, 2015

Presented by
Rogeria Westbrooks, Caregiver
Downtown Cluster's Geriatric Adult Day Care Center, Inc.

Hello, my name is Rogeria Westbrooks. I am here to tell you my story of caregiving for my aunt, Dr. Edna Niece Sims, and of those who have supported me along the way.

Dr. Edna Sims was a college professor, opera singer (she sang personally for President Clinton), spoke 13 languages, played the piano and guitar, wrote many published books, traveled the world, gave her life to the service of others, and now she's in her final stages of Alzheimer's Disease.

On April 13, 2007, I quit my job of 30 years to move out of the country to begin my new life. On April 18, 2007, after receiving information from a family member who lived in Washington DC regarding Aunt Edna that I was not comfortable with, I traveled from Illinois to Washington DC to find Aunt Edna living in filth, no food in the refrigerator she could eat, it was all rotten, yet she was getting up every morning, grooming herself, looking like a million dollars as she always had, and had been driving herself to work, but she did not have a clue as to what she was doing. It was all out of habit. For me, what was supposed to be a four-day visit ended up changing my life forever.

Trying to figure out what to do for her and how to put together the pieces of a woman's life who had never been ill, was always independent, but who now could no longer live alone and care for herself was overwhelming.

A nursing home was never an option for me for Aunt Edna. Making that decision has been emotionally, financially and spiritually taxing, I called several day care agencies in the Washington, DC area. The cost was \$200 per day and higher, which we could not afford. If Aunt Edna qualified for Medicaid, which she did not, the day care expense would have been paid in full. That's when I met Downtown Cluster's.

Downtown Cluster's offers Aunt Edna an opportunity to attend free of charge, offered her a quality of life in a safe, caring, structured and loving environment. I never worry about my aunt while she is in their care.

Downtown Clusters has also provided me with countless hours of support and encouragement personally and through their caregivers' workshops which are held monthly.

While Aunt Edna is at day care, I have had the opportunity to continue my life, make friends, take

off some of the stress of caregiving, and also to know that I am not alone in the decision to care for my aunt. One of the highlights of my life was that while Aunt Edna attended at daycare, I was able to swim and train with the Washington DC Water Wizards, a free senior swim team, and competed in the 2013 Senior Olympics.

I greatly appreciated the care and concern for Aunt Edna and myself from Downtown Cluster's. I have learned that most of the funding for Downtown Cluster's comes from the DC Office on Aging, grants, and other donations. Continued funding for the DC Office on Aging without any cuts is critical for folks like my aunt and me. Without Downtown Cluster's the quality of life for Dr. Edna Sims and myself would have been totally different.

I would like to end with a quote from Daisaku Ikeda, President of the Soka Gaiji International, a lay Buddhist organization based on the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin, and I quote, "A great human revolution in just a single individual will help achieve a change in the destiny of a nation and further, will enable a change in the destiny of all humankind."

Thank you so much for the opportunity.
Rogeria L. Westbrooks

**Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging
Budget Oversight Hearing before the District of Columbia City Council
Committee on Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015**

**Written Testimony by Joanne Hampton
For
Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5**

Written Testimony

As a young person, I was impacted by a profound experience. I witnessed my great grandmother's less than adequate care at a senior nursing care facility (known as DC Village). At the end of each visit, my great grandmother would cry and plead with us not to leave her. She did not want to be separated from her family. And, although she lived until 92 years of age, my heart tells me she could have lived longer if she were able to live at home with her family.

Personal Impact

As a teenager, I made a sacred promise to myself and my grandmother. I promised myself that I would care for my grandmother in her later years and see to it that she never experience less than adequate care, never.

I made a promise to keep her at home where she felt most comfortable surrounded by family members who love her dearly.

I am a business owner. My business demands my constant attention. My average work day lasts 10-14 hours.

My grandmother was self-sufficient for a long time. She washed her own clothes and prepared her own meals until she was 95 years old, but as she continues to age, her health has declined and her risk of falling has increased over time. I needed someone to be in the home while I was away operating my business. I attempted to pay the out of pocket expense, but I was unable to afford lengthy private duty care, a mortgage, car payment, insurance, school loans, utilities, food, etc. The situation was unmanageable and I was facing some hard decisions.

My neighbor told me that there was help available through the DC Government. I research the problem and learned about Seabury Resources for the Aging in Ward 5.

I made contact with Seabury Resources and they advised me of Home Health Care services, and most importantly, the Elderly and Persons with Physical Disabilities (EPD) Waiver Program. With assistance from a Seabury social worker, I initiated the application process. Eligibility for the EPD Waiver would provide my grandmother access to home

care services as well as eligibility to receive incontinent supplies and even some limited respite services for myself.

Until I received help from Seabury, I was unaware all the valuable resources available to DC seniors! Seabury helped me to locate and focus on my priorities to help my grandmother continue to live at home. Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5's Case Management Program made a difference in my grandmother's quality of life. The Care givers program allows my grandmother the opportunity to live where she feels most comfortable, and gives me the peace of mind that I need while I'm away from home. Connecting with Seabury was the turning point in my unmanageable situation. The care giver support program helped me tackle obstacles that held us back from living life to the fullest. Additionally, Seabury arranged for limited respite services. Wow! This provided me time for self-care, a chance to breathe, and get back on track with my business, family and friends! My stress level seemed to melt away.

Seabury also provided an emergency supply of disposable underwear until our "719" order was approved. I felt an immediate reduction in my stress level, and my grandmother was dry and seemed to be thriving too! Through the Caregiver Support program and while the EPD Waiver was pending, Seabury Resources provided a much needed caregiver and a welcomed period of respite services whereby a home health aide came into the home to care for my grandmother. For the first time in years, I could concentrate on all the details that seemed to have gone unattended for so long!

Fortunately my grandmother was eligible for the EPD Waiver through which she currently receives 12 hours of in-home care services daily, 7 days a week. Seabury Resources continues to supply information regarding caregiver support, and welcomes any questions that I may have pertaining to care giving.

Without Seabury Resources, I don't know how I could have honored my sacred promise that I made to my grandmother over 40 years ago as a teenager. I feel strongly that Seabury was the turning point in helping me to complete my promise. And currently, at 98 years of age, my heart tells me that my grandmother receives the best care that I can provide, and I look forward to her reaching her 100th birthday with Seabury Resources helping me along the way.

Support DC Office on Aging

I am encouraging the District of Columbia City Council to continue to fund Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5 ADRC and the DC Office on Aging and not cut their budget. Although, the seniors need more and could benefit from additional funds.

Thank you for your support of the District's older adults and the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

**Testimony on the District of Columbia Office on Aging
Budget Hearing for the DC Office on Aging FY 2016
Before the District of Columbia City Council Committee on
Housing and Community Development
Chairperson Anita Bonds
April 23, 2015**

**Written Testimony by Linda Lewis
For
Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5**

Written Testimony

Good Morning Chairwoman Bonds and the members of the Committee on Housing and Community Development. My name is Linda Lewis. I am a 65 year old resident of Ward 5. I have lived at the Petersburg Apartments, 3298 Ft. Lincoln Drive, NE for twenty-one years in Ward 5.

Personal Impact

In 1981, I suffered a stroke and I was unable to walk or talk. I started taking exercise with Ms. Corrine, a volunteer at the Petersburg Senior Nutrition Site on Thursdays. I lost 50 pounds and began eating properly. Ms. Corrine suggested that I take the six month training to become a fitness instructor and I completed the course. I take classes in fitness and nutrition to keep me certified. I volunteer with Seabury and lead exercise classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I want to be able to help others. I tell the seniors to get up and try to exercise. Exercise is the key to your body.

I added a second exercise session. I started out with two people regularly attending the classes. Now there are 21 to 25 – men and women. We have t-shirts “Linda’s Exercise”. The seniors motivate one another to exercise and eat right. One lady had never walked before exercising; now she walks regularly and has been taking the class with me for over 10 years. If anyone has a problem or need to talk or say a prayer or go to the hospital – we help one another. We laugh and have a good time.

The services offered by Seabury Resources for Aging Ward 5 are superb! Seabury brings the services to us in our building – our community. You don’t have to fix lunch. I eat lunch here three or four times a week; the meals are good. This is a good fellowship for all. Everybody is eating and talking together. Seabury arranges the trips, gets the buses and drivers. It is a blessing to have someone to come to take us on trips.

Ms. Vivian Grayton always says “Good work, Ms. Lewis!” Every time I need her to do something, she will do it. She is excellent.

Mr. Bostick, our Site Manager is awesome. He Loves music and knows how to get things done. Mr. Bostick is supportive. He helps me get the papers and things needed for the classes and trips. If he doesn't know something, he will find out for me.

Kevin (Seabury Connector driver) is on the ball. But we do need more buses and additional space for wheelchairs.

Support DC Office on Aging

I am encouraging the District of Columbia City Council to continue to fund Seabury Resources for Aging – Ward 5 ADRC and the DC Office on Aging and not cut their budget. Although, the seniors need more and could benefit from additional funds.

Thank you for your support of the District's older adults and the opportunity to provide this written testimony.

Stoddard Baptist Global Care Panel Presentation

1. **Jacquelyn L. Brown**, Caregiver of Program Participant
Center Care Adult Day Care Program
2. **Paulette C. Holloway**, Caregiver of Program Participant
Center Care Adult Day Care Program
3. **Dorothy L. Amis**, Caregiver of Program Participant
Center Care Adult Day Care Program
4. **Valencia Singleton**, Program Director
Center Care Adult Day Care Program

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAired BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

JACQUELYN L. BROWN
CAREGIVER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS JACQUELYN L. BROWN AND I AM THE CAREGIVER FOR MY DAD, JAMES HARRIS, JR. MY DAD IS A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RESIDENT AND HAS RESIDED HERE FOR OVER 70 YEARS. HE IS 92 YEARS YOUNG, AND A RETIRED CIVIL SERVANT WITH OVER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. HE IS ALSO A WORLD WAR II VETERAN WHO SERVED HIS COUNTRY PROUDLY.

THE WASHINGTON CENTER FOR AGING SERVICES, STODDARD BAPTIST GLOBAL CARE IS AN ADULT DAY CARE CENTER THAT PROVIDES A SAFE HAVEN FOR ELDERLY RESIDENTS THAT ARE UNABLE TO CARE FOR THEMSELVES DURING THE DAY WITHOUT THE HELP OF THEIR LOVED ONES. THE CENTER IS A VITAL AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE NEEDED DURING THE DAY THAT ALLOWS OUR LOVED ONES TO HAVE ADULT INTERACTIONS, NUTRITIONAL MEALS, HEALTHCARE, PHYSICAL THERAPY AND EXERCISE FOR THE MIND AND BODY. WITHOUT THE CENTER OUR LOVED ONES WOULD HAVE TO BE INSTITUTIONALIZED, BE HOMEBOUND OR ALONE DURING THE DAY.

MY DAD WAS DIAGNOSED WITH DEMENTIA, NOT LONG AFTER HE LOST HIS WIFE, OF OVER 60 YEARS, TO BREAST CANCER. THE DIAGNOSIS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO BE ALONE DURING THE DAY, AND ALLOWED HIM TO REMAIN IN THE ONLY PLACE HE KNOWS AS HOME. BEFORE FINDING THE SERVICES OF THE CENTER, I WOULD RECEIVE PHONE CALLS DAILY SAYING THAT HE WAS SPOTTED IN DIFFERENT PLACES AND I WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE MY JOB TO FIND HIM AND BRING HIM HOME. BECAUSE OF THESE INCIDENTS, I SOUGHT OUT THE SERVICES OF CENTER CARE. HE HAS BEEN A PARTICIPANT OF THE PROGRAM SINCE 2010. HAVING MY DAD AT THE CENTER GIVES ME AND MY FAMILY A GREAT RELIEF KNOWING THAT HE IS SOME PLACE SAFE, WITH LOVING, CARING AND SUPPORTIVE STAFF. THE WELFARE, CARE AND SAFETY OF A LOVED ONE IS VERY IMPORTANT. CENTER CARE PROVIDES THIS ESSENTIAL SERVICE AND IT'S WORRY-FREE. THE CENTER CARE STAFF IS GREAT AND EXTREMELY COMPETENT AND RELIABLE. MY FAMILY AND I ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE SERVICES THEY PROVIDE AT THIS ESSENTIAL SAFE HAVEN FOR THE ELDERLY.

I AM ASKING THAT THE COUNCIL PLEASE REINSTATE THE FUNDING RECEIVED THROUGH THE DC OFFICE ON AGING BACK INTO THE BUDGET SO THAT CENTER CARE CAN ONCE AGAIN RECEIVE FUNDING NEEDED TO OFFSET THIS VITAL SENIOR DAY CENTER PROGRAM. THIS FUNDING IS ALSO DESPERATELY NEEDED TO OFFSET THE INCREASINGLY RISING COSTS OF DAYCARE FOR SENIORS IN THESE TYPE OF PROGRAMS. WITHOUT THIS FUNDING, FAMILIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO AFFORD TO SEND THEIR LOVED ONES TO DAY CARE PROGRAMS AT A REASONABLE COST.

CONSIDER THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF THE ELDERLY, VETERANS, LONG-TIME DC RESIDENTS, CIVIL SERVANTS AND SOMEONE'S LOVED ONES. THIS CARE ALLOWS OUR SENIORS TO CONTINUE TO ENJOY THEIR GOLDEN YEARS WITH STAFF THAT ARE DEDICATED AND CARING.

SENIOR SAFETY IS NEEDED FOR ALL, AND I ASK THAT YOU DO YOUR PART IN ENSURING THAT OUR LOVED ONES ARE NOT A DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA STATISTIC BECAUSE OF SOME MISPLACED FUNDING. THANK YOU.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAIRLED BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

PAULETTE C. HOLLOWAY
CAREGIVER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS PAULETTE C. HOLLOWAY AND I AM A WARD 5 RESIDENT AND A FULL TIME CAREGIVER FOR MY 87 YEAR OLD MOTHER WHO LIVES DAILY WITH DEMENTIA. I WORK FULL TIME AS WELL AND I AM GRATEFUL TO HAVE FOUND A SAFE PLACE OR REFUGE FOR MY MOTHER DURING THE DAY TIME. THAT SAFE PLACE IS CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM, WHICH MY MOTHER HAS BEEN A PART OF SINCE SEPTEMBER 2013. THIS WONDERFUL PLACE OF REFUGE COMES WITH TRANSPORTATION, MEALS, SPIRITUAL FULFILLMENT, MEDICAL AVAILABILITY, AND A STAFF THAT SHE THINKS IS HER LOVING CHILDREN.

EXCEPT FOR HER OUTINGS TO THE STODDARD BAPTIST CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM ON WEEKDAYS AND HER SUNDAYS AT ALL NATIONS BAPTIST CHURCH, MY MOTHER WOULD SIT HOME ALONE FOR HOURS EACH DAY. CENTER CARE HAS PROVIDED THAT SAFE PLACE OF REFUGE THAT WE BOTH CAN CONFIDENTLY RELY ON AND TO HAVE THAT CONFIDENCE SHAKEN WOULD TOTALLY DEVASTATE MY MOTHER AND GROSSLY BURDEN MY OWN HEART.

WITHOUT TRYING TO DELVE INTO THE MANY CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMENTIA, HAVING A ROUTINE OF FAMILIARITY CERTAINLY REDUCES THE COMPLICATIONS. MY SIMPLE PLEA IS THAT YOU USE WHATEVER INFLUENCE POSSIBLE TO KEEP THIS LIFELINE AVAILABLE FOR US, SO THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO BE BLESSED WITH AN EXCELLENT QUALITY OF LIFE FOR MY MOTHER FOR AS LONG AS SHE LIVES.

SO PLEASE PROVIDE FUNDING IN SUPPORT OF CENTER CARE ADULT DAYCARE PROGRAM AT STODDARD BAPTIST IN ORDER FOR IT TO REMAIN A SAFE PLACE FOR SENIORS LIKE MY MOM AND THE COMMUNITY.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAired BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

DOROTHY AMIS
CAREGIVER OF PROGRAM PARTICIPANT, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS DOROTHY AMIS AND I AM A RESIDENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, WARD 7 AND ALSO THE WIFE AND CAREGIVER OF MY HUSBAND RALPH AMIS.

SINCE 2010, MY HUSBAND, RALPH W. AMIS, HAS BEEN A PARTICIPANT AT CENTER CARE DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM. HE ATTENDS 5 DAYS A WEEK AND THE PAST 5 YEARS AT THE CENTER HAVE BEEN WONDERFUL YEARS FOR HIM. THE SERVICE HAS BEEN EXCELLENT, THE STAFF IS DEVOTED, EXPERIENCED, LOVING AND CONCERNED, NOT ONLY FOR MY HUSBAND BUT ALL THE PARTICIPANTS THAT THEY COME IN CONTACT WITH. THEY OFFER A FULL ROUNDED PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES WHICH INCLUDES CURRENT EVENTS, SPORTS, WORKOUTS, SING-A-LONGS, AFTERNOON STROLLS, INDOOR BOWLING, TABLE AND FLOOR GAMES, BINGO AND MANY MORE. THESE ACTIVITIES HELP TO KEEP THE PARTICIPANTS MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY ALERT. I HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY SATISFIED WITH THE SERVICE GIVEN AND I KNOW THAT WHEN MY HUSBAND IS AT THE CENTER, HE IS BEING WELL TAKEN CARE OF. HE IS ALSO ABLE TO SOCIALIZE WITH HIS PEERS, GET NUTRITIOUS MEALS

AND EVEN VENTURE OUT ON APPROPRIATE TRIPS THAT STIMULATE HIM. BECAUSE I AM SO PLEASED WITH THE SERVICES PROVIDED, I HAVE REFERRED FRIENDS AND CHURCH MEMBERS TO THE PROGRAM SO THAT THEIR FAMILIES COULD EXPERIENCE RELIEF AND WHILE THEIR LOVED ONES BENEFIT FROM THE MUCH NEEDED SERVICES OF THIS GREAT PROGRAM.

THIS PROGRAM IS VERY MUCH NEEDED IN THE COMMUNITY AND I HOPE THAT IT WILL REMAIN A VITAL PART OF IT FOR YEARS TO COME. THEREFORE, MY REQUEST TO THE DISTRICT AND OFFICE ON AGING IS THAT FUNDED BE PROVIDED TO STODDARD BAPTIST GLOBAL CARE FOR CENTER CARE ADULT DAY TREATMENT PROGRAM TO CONTINUE THE SERVICES THAT ARE MUCH NEED FOR SENIORS, PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA & ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND CAREGIVERS WHO RELY ON SERVICES LIKE THIS CENTER PROVIDES.

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
IN SUPPORT OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S OFFICE ON AGING
CHAired BY COUNCILMEMBER ANITA BONDS

PRESENTED BY

VALENCIA SINGLETON
PROGRAM DIRECTOR, CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM

APRIL 23, 2015

GOOD MORNING CHAIRPERSON ANITA BONDS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT. MY NAME IS VALENCIA SINGLETON, PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM. AS AN ADVOCATE FOR THE ELDERLY POPULATION FOR OVER 17 YEARS, MY HEART IS BURDENED TO PHANTOM THAT THERE IS JEOPARDY OF NOT PROVIDING ADULT DAY CARE SERVICES TO THE SENIORS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CENTER CARE IS BY FAR ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE AND STRUCTURAL DAY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE. WE OFFER A VARIETY OF SERVICES TO ENABLE INDIVIDUALS TO MAINTAIN THEIR ROLE WITHIN THE FAMILY STRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE. OUR GOAL IS TO APPROACH EACH PERSON AS UNIQUE, ENCOURAGE GROWTH AND TO SERVE THE ALZHEIMER'S/DEMENTIA SUFFERERS IN AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAM. CENTER CARE ALSO PROVIDES A SAFE AND SECURE SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR IMPAIRED ADULTS AND THEIR FAMILIES. IN DOING SO, WE HELP TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OLDER PEOPLE AND PREVENT OR DELAY INSTITUTIONALIZATION.

FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS, OUR PROGRAM HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED BY NEW MANDATES FROM THE CENTER FOR MEDICAID AND MEDICARE SERVICES (CMS) AND THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE FINANCE (DHCF) WHICH IMPACTED THE FUNCTION OF OUR PROGRAM FINANCIALLY AND PHYSICALLY. OUR MEDICAID ENROLLMENT HAS BEEN CEASED SINCE THIS TIME WHICH HAS IMPACTED OUR CENSUS AND ABILITY TO SERVE THE ELDERLY POPULATION. THEREFORE, THE FINANCIAL BURDEN HAS LAID HEAVILY ON THE STODDARD BAPTIST NURSING HOME FOUNDATION.

ALONG WITH THE NEW MANDATES OUR CENTER'S LOCATION IS NOW NOT CONSIDERED AS AN APPROVED SETTING TO OPERATE OR PROVIDE ADULT DAY CARE SERVICES AND WE ARE NOW FORCED TO RELOCATE. STODDARD BAPTIST NURSING HOME FOUNDATION HAS BEEN DILIGENT IN MAKING EFFORTS TO SUSTAIN OUR PROGRAM, BUT THE MANDATES ARE OVERWHELMING FOR THE FACILITY AS A WHOLE.

AS CENTER CARE STANDS AS ONE OF THE MILESTONES FOR THE DC OFFICE ON AGING PROGRAMS, I REQUEST, I PLEA AND I ASK THAT CENTER CARE ADULT DAY CARE PROGRAM BEIS PROVIDED FUNDING UNDER THE DC OFFICE ON AGING'S BUDGET THROUGH THIS TRANSITIONAL PERIOD THAT WE ARE ENDURING AS WE CONTINUE TO SERVE THE VAST POPULATION THROUGHOUT WARDS 5, 6, 7, AND 8 OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT MY TESTIMONY BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF THE DC OFFICE ON AGING'S BUDGET HEARING.

Good Morning/Afternoon

My name is Joe Henery. I am a senior citizen and a native Washingtonian living in the Ward 2 area. I, like so many other elderly individuals, am finding it increasingly difficult to survive in Washington, DC without the help of outside sources like Terrific, Inc.

I was introduced to Terrific, Inc. by someone who lives in my building. Since then Terrific, Inc. has helped me when I could not find any other source to do so. For example, they assisted me with meals. This help was extremely beneficial because after taking the bus to and from my medical appointments, I am usually too exhausted to fix a nutritious meal. Activities that I once took for granted (like cooking) have now become a challenge as I get older.

Terrific, Inc. also helped me when I lost my wallet. The amount of red tape to replace my important documents was overwhelming. I would make phone calls and get put on hold, never able to get to the right person who could help. I physically went to the various buildings to try and get help and still got the “run-around”. All of this was both mentally and physically stressful. Terrific, Inc. assisted me in cutting through the red tape so that I am now able to replace the lost documents such as my Medicare identification and Social Security card.

I sincerely believe Terrific, Inc. is an organization that should be a permanent fixture in the lives of Washington, DC senior citizens. We need them and they have proven they can help.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

Dear Budget Committee:

I Frankie Whitfield am a native Washingtonian who's lived here my entire life, received my education from grade school to high school, raised two daughters, worked and now retired as a District resident. I retired a few years ago and have since been an active participant at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center, 500 K Street, NE, Washington, DC 20002.

It has come to my attention that the city want to cut the budget where funds are allocated to help keep the center up and running, and it makes me and many other seniors sad to know that the city has no problem taking funds from so many that have helped build and shape the city to what it is today. We've worked, paid taxes, and now that we've retired and enjoying our golden years, the city wants to take away funds from a center we've grown to count on in helping provide a place of comfort, security, activities in which we participate in daily from exercise to computer literacy. I personally take advantage of many programs the center offers: aerobics, yoga, line dancing, lunch, blood pressure screening, cataract and glaucoma screenings, trips, and a few others, so as you can see I'm very active at the center.

Since joining the center and participating in a variety of exercise and nutritional classes my doctor is very proud that I maintain a healthy weight, my blood pressure and cholesterol are down, I've gained better strength in my arms and legs, and these are areas I've had previous problems with, however, since joining the center and taking advantage of everything it has to offer, it's made me a healthier person and for that I'm thankful, however, I'm also fearful that cutting the budget would put me on a path of reversing the good work the center has helped me with on becoming a healthier and stronger person.

This is the reason for my letter and I'm sure many like it to follow from other concerned retired district residents who have come to rely on the center to help live an active retired life. We are very disgraced that the senior center is being looked at for budget cuts when there are so many people being helped by this program. As a concerned resident who have paid my dues I am asking you to please find somewhere else to do budget cuts, this center means the world to me and I enjoy being able to get out of the house and being an active senior and The Hayes Senior Wellness Center is a MAJOR factor of ensuring my days are filled with activities of interest to me.

Thank you and I pray that you take this letter into consideration for me and many other senior citizens that would suffer if this center is closed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frankie Whitfield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Frankie Whitfield
District of Columbia Resident

4/2015



DEAR Councilor

I Am writing to address the budget. I AM A DC Senior citizen who attends the senior wellness center. I AM AWARE OF the need to cut services. Please do not cut the Wellness center budget. This one element of senior life adds pride and dignity. Surely seniors ~~that~~ left in this wonderful city of ours deserve to be spared from cuts, our lives are already strained from the high cost of living that seem to be growing.

Thanking you in advance.

Sincerely
Jean Jones

To whom it may concern

I am a senior of this great city Washington, D.C. and me as a senior of this city I ask that this Government keep all programs concerning us open.

I have benefited from all the classes that I have taken. This program has put me on a more happier life, with out this service that the office for Aging provide for me I wouldn't have to much to do. This program mean a lot to me.

I was completely ignorant about operating a computer, but when I start going to the computer classes at Hayes wellness center for aging, "boy" how I thank God for this program.

The staff are some of the greaties people I have ever made in my life. Everyone at the center treat you like a person and they make you feel very welcome.

Now if this letter matter to anyone on this budget committee, then I as a senior of this great city ask that not one dollar be taken away from this program. I not only speak just for me but I believe I speak for every person that participate in the senior ~~for~~ program. We the senior ~~to~~ that participate in this program ask very strongly to keep this program in service for us.

I hope and pray that this budget committee will concern them self that one day they will get old to if God see fit, you will know then that this is a great ~~for~~ program for the (elders).

Please do not cut any finance support for this program for (D.C. Office on Aging) senior service network.

Marcus B. Lawrence
Date: 4.16.2015

April 20, 2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Councilmember Bonds,

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I share comments on my experience as a member of the Hayes Senior Wellness Center. I hope my words can assist your committee in appreciating the impact this center has had on my life and the lives of many seniors throughout the District.

During my time at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center, I've noticed the holistic approach towards addressing the needs of each member. All of the activities seem to be designed to promote physical, nutritional, social, intellectual, and spiritual health in all aspects of life. This is extremely empowering and gives me confidence when performing everyday activities at home as well as in the community. Additionally, the free health assessments and presentations help me track my fitness and remind me to stay vigilant about monitoring lifestyle habits.

As a tax-paying resident of the District of Columbia, I am happy to say that the atmosphere in the center is really pleasant and the staff is very knowledgeable and always willing to go beyond the call of duty. I am truly humbled and appreciative to finally reap the benefits of this city's commitment to public service.

In closing, my experiences at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center have truthfully been remarkable and have contributed to the improvement of my overall health. Furthermore, it is my belief that all wellness centers have a similar immeasurable impact on the elderly population they serve and it is very important that these relationships are maintained for the sake of all seniors in the District.

Please add additional comments below:

Hayes SWC have been a blessing to me since I have been coming 2 yrs, 5 days a week. It has been keeping me in shape with the variety of activities and my mind going and I love it. My doctors at Kaiser are very impress with the outcome of my health tests, etc. since I have been attending Hayes SWC. Blood Pressure, Sugar Level, Cholesterol level - perfect and all because of my participation at the Hayes SWC.

Sincerely,

Neatha Sanders
Printed Name

Neatha Sanders
Signature

4-21-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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In closing, my experiences at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center have truthfully been remarkable and have contributed to the improvement of my overall health. Furthermore, it is my belief that all wellness centers have a similar immeasurable impact on the elderly population they serve and it is very important that these relationships are maintained for the sake of all seniors in the District.

Please add additional comments below:

We need the centers. Since I have been coming to the center my blood pressure have gone down.

Sincerely,

Anita Jones

Printed Name

Anita Jones

Signature

04/21/2014

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

No matter what Don't Cut Our Services
I need them a lot to help to
become more Independent I am in Wheelchair

↳ Growing
Sincerely,

Aileen Mirzell
Printed Name

Aileen Mirzell
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Don't cut our budget for the
centers.

Sincerely,

Jean Jones
Printed Name


Signature

4/21/2015
Date

April 20, 2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

The Hayes Senior Center provides services essential to my well-being: exercise classes, gym equipment, lunches, & assistance with government programs and other life issues.

Sincerely,

Ralph Dumain

Printed Name

Ralph Dumain

Signature

20 April 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

The Hayes Senior Wellness Center is likened unto an oasis in the middle of The desert! Please! Re think your assessment of this program and know that it would not be wise or prudent to downsize or diminish the services for our Seniors! This program is literally a lifeline for this special population Group!!

Edna Gorham-Bey
Printed Name


Signature

4/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

It is a wonderful experience to be able to attend exercise programs at the Hayes Center.

Sincerely,

Portia B Johnson

Printed Name

Portia B Johnson

Signature

4/24/15

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

I have always exercised, but never could lose the weight until participating in exercise classes and using the equipment. I have also benefited due to

Sincerely,

Gloria Young
Printed Name

Gloria Young
Signature

April 22, 2015
Date

the Nutrition Awareness talks and hand-outs, that have cause me to have a Healthy Diet. Hayes Senior Wellness Center is a excellent program for Seniors!!!

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

I want the increase the services
100% in all department and benefits
Allen Gage

Sincerely,

ALLEN GAGE

Printed Name

Allen Gage

Signature

Thank you
and God Bless you

4-22-15

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

The programs provided at the Hayes Wellness Center are very beneficial and rewarding for seniors and the community at large.

Sincerely,

Patricia Bullock

Printed Name

PB

Signature

4/22/15

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

I am in awe of the wonderful programs at the Hayes Sr. Wellness Center. Please keep funding this wonderful program

Sincerely,

MARCELLA HILT
Printed Name

Marcella Hilt
Signature

April 22, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Since I have been coming to this center I have lost at least 10 lbs and my pressure has come down a lot & I feel good

Sincerely,

Doris Gilliam

Printed Name

Doris Gilliam

Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

I've been coming to the Wellness Center for over a year & I've enjoyed it & benefited from it every session I attended.

Sincerely,

(Mr.) Jean Mooskin
Printed Name

Jean Mooskin
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

*I concur with the above statement and
many thanks, I truly appreciate all the
benefits associated with the Hayes Wellness
Center.*

Sincerely,

JOYCE KING YOUNGER
Printed Name

Joyce King Younger
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

This center help ~~the~~ seniors, we need it
bas. the senior have something to do & go.

Sincerely,

Elaine Dicks
Printed Name

Elaine Dicks
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

This program is very much needed.

Sincerely,

Shirley M. Clark
Printed Name

Shirley M. Clark
Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Weight loss was my goal and by
coming to the Hayes Wellness Center I
have reached my goal; pain in shoulder is gone.

Sincerely,

MAZIE Young
Printed Name

Mazie Young
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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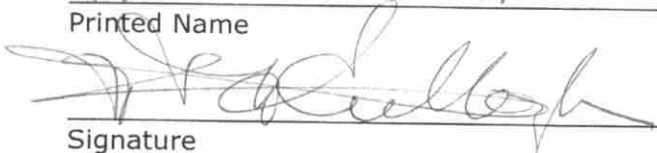
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Please add additional comments below:

The energy, laughter, movement,
camaraderie of Hayes Center are
admirable!! We love it!

Sincerely,

M.D. McCullough
Printed Name


Signature

4/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Since 12/2012, I have participated in the exercise program and health fairs at Hayes. They all have helped me maintain good medical reports from doctors. The camaraderie of the staff & members has greatly added to my life. The staff is welcoming & loving. Hope these programs remain in place !!

Sincerely,

Deborah J. Williams
Printed Name

Deborah J. Williams
Signature

4/20/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

I have really enjoyed the program. The exercise has been really great for me. I hope the program remains.

Sincerely,

ALFREDA P. BURRELL
Printed Name

Alfreda P. Burrell
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

DCOA and its activities for
those of us who have worked all our
lives and have now reached the golden age.

Sincerely,

VIRA HONG

Printed Name

Signature



is the only place we can come to
to get what we need NOW.

Please do not cut
4/21/15 its
budget.

Thank You.

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

Dear Councilmember Bonds,

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Please add additional comments below:

THE PROGRAMS AT SENIOR CENTERS PROVIDE A
VIABLE LINK FOR SENIORS TO MAINTAIN PHYSICAL
FITNESS ACTIVITIES WITH THEIR FAMILIES; GRANDCHILDREN

Sincerely,

STAMFORD HOSTON
Printed Name

Stamford Hoston
Signature

4/21/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Fantastic Facility

Sincerely,

MARY PAGE NELSON

Printed Name

Mary Page Nelson

Signature

Date

April 20, 2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Dorcas C. DESSASO
Printed Name

Dorcas C. Dessaso
Signature

4/20/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

MARCA LEE
Printed Name

Marcia Lee
Signature

April 21, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

JOYCE TOYE

Printed Name

Joyce Toye

Signature

4/21/15

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Dorcas C. Dessaso

Printed Name

Dorcas C. Dessaso

Signature

4/21/2015
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
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1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

I have noticed improvement in my
movements - I now have more
Flexibility

Sincerely,

SUSAN HARPER

Printed Name

S Harper

Signature

4/22/15

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

PARTICIPATING/PERFORMING AT WASHINGTON REDSKINS FOOTBALL GAMES IS BEING EXPLORED AS A WAY OF STIMULATING INTEREST IN HEALTH & LIFESTYLE ADVANTAGES FOR SENIORS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY VIA NATIONAL TELEVISION. THIS IS BEING ADDRESSED AND INITIATED BY THE HAYES SENIOR WELLNESS CENTER BY ITS PARTICIPANTS.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH M. HUBBARD III
Printed Name

Joseph M. Hubbard III
Signature

4-22-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

1. The receptionists were really helpful. The staff returned calls which is surprising. The staff went out of the way to give helpful information.

The lobby is free of loiterers and excess noise. It has a business atmosphere.

Sincerely,

Marian O. Williams
Printed Name

Marian O. Williams
Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Jayce P. Abney
Printed Name

Jayce P. Abney
Signature

4/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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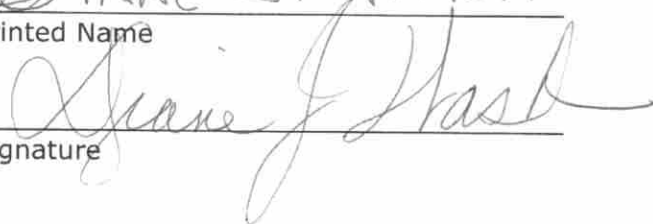
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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

 DIANE J. WASH
Printed Name

Signature



Date

4/21/2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Sandra B. Pugh
Printed Name

Sandra B. Pugh
Signature

04/21/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Beulah Sheppard
Printed Name

Beulah Sheppard
Signature

4/21/15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Catherine Hawkins

Printed Name

Catherine Hawkins

Signature

4/21/15

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Rachel Ford

Printed Name

Rachel Ford

Signature

April 21, 2014

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Natalie Russell

Printed Name

Natalie Russell

Signature

4-21-15

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

CARMENCITA STEWART
Printed Name

Carmencita Stewart
Signature

4-21-15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Kathryn Chandler
Printed Name

Kathy Chandler
Signature

04/20/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Printed Name

Bernetha Blackwell

Signature

April 21, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Printed Name

Signature

HUGH MICHAEL MCCOLL OUGHT



Date

4/21/15

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

KELVIN BOWE
Printed Name

Kevin Bowe
Signature

4-21-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Jocelyn Lancaster
Printed Name

Jocelyn Lancaster
Signature

4-21-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Gertoude Benjamin
Printed Name


Signature

4-21-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Blenda Pearson
Printed Name

[Signature]
Signature

4/20/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

WILLIAM E SLEPGE
Printed Name


Signature

4-23-2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

VALENCIA M. JONES
Printed Name

Valencia M. Jones
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Helen King
Printed Name

Helen King
Signature

April 22, 2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Maurice Alexander
Printed Name

Maurice Alexander
Signature

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

HERBERT S. CLAIR
Printed Name


Signature

4-23-15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

KAREN ZERLING
Printed Name

K. Zerling
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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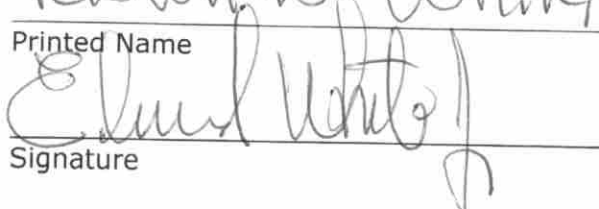
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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

EDWARD WHITE, JR

Printed Name



Signature

April 23, 2014

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

DeVon Pettigrew
Printed Name

DeVon Pettigrew
Signature

4/22/15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Georgia Bloss
Printed Name

Georgia Bloss
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Lorraine Simpson
Printed Name

Lorraine Simpson
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Scott
Printed Name

Joyce A. Scott
Signature

4/20/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

It's a great program!

Sincerely,

Ida M. Prosky

Printed Name

IDA. M. PROSKY

Signature

Date

4/22/2015

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

No

Sincerely,

Geneva Sykes
Printed Name

Geneva Sykes
Signature

4-22-15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

ERMA O'ELLIS-STEWART

Printed Name

Erma O'Ellis Stewart

Signature

4/22/2015

Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

April 20, 2015

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It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I share comments on my experience as a member of the Hayes Senior Wellness Center. I hope my words can assist your committee in appreciating the impact this center has had on my life and the lives of many seniors throughout the District.

During my time at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center, I've noticed the holistic approach towards addressing the needs of each member. All of the activities seem to be designed to promote physical, nutritional, social, intellectual, and spiritual health in all aspects of life. This is extremely empowering and gives me confidence when performing everyday activities at home as well as in the community. Additionally, the free health assessments and presentations help me track my fitness and remind me to stay vigilant about monitoring lifestyle habits.

As a tax-paying resident of the District of Columbia, I am happy to say that the atmosphere in the center is really pleasant and the staff is very knowledgeable and always willing to go beyond the call of duty. I am truly humbled and appreciative to finally reap the benefits of this city's commitment to public service.

In closing, my experiences at the Hayes Senior Wellness Center have truthfully been remarkable and have contributed to the improvement of my overall health. Furthermore, it is my belief that all wellness centers have a similar immeasurable impact on the elderly population they serve and it is very important that these relationships are maintained for the sake of all seniors in the District.

Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Sandra Washington
Printed Name

Sandra Washington
Signature

4/22/15
Date

Councilmember Anita Bonds
Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Natalie Jones Caldwell

Printed Name

Natalie Jones Caldwell

Signature

4-22-15

Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Annette J. White
Printed Name

Annette J. White
Signature

4/22/2015
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Kuchenberg
Printed Name


Signature

4/22/15
Date

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Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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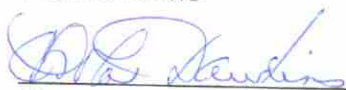
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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

CHOLA DAWKINS

Printed Name



Signature

04/22/15
Date

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Council of the District of Columbia
Oversight Committee
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

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Please add additional comments below:

Sincerely,

DONNA BRAUTH
Printed Name


Signature

04/22/15
Date

To Promote the General Welfare and enhance the Quality of Life in Our Neighborhood
MANOR PARK CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
est. 1923
P.O. Box 60622
Washington, DC 20039
April 23, 2015

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, BUDGET HEARINGS,
DC OFFICE OF AGING

TESTIMONY OF CARROLL GREEN
PRESIDENT

GOOD MORNING MADAM CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE;

WE THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY DURING THESE BUDGET HEARINGS ON BEHALF OF THE OFFICE OF AGING AND IN SUPPORT OF VILLAGES WHO ASSIST SENIORS TO AGE IN PLACE IN THEIR OWN HOMES. IT IS LITTLE KNOWN THAT THIS NATIONS CAPITAL LEADS CITIES IN THIS COUNTRY IN THE NUMBER OF OPERATING VILLAGES, AND THAT THE OFFICE OF AGING PROVIDED A HELPING HAND IN THE LAUNCHING OF EACH OF THESE VILLAGES, USUALLY WITH START UP FUNDING THROUGH THE AWARDING OF GRANTS. LAST YEAR WHEN THE EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE, WHICH WILL PROVIDE SERVICE TO MANOR PARK RESIDENTS AND RESIDENTS OF SIX OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS IN UPPER NORTHWEST, APPLIED TO THE OFFICE OF AGING FOR START UP FUNDING, GOVERNMENT FUNDS WERE NOT AVAILABLE. WHILE THIS RELATIVELY NEW PHENOMENA OF VILLAGES, VOLUNTEERS HELPING SENIOR AGE IN THEIR OWN HOMES FOR AS LONG AS PRACTICAL, REMAINS LARGELY UNKNOWN TO THE GENERAL POPULATION, IT IS A GROWING MOVEMENT, FILLING UNMET NEEDS THAT THE GOVERNMENT CANNOT AND PERHAPS SHOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO TAKE ON. THE EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE IS STILL IN DEVELOPMENT HAVING STARTED OVER TWO YEARS AGO; HAS OBTAIN IT'S 501 (c) (3) CERTIFICATION FROM THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, HAS IN HAND IT'S DC CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSE AND HAS MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS OF LAW TO OPERATE AS A NON PROFIT ENTITY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. THE HIGH HURDLE FOR VILLAGES IS IN THE START UP PHASE WHERE GOVERNMENT FUNDING HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE LINCHPIN FOR A SUCCESSFUL LAUNCH. THIS START UP PHASE INCLUDES THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN LIABILITY INSURANCE, THE NEED TO SCRUTINIZE PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS THROUGH BACKGROUND CHECKS, THE REQUIREMENT TO OBTAIN SUITABLE OFFICE SPACE AND GENERALLY TO HIRE AT LEAST ONE EMPLOYEE. THE OFFICE OF AGING HAS BEEN INVALUABLE IN PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FROM DAY ONE OF THIS LAUDABLE

UNDERTAKING TO THE PRESENT. NOTWITHSTANDING, THE ABSENCE OF GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO ASSIST IN THIS PHASE HAS SIGNIFICANTLY DELAYED THE LAUNCH OF EAST ROCK CREEK VILLAGE AND THE AVAILABILITY OF URGENTLY NEEDED SERVICE TO A LARGE SEGMENT OF OUR SENIOR RESIDENTS. WE RESPECTFULLY REQUEST THAT THIS COMMITTEE RECOGNIZE THAT THERE ARE AN ABUNDANCE OF RESIDENTS READY AND WILLING TO PITCH IN TO HELP EACH OTHER THROUGH THE VILLAGE CONCEPT AND THE NOTION OF VOLUNTEERISM. WHAT IS NEEDED TO HELP LAUNCH THESE EFFORTS WITH DISPATCH IS THE RETURN OF GOVERNMENT START UP FUNDING. VILLAGES RECOGNIZE AND ACCEPT THE NOTION THAT FUND RAISING IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE LIFE OF A VILLAGE, THAT FUND RAISING WILL ALWAYS BE AN ANNUAL UNDERTAKING. VILLAGES SIMPLY ASK THAT THE GOVERNMENT DO WHAT IT HAS TRADITIONALLY UNDERTOOK; TO HELP RESIDENTS HELP THEMSELVES BY PROVIDING START UP FUNDING. THE CREATION OF VILLAGES IMPROVES IMMENSELY THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OUR SENIORS, DELAYING, AND IN SOME INSTANCES, AVOIDING THE MOVE INTO ASSISTED LIVING FACILITIES. YOUR COLLECTIVE CONSIDERATION OF THIS MODEST REQUEST WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED BY MANY.



LeadingAge DC is an organization of not-for-profit, mission-driven senior service providers throughout the District committed to expanding the world of possibilities for aging in the nation's capital. LeadingAge DC members serve thousands of the District's seniors in affordable housing, assisted living, skilled nursing, adult day, and home and community based services. Our members are part of the District's long-term care system. They provide person-centered care through quality programs, and serve Washingtonians at all economic and service levels.

Our city is home to over 100,000 seniors age 60 and over. In the last 10 years, the median rent for a one-bedroom apartment has doubled and DC has lost more than half of its low-cost rental units and 72 percent of its low-value homes. In the next five years, according to the National Housing Trust, the District will face 54 affordable communities coming to the end of their federal contracts and putting 5,042 units at risk for opting out and going market rate. The lack of affordable housing in the District, which seniors rely on disproportionately on, is staggering.

The City Council must address the growing need for safe, affordable, supportive housing for DC residents to age in place. Combined with supportive home-and-community based services, housing is the largest and most cost-effective part of our long-term care system. The Council can, and should, minimize the need for costly institutionalization where possible. According to the Money Follows the Person (MFP) staff, one of the largest barriers to moving citizens out of institutional settings is the lack of affordable housing to serve those with the lowest incomes.

In order to better serve our seniors and to make Washington, D.C. an Age-Friendly City for those at all income levels, we urge you to take the following actions:

Support Baseline Funding of \$100 million for the Housing Production Trust Fund

Include FY16 funding levels of \$100 million for the DHCD Housing Production Trust Fund, a minimum of \$2 million for the tenant-based Local Rent Supplement Program, and a minimum of \$1 million to the Housing First program to facilitate transition to supportive senior housing.

Conduct Oversight and Reform of the Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program (SFRRP) and the Handicapped Accessibility Improvement Program (HAIP)

Review DHCD implementation of these programs and efforts to address backlog of applicants. In addition the Committee should hold a hearing to review the recommendations of the Task Force for Single Family Residential and Rehabilitation Program (SFRRP) and Handicapped Accessibility Improvement Program (HAIP); especially those recommendations that can achieve:

- a. Eliminating the requirement for renters in the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Waiver (EPD), the Developmental Disabilities Waiver (DD), and Money Follows the Person (MFP) programs to be deemed ineligible for funding by these programs before Medicaid will cover the expense.
- b. Creating a new, small budget program, that provides funding for the elderly and disabled to make modifications to their home for accessibility and safety. This is a quick and efficient way to retain, or return seniors home safely.
- c. Simplifying and expediting the application and process for the larger Single Family Residential Rehabilitation Program (SFRRP) to facilitate timely repairs and code remediation issues.

Encourage Interagency Collaboration and Increased Capacity for DCOA to Assist Seniors with Housing Challenges through:

- a. Links with housing counseling agencies and those providing support for low-income home owners on foreclosure prevention, reverse mortgages, home equity loan products and DC programs for rehab and accessibility.
- b. Housing resource training for all DCOA and ADRC staff members who are involved in information and referral functions.

If you have any questions regarding LeadingAge DC, our members, or the seniors we serve, please contact Christy Kramer, LeadingAge DC Director at (202) 508-9446.