

**TESTIMONY OF JACKIE REYES,
ACTING DIRECTOR
OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**



INTRODUCTION

Good morning Chairperson Bonds and (councilmember; Brianne Nadeau, Elissa Silverman and Vincent Orange) of the Committee on Housing and Community development. I am Jackie Reyes, the Acting Director of the District of Columbia Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs (known as the “OLA”). Appointed on January 2nd, 2015 six weeks ago By Mayor Muriel Bowser, it is a pleasure to be here today to report on the performance on Fiscal Year 2014-2015 of the Mayor’s Office on Latino Affairs (OLA). Joining me today is Mr. Curtis Lewis, from the Office of Finance and Resource Management, the OLA’s financial manager, so, any budget questions I’m unable to respond to, I’m sure that Mr. Lewis will be able to assist and respond.

OLA’s mission is to improve the quality of life of the DC Latino population by providing community-based grants, advocacy, community relations and outreach services to Latino residents. OLA’s mission allows DC Latino residents to have a full range of human services, health, education, housing, economic development, and employment opportunities.

The Latino population has shown a steady increase since the data released by the U.S. Census in 2010. According to the U.S. Census in 2010, the Latino population represented a total of 62,726 or 9.1% out of a total District population of 601,723.

In the FY 2014 budget, the OLA's operating budget of \$2, 8000, 000 all of which are from local funds.

In addition to the position of the director, the FY-14 budget provides for a staff of 10 organized into four program areas: Grants, Advocacy/Language Access, Community Relations and Outreach, and Agency Management -All which reports directly to the Director of the Office of on Latino Affairs (OLA).

OLA PROGRAMS

OLA's programs are designed to accomplish the following:

- Identification of additional funding source to have greater on educational outcomes for Latino Children and Youth.
- Facilitate greater access to economic development resources among DC Latino-owned Business
- Assist Latinos in acquiring workforce skills that help them succeed in and foster the growth of the new economy in the District.
- Coordinate a Latino Community Summit to identify and solicit feedback on issues affecting the Latino Community, and develop a strategic plan to address them. Top issues include Affordable Housing, Education, Public Safety, and Economic Development.
- Continue to make strong investments in community development programs, through our grants program.
- Pursue opportunities to provide service to DC Latino population through public private partnerships, with Latino base service organizations, private charities and other public and private groups.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

In closing, thank you Madam chair Bonds