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Message from the Mayor

I strongly urge the members of the DC Council to take up the plan for building a new central library downtown before the year ends and the legislation dies. Failure to act now jeopardizes funding and delays the critical process of restoring pride in our city's library system.

We have spent more than two years studying the library issue and we've come too far to let this legislation simply die for lack of action. Residents of the District of Columbia need and deserve a 21st century central library that shortchanges no one and includes everyone. Building the central library at this new site can be a strong statement that we hold education and literacy to be our important civic priorities, deserving of a place of prominence in our new vibrant downtown. The Council has at least one more meeting scheduled this month, and I would encourage all District residents who care about the state of our library system to contact the Council and demand that this issue move forward."

The library plan is strongly supported by Council Chairman Linda Cropp and incoming Mayor Adrian Fenty as well as Committee Chairman Kathy Patterson, among others. I urge Councilmembers Cropp, Patterson, Fenty and others to work with their colleagues in the coming weeks to address any lingering concerns.

I thank the Council for a strong legislative session on Tuesday, December 5 and for approving several critical issues including the Comprehensive Plan which will help to guide how the city provides affordable housing, jobs and growth for residents in years to come.

There has been a tremendous amount of public discussion and review of the comprehensive plan, and I am pleased to see this proposal approved. The Comp Plan process has been underway for three years, starting with the Citizen Summit in November 2003. Before the Comp Plan was released, there were more than two years of community meetings, attended by thousands of residents. This has been one of the most thorough and inclusive processes in the history of the Comp Plan. This is a citizen-driven plan, built from the bottom up, which reflects no particular political agenda but endorses key goals and values we can all support – more affordable housing, more jobs for District residents, well-managed growth, and a cleaner environment.

I commend the Council for passing the DC Green Building Act of 2006 which will phase in green building requirements for the public and private sector, and I thank the members of the Green Building Task Force for their work to reach consensus among widely disparate interests. The adoption of this progressive legislation puts the District at the forefront of municipalities in the United States using green buildings as a tool to address climate change. The reduction of carbon emissions resulting from the construction of green buildings is an example of the visionary action I intended when I signed the US Conference of Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, which committed the District to work toward meeting or exceeding the Kyoto Protocol targets. The District is one of only a handful of municipalities in the country that require the private sector to construct green buildings, and we are moving on multiple fronts to build and encourage the construction of green buildings.

I expect to sign the green buildings legislation shortly; other legislation was endorsed on first reading with final passage expected on December 19.



Waterside Mall to be Redeveloped into Mixed-Use Town Center

On Monday, I was pleased to announce that Waterside Mall in Southwest Washington will soon be transformed into a 2.5 million square foot mixed-use town center featuring office, residential and retail space including an improved, full-service grocery store for the neighborhood.

This project will deliver tremendous benefits to the Southwest community representing a 'coming together' of many pieces of the puzzle that will help the neighborhood realize its potential as a vibrant, interesting area, attracting residents and visitors from all over the city. This new town center will also bring much-needed job training and employment opportunities as well as affordable and workforce housing to the area, thus continuing the progress we're making to revitalize the Anacostia Waterfront.

This multi-phased redevelopment project includes approximately 1.2 million square feet of residential, approximately 1.2 million square feet of office and 110,000 to 160,000 square feet of retail space. Waterfront Associates -- a joint venture among Forest City Washington, Vornado/Charles E. Smith and Besler & Reiner, which currently owns the existing buildings at 401 M Street, SW -- will develop the office, residential and retail space in the new Waterfront town center, while the RLA Revitalization Corporation (RLARC), a subsidiary of the National Capital Revitalization Corporation (NCRC), will develop the Northeast section of the site into a 400,000 square foot mixed-use building. The project also intends to re-open 4th Street, SW to help improve vehicle and pedestrian access and create a more walk-able neighborhood.

The DC government will occupy 500,000 square feet in two new buildings fronting 4th Street, SW.

Construction of the first phase of the project will begin in 2007.

Residents Urged to Sign up for Emergency Text Alert System

I urge area residents to sign up to receive emergency text messages through the city's DC Text Alert system. In order to make the process easier, individuals can now sign up by simply texting 32362 (D-C-E-M-A) from any cellular device.

This new rapid enrollment feature means people who want to register for the system don't need access to the Internet or email to sign up for alerts. Signing up for emergency alerts is as easy as using a cell phone – and it can really pay off when there is any kind of emergency in your neighborhood.

DC Text Alert allows citizens to receive emergency messages about an event on any text-capable device – cell phone, computer email pagers and PDAs. Residents can customize their alert preferences by geographical area, such as by neighborhood or school and by type of alerts, such as weather, traffic and/or major emergencies by visiting an Alert DC account at textalert.ema.dc.gov. Currently, 23,000 individuals have registered for the system, which was inaugurated in June 2004.

The text alert system is part of the D.C. Emergency Management Administration's Alert DC, the city's four-part citizen emergency notification system. The system also features DC Voice Alert, to notify citizens in multiple languages and formatted for hearing impaired devices by telephone; the Emergency Information Center (EIC) web site (alert.dc.gov), a cross-agency portal for emergency preparedness information that also serves as the official DC government on-line information source during an emergency or disaster; and the Emergency Alert System (EAS), a partnership with local media outlets that allows the government to interrupt regular programming to broadcast emergency information simultaneously to local stations and to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Day Declared December 4, 2006

On Monday, I was pleased to proclaim December 4, 2006, as "Stephen Joel Trachtenberg Day," in recognition of his contributions as president of The George Washington University and as one who exemplified the spirit, vitality and deeds that enhanced the quality of life to the District of Columbia.

Stephen Joel Trachtenberg served as President of The George Washington University and recently announced his retirement after serving nearly nineteen years. He will become President Emeritus and University Professor at The George Washington University in August 2007.

During his tenure at GWU, President Trachtenberg established numerous undergraduate, graduate and professional programs, endowed university professorships, attracted students of higher achievement, increased the endowment from \$200 million to \$1 billion, and enhanced the city and campus with buildings of extraordinary beauty and utility.

Prior to his appointment at George Washington University, he served as the president of the University of Harford for eleven years, as well as a member of the New York and United States Supreme Court Bars, a Special Assistant to the United States Commissioner of Education, served on the White House Task force on Education commissioned by the President of the United States and helped guide through Congress such landmark legislation as the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

President Trachtenberg also earned national distinction as a writer on educational, moral, and political issues and has been elected as a member and officer of such prestigious organizations as the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.



World AIDS Day Candlelight Vigil

BRC Alerts

DCLMPC Partnership Works!

DCOA Spotlight on Aging

DHS Outreach

DISB DC Financial Gateway Express

OAG Inter Alia...

OAPIA Updates

OPGD Grant Funding Alerts

On Friday, December 1, I participated in the World AIDS Day candlelight vigil held at Freedom Plaza with many District residents, activists and volunteers.

This was a special moment for our city to join communities around the world to not only reflect on the devastation of HIV/AIDS, but also to gather the resolve to prevent new cases and to care for those living with HIV/AIDS.

The District's Department of Health reports that in 2002, diagnosed AIDS cases have increased, both in the District and nationally. Residents of the District with AIDS represent approximately 2.13% of total AIDS cases reported nationwide during the two-year period 2001 through 2002.

In 2002, the rate of reported AIDS cases in the District was 162.4 per 100,000 compared to 14.8 per 100,000 for the United States. The District was found to have the highest rate, 119 cases per 100,000, of all cities with populations larger than 500,000.

Over the last 25 years, there have been many people who have worked to provide education and care to people with HIV/AIDS and their families. I would like to extend a special thanks to Don Blanchon, executive director of the Whitman Walker Clinic, as well as to all of the staff and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to care for those with HIV/AIDS.

There is a new exhibit -- "25 years of AIDS" -- on view inside the John A. Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The exhibit is a fitting and moving tribute to those we have lost to AIDS, and those who are living with HIV/AIDS in our city.

DDOT Launches City Tree Planting Season

Visitors often remark that Washington is a very green 'tree city,' and it's our goal to restore our status as one of the greenest large cities in the country. Currently, an estimated 120,000 trees line the District's roadways.

Last week, I announced that the District of Columbia Department of Transportation (DDOT) began its tree planting season – 4,000 street trees will be planted citywide in all eight wards. The agency will also replace trees that have died. Many of the replacement trees will be relocated to better locations within the immediate area.

DDOT will be planting trees to match up with annual requests made by residents through July 15, 2006. Species of trees to be planted include Willow Oak, Katsura, Dawn Redwood, Kwanzaa Cherry, Sugar Maple, Cucumber Magnolia, Crepe Myrtle and Accolade Elm.

Along with our private sector partners like Casey Trees, we are making extra efforts to protect and improve the beautiful tree canopy above our city – the canopy is one of the most stunning physical aspects of the Nation's Capital.

DDOT's Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) will be placing informational cards on residents' doors in blocks where trees are being planted. Residents will receive watering instructions as well as DDOT's brochure of services and schedules. During warm weather, DDOT asks residents to help water the trees that they have requested for planting during the first two years of the life of the tree. It is best to water each tree with about 10 gallons of water every five days from May to September.

Since 1999, DDOT has planted 14,500 trees, pruned more than 40,000 trees, and removed approximately 7,000 dead or dying trees. DDOT has cultivated relationships with local public/private partner organizations such as Green Spaces for DC, the Casey Trees Endowment Fund, Community Resources, and others currently involved in tree-related work within the District's neighborhoods. By involving and encouraging community participation in tree planting and care activities, DDOT works to educate residents regarding the importance and functional beauty of the city's "green infrastructure."



A Look Back



Mayor Williams is sworn in for second term during a ceremony at the Warner Theater. The oath of office was administered by the Honorable Rufus G. King III, Chief Judge, Superior Court of the District of Columbia. *January 2, 2003.*



Mayor Williams and former Mayors Pratt, Washington, and Barry honor city's first elected mayor, Walter Washington. *April 9, 2003.*



Mayor Williams welcomed the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall as well as First Lady Laura Bush to the SEED School in Southeast. The royal couple spoke with students about their experiences at the SEED school. To commemorate their visit, the Prince of Wales and Duchess of Cornwall planted a tree on the school grounds. *November 2, 2005.*



Mayor Williams throws out the ceremonial "first pitch" at the Washington Nationals' first home exhibition game at RFK against the Baltimore Orioles. *March 3, 2006.*



Mayor Williams breaks ground at the site of the future home of the Washington Nationals at Half and O Streets, SE, which will be the infield of the new park. After a 34-year absence, Major League Baseball returned to the nation's capital at historic RFK Memorial Stadium. *May 4, 2006.*



Community News

- [Mayor Expresses Disappointment at Lack of Congressional Action on Voting Rights Bill](#)
- [Waterside Mall to Be Redeveloped Into Mixed-Use Town Center](#)
- [Randall School Redevelopment Moves Forward](#)

Upcoming Events

[View All News Releases](#)

12/8	Job Opportunity Fair 10 am - 3 pm Naylor Road One-Stop Career Center 2626 Naylor Road, SE
12/11	Mayor's Annual Holiday Toy Drive 6 pm - 8 pm Reeves Center 2000 14th Street, NW
12/12	OCP/Howard University Small Business Development Center Workshop 3 pm - 5 pm Office of Contracting and Procurement 441 4th Street NW, Suite 1117S
12/12	DDOT Union Station "Bike Station" Public Meeting Announcement 6 pm - 8 pm Room 1107 at One Judiciary Square 441 4th Street, NW 11th floor, south elevator
12/12	DCRA Vendor Orientation 6 pm - 8 pm Sacred Heart Church 3211 Sacred Heart Way, NW
12/14	Tenant Advisory Council 6:30 pm University of the District of Columbia 4340 Connecticut Avenue Building 52, Room 304A
12/14	DCRA Vendor Orientation 6 pm - 8 pm Sixth District Police Station 100 42nd Street, NE

