



TESTIMONY

ON THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE ON AGING'S

FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET REQUEST

BEFORE THE

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COUNCIL

COMMITTEE ON AGING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

THE HONORABLE MARION BARRY, CHAIRMAN

PRESENTED BY

**JOHN M. THOMPSON, Ph.D.
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**MONDAY, APRIL 18, 2011
10:00 AM**

**JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING, ROOM 120
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004**

GOOD AFTERNOON CHAIRMAN BARRY AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. MY NAME IS JOHN THOMPSON; I AM ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE D. C. OFFICE ON AGING. WITH ME TODAY AT THE TABLE ARE: MS. DONNA DUNSTON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, SAM GAWAD, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER AND DR. TERRACITA POWELL, MANAGER OF THE AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER.

BEFORE, I BEGIN MY TESTIMONY; PLEASE ALLOW ME TO BRIEFLY SPEAK ABOUT MY VISION FOR STRENGTHENING AND ENHANCING THE D. C. OFFICE ON AGING PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR OLDER CITIZENS IN THIS CITY. I ENVISION THAT WE WILL WORK ON TEN TASKS WITHIN MY FIRST SIX MONTHS.

FIRST, WE WILL COMPLETE AN IN DEPTH REVIEW OF THE INTERNAL OPERATIONS AND IMPLEMENT THE NECESSARY POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO ASSIST THE AGENCY IN ENHANCING ITS OVERALL OPERATIONS IN SERVING SENIORS.

SECOND, WE WILL DESIGN PERFORMANCE STANDARDS TO ENSURE THAT SENIORS ARE RECEIVING QUALITY HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES UNDER THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT AND THE CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (CMS) FUNDED DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.

THIRD, WE WILL POSITION THE ADRC IN BECOMING THE DISTRICT'S PRINCIPAL AGENCY IN DIVERTING VULNERABLE RESIDENTS FROM PREMATURE NURSING HOME PLACEMENTS AND SECURING LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS.

FOURTH, WE WILL WORK WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATES UNITED FOR AGING AND DISABILITIES IN DEVELOPING A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR INCREASING THE NUMBER OF SENIOR VILLAGES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

FIFTH, WE WILL IDENTIFY STAKEHOLDERS, FACILITATE MEETINGS, IDENTIFY FUNDING, AND DRAFT A REQUEST FOR ANNOUNCEMENT WITH OFFICE OF CONTRACTS AND PROCUREMENT TO ADMINISTER A COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT OF THE DISTRICT'S SENIORS. THIS NEEDS ASSESSMENT WOULD BE ESSENTIAL TO IDENTIFYING GAPS IN SERVICES AND HOW TO PROGRAMMATICALLY PLAN FOR THE FUTURE.

SIXTH, WE WILL COLLABORATE WITH THE DEPUTY MAYOR OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS), MS. BB OTERO, AND THE HHS AGENCY LEADS IN IMPROVING THE COORDINATION OF SERVICES AMONG THE DISTRICT AGENCIES THAT WOULD ASSIST SENIORS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES IN ACCESSING HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES.

SEVENTH, WE WILL POSITION DCOA TO COMPETITIVELY SECURE GRANT FUNDING FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS THAT WOULD MODERNIZE THE EXISTING LONG-TERM SERVICES AND SUPPORTS SYSTEM IN THE DISTRICT.

EIGHTH, WE WILL ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIPS WITH TRADE UNIONS, FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS, CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS TO SOLICIT THEIR SUPPORT IN MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE SENIORS ESPECIALLY, THE AGING IN PLACE PROGRAMS.

NINTH, WE WILL IMPLEMENT ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND COUNSELING SERVICES FOR SENIORS WHO ARE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT.

AND, TENTH, WE WILL INTENSIFY OUR OUTREACH EFFORTS TO REACH A LARGER SEGMENT OF THE AGING POPULATION PARTICULARLY “THE BABY BOOMERS.”

THE OFFICE ON AGING WILL CONTINUE TO CARRY OUT ITS MISSION AS DEFINED IN D.C. LAW 1-24 TO ADVOCATE, PLAN, IMPLEMENT AND MONITOR PROGRAMS IN HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SERVICES THAT PROMOTE LONGEVITY,INDEPENDENCE, DIGNITY AND CHOICE FOR OUR SENIORS.

COUNCIL MEMBER BARRY AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS, IT IS WITH GREAT PRIDE AND HUMILITY THAT I PRESENT MAYOR VINCENT GRAY’S FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET FOR THE D. C. OFFICE ON AGING. DURING THESE ECONOMIC TIMES WITH SO MANY PROGRAMS BEING CUT, HE HAS PREVENTED THE OFFICE ON AGING FROM CUTTING NEEDED SERVICES FOR THE SENIORS OF THIS CITY, AND WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARTNERSHIPS AND VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM SERVICES WILL BE ENHANCED.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2012, THE D. C. OFFICE ON AGING’S TOTAL BUDGET IS PROJECTED TO BE \$25,494 MILLION BROKEN DOWN AS FOLLOWS:

• LOCAL FUNDS	\$16,116,000
• FEDERAL FUNDS	8,126,000
• INTRA DISTRICT FUNDS	<u>1,252,000</u>
	\$25,494,000

MORE THAN 90% OF THE OFFICE ON AGING ‘S TOTAL BUDGET PAYS FOR DIRECT SERVICES WHICH ARE PROVIDED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 21 COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS THAT MAKE UP OUR SENIOR SERVICE NETWORK.

THE OFFICE ON AGING HAS 43 FTES THAT ARE FUNDED THROUGH THREE CATEGORIES. FIRST, 18.5 FTES ARE FROM LOCAL FUNDS. SECOND, 12.5 FTES ARE FROM FEDERAL FUNDS. AND, THIRD, 12 FTES ARE FROM INTRA DISTRICT FUNDS.

AS YOU KNOW, THE OFFICE ON AGING PROVIDES A WIDE RANGE OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR THE SENIORS. AND TO DATE, THE OFFICE IS ON TARGET FOR REACHING ITS OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES.

I WOULD BE REMISS NOT TO TELL YOU THAT WE ARE FACING SOME MAJOR CHALLENGES.

FIRST, THE OFFICE IS RECEIVING 50 OR MORE CALLS EACH DAY FROM SENIORS WHO ARE SEEKING EMPLOYMENT. IN ORDER TO MEET THIS GROWING NEED, WE WILL IDENTIFY AND SEEK GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO SUPPORT TECHNOLOGY TRAINING AND IN-HOME CARE TRAINING FOR SENIORS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. THESE ARE TWO EMPLOYMENT FIELDS, WHERE WE BELIEVE SENIORS WOULD HAVE MORE SUCCESS IN EMPLOYMENT, IF THEY WERE PROPERLY TRAINED.

SECOND, THE 2010 CENSUS REVEALED THAT THE SENIOR POPULATION IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA HAS GROWN TO OVER 100,000 SINCE THE 2000 CENSUS THAT REPORTED APPROXIMATELY 92,000 SENIORS. THIS REPRESENTS AN APPROXIMATE 10% INCREASE OF THE SENIOR POPULATION OVER THE TEN YEAR PERIOD. THIS SIGNIFICANT INCREASE COUPLED WITH SENIORS DEMANDING A GREATER LEVEL OF IN-HOMECARE HAS RESULTED IN INADEQUATE FUNDING TO MEET THIS MAJOR NEED. THEREFORE, WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEARCH AND APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ASSIST IN MEETING THESE NEEDS.

THIRD, AS SENIORS AGE IN PLACE AND REMAIN IN A HOME SETTING, THE NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SUPPORT IS GROWING. MORE SENIORS ARE ON DIALYSIS THREE TIMES PER WEEK. MOREOVER, A GROWING NUMBER OF SENIORS ARE RECEIVING CANCER TREATMENTS ALONG WITH OTHER REGULAR MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS. TRANSPORTATION FOR THE FOUR GERIATRIC DAY CARE CENTERS IS SOMETIMES MORE THAN OUR LIFE SUPPORT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM CAN HANDLE IN MEETING THE PRESCRIBED MEDICAL TIMEFRAMES. HOWEVER, WITH OUR DEDICATED DCOA STAFF, WE WILL AGGRESSIVELY APPLY FOR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES TO ADDRESS THIS NEED.

LET ME CONCLUDE BY STATING THAT THE OFFICE ON AGING WILL CONTINUE TO PROVIDE HIGH QUALITY SERVICES FOR SENIORS WHILE REMAINING FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE.

I AM APPRECIATIVE OF THE MAYOR'S LEADERSHIP, AND THE COUNCIL'S SUPPORT IN GIVING FUNDING NECESSARY FOR THE OFFICE ON AGING TO CONTINUE PROVIDING THESE VITAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR SENIORS.

AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR COMMITTEE TODAY. THIS CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY, AND I AM PLEASED TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS THAT YOU AND YOUR COMMITTEE MAY HAVE.