

April 1, 2011

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Brown:

On behalf of the residents of the District of Columbia, I submit to you the District of Columbia Fiscal Year 2012 Budget and Financial Plan, entitled "One City, Rising to the Challenge." The submission includes the "Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Request Act of 2011," and the "Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Support Act of 2011," which includes the provisions necessary to implement the initiatives funded in the FY 2012 budget and financial plan.

This proposal is the District of Columbia's sixteenth consecutive balanced budget. As you know, the District of Columbia economy has not been immune to the national economic recession; indeed, the Government faced a \$322 million gap for Fiscal Year 2012 as this budget was being formulated. Despite this challenge, my proposed budget continues to provide investment in key areas of priority: continuation and enhancement to a birth-to-age-24 education system; economic development and training programs that lead to jobs for District of Columbia residents; and provision of a responsive, effective public safety program that keeps our neighborhoods and businesses safe.

The submission also includes hard choices that were required to build a fiscally sound budget and financial plan. Our intention was to strike a balance between cost savings, program realignments, and new sources of revenues so that we could maintain services while meeting our economic challenges.

This budget proposal is balanced, structurally sound, and was formulated in a spirit of fiscal discipline. I look forward to the Council's review of this proposal, and to working together to finalize and execute our budget for Fiscal Year 2012.

Sincerely,

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor