

Testimony of Lafayette A. Barnes
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Before the

Council of the District of Columbia Committee on Government Operations and the Environment

Councilmember Mary M. Cheh, Chair

March 1, 2010

Good morning, Chairperson Cheh and members of the Committee on Government Operations and the Environment. I am Lafayette A. Barnes, Director of the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services (OPGS). On behalf of the Executive branch, I would like to present my testimony on the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services' (OPGS) performance in FY09 and FY10 to date before the Committee.

Today my testimony focuses on the Office of Partnerships and Grant Services' core functions, goals, and outcomes in FY09 and FY10 to date.

OPGS' mission enhances the capacity of District government and nonprofit organizations to obtain and manage diverse resources through effective management and oversight of the government's donation solicitation, grant development, and grant-making processes.

The office provides four core services to support its mission:

- Grant and resource development support;
- Grant and Sub-Grant Management oversight;
- Donations solicitation management; and
- Capacity Building Training and Technical Support.

In FY09, District agencies reported to OPGS that they applied for nearly \$21million (\$20,891,643) in new federal competitive grant funds and were awarded \$5.4 million

(\$5,427,746) in first year awards. According to OPGS' Grants Information Data System (GIDS), the government's receipts of FY09 new federal competitive grant awards was approximately \$2 million above the total amount awarded in FY08. In fiscal year 2009, the enactment of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) by the Obama Administration shifted the District's focus to apply for federal grant funding needed to address broad economic recovery issues in the District of Columbia. Please visit www.recovery.dc.gov for more details about the District's ARRA grant activities.

In FY09, OPGS began the process of developing a uniform set of guidelines to enhance the District's grant and sub-grant making process. The office hired an attorney advisor who is collocated in the Office of the Attorney General to draft the City-Wide Grants Manual and Sourcebook in collaboration with the District's Grant Management Taskforce. In FY2010, the results of OPGS efforts led to the official release of the Sourcebook by Mayor Fenty and Attorney General Peter Nickles on December 30, 2009. The Sourcebook provides guidance to all District agencies, boards, and commissions, offices, and departments with grant or sub-grant making authority subject to the Mayor's authority pursuant to the Mayor's Order 2009-228. Please note that the Sourcebook supplements but does not rescind or replace DCMR Title 1, Chapter 50 rules that govern the District's sub-granting process.

In FY09, OPGS, in collaboration with the Office of the City Administrator, Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Office of the Chief Technology Officer, initiated the beta phase of the D.C. Grants Made Database to track the District's grant and sub-grant making activities. The system is populated with PASS data, the District's automated procurement system, which is extracted on an "as is" basis and is segmented into five categories – agency name, recipient name, award number, amount, type, and fiscal year.

In FY10, OPGS and its development team continued to work on enhancing the Grants Made Database to include SOAR grant data which contains more complete information on the

District's grant and sub-grant activities. OPGS, in collaboration with the Office of the City Administrator, has gained access to SOAR data which is housed in District's Citywide Data Warehouse, a program operated by OCTO. The development team is also working to integrate the District's grant and sub-grant PASS and SOAR data into the Grants Made Database. During this fiscal year, the team will also add four new data elements that include the funding source, definitions, grant and sub-grant disbursements, and an export to excel function. Please note that until this process is completed and validated by the OCA and OCFO, the D.C. Grants Made Database will only be available for internal use. OPGS expects to complete this process by the third quarter of 2010.

The Office of Partnerships and Grant Services continues to administer the District's donation process and provide capacity building training and technical assistance to all agencies, including DCPS, subject to the Rules of Conduct Governing Donations to the District Government. In FY09, OPGS authorized the acceptance of \$15.2 million in donations made to the District government of which 96% were in-kind contributions. This total represents a \$.6 million increase compared to the District's donation receipts in FY08. To date, in FY2010, OPGS has approved \$3.5 million donation requests. More details about the District's donation recipients are published on OPGS' website.

In FY09, OPGS primarily focused its capacity building and technical assistance on District agencies' grant development, sub-grant, and donation solicitation and management activities. The office, in collaboration with the Department of Health's HIV/AIDS Administration provided training and technical support to local nonprofits in the Effi Barry HIV/AIDS Capacity Building Program. OPGS commissioned a District- based CBE to evaluate the program's performance. A copy of the evaluation summary was provided to the committee. OPGS completed its involvement with this capacity building initiative at the end of FY09.

However on September 23, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families informed OPGS that its proposal for the ARRA Strengthened Communities Fund Grant was awarded \$250,000 over two years. OPGS was the only government entity awarded funding for this capacity building initiative in the Greater Washington Metropolitan Region. This stimulus grant will enable OPGS to provide capacity building and technical assistance services to local community, faith-based, and nonprofits to strengthen District communities. OPGS has posted information on its website for D.C. community based and nonprofit organizations that would like to participate in this capacity building program. Again interested applicants should read the Funding Alert or visit OPGS's website @ www.opgs.dc.gov.

Finally in FY09, OPGS held its 10th Annual Public Private Partnership Conference entitled "Sustainability in an Era of Change" at the Washington Convention Center during which over 300 participants from the nonprofit and government sectors were in attendance.

Madame Chair this concludes my written testimony. I am available to respond to your questions. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before the committee.