



MURIEL BOWSER
MAYOR

Dear Fellow Washingtonians:

A fundamental measure of any great city is how well it supports all residents to live successfully in thriving communities. *Everyone* in the District of Columbia should be on a solid pathway to the middle class, with real education, employment, and housing opportunities paving the way.

For people with disabilities, making good on this promise means ensuring access to a full slate of supportive resources; responding to crises and needs with robust assistance; and strengthening families, community organizations and technology, among other supports.

Our city has made significant progress towards these goals. We have reduced to a bare minimum the number of “institutional beds” we rely on, focusing instead on supporting people to live fully integrated lives at home or in the community. This year, United Cerebral Palsy ranked us eighth in the nation (and the most improved state) for how well we serve individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2014, AARP ranked the District 11th on its scorecard of states’ efforts to provide long-term services and supports for older adults, people with physical disabilities, and family caregivers.

But despite our successes, we still have some work to do. In many areas, our performance is not where we want it to be, and a history of limited data collection makes it hard to know with precision how we are doing. The District’s “2015 Olmstead Plan” illustrates our legal compliance with the vision and directives of the Americans with Disabilities Act and other court orders. I want us to do even more.

To reach our goals we will rely on people to leverage the support of family and friends. We will also need strong working partnerships between government and the community – an inclusive effort in which people with disabilities drive how the city does its work while also holding us accountable for the results we all want. Our ethos must be to do “with” and not “for.”

To that end, in August 2015 I created an Olmstead Working Group to bring advocates, stakeholders and government together to assess in detail where we are and where we need to go. I am proud to present here the initial results of that work. This 2016 Olmstead Plan is our roadmap to becoming a city that supports all of its residents living the robust and independent lives they want and deserve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Muriel Bowser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Muriel" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Bowser".

Muriel Bowser