



Our city is at a crossroads. In the last few years, we've made amazing improvements in the quality of life of all of our residents.

We now have more people insured in our city than in any other state in the country, and the Council recently approved a plan to spend more than \$200 million in additional funds for new clinics and health care facilities in our neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River.

We continue to have more libraries per capita than most other cities and we are investing millions in additional upgrades and expanded hours.

Our swimming pools are free to all residents and we've spent millions improving all of our recreation programs in an effort to get kids active and engaged in productive activities that keep them off the streets.

And our city government now functions with a level of efficiency and customer service that meets or exceeds that of most other comparable cities. We even rate the service of those agencies every few months and we've created "Citizen Summits" to solicit feedback from every one of our residents about the issues that matter to them.

## FOREWORD

Mayor Anthony Williams

Yet we still have a long way to go to make our city everything it can be. We know that our public education system is still riddled with waste and failing to educate our youth. It's losing thousands of students each year to charter schools and private schools - or to the suburbs. We also need to continue to make each of our agencies even better so that everyone in this city gets the best possible care when they are in need.

The recent effort by DC Appleseed to solicit ideas was an exciting process and the outcome was admirable. There are no shortage of good ideas and good people in our city and this effort made it clear that people are brimming with enthusiasm about the District and eager to explore ways to make it better.

I was pleased that several of the most popular ideas mirror initiatives that we have already explored and I think the incoming administration can find opportunities to use even more suggestions as we strive to make our city better. I have committed to remaining a part of this city's fabric even after I leave office. I look forward to working collaboratively on all of these issues with the great people of our city.

Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor