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his book summarizes nearly 1,500 ideas for solving problems facing the District of Columbia. The ideas were submitted over several months during summer 2006 by residents of the National Capital area as part of DC Appleseed's *Solving DC Problems Campaign 2006*.

As described below, *Solving DC Problems Campaign 2006* was intended to give residents the opportunity in a crucial election year to play a role in setting the course of the city for coming years.

To encourage participation in the campaign, prizes were offered for the top ideas (as determined by public voting). The twenty finalists and winning ideas are featured throughout the book, as well as a selection of the humorous ideas submitted during the Campaign.

As reflected in the book's Chapters, the ideas run the gamut—from education to transportation to public safety to social services.

DC Appleseed has attempted to present the ideas objectively—without editorial comments. Accordingly, the views expressed in this book are the views of the individual participants of *Solving DC Problems Campaign 2006* and do not necessarily reflect the views of DC Appleseed.

PREFACE

We hope that in this time of transition for the District, this book will be viewed as a snapshot of what a number of engaged National Capital area residents want for the District now and in coming years. We also hope that this book represents not an end but a beginning of a process of engaging residents in constructive problem solving.

The *Solving DC Problems Campaign* website—www.solvingDCproblems.com—is available for the submission of ideas. In addition to submitting ideas, the website allows individuals to email their ideas or the ideas of others to public officials, and read and comment on all submitted ideas.

We know that the Fenty Administration plans to continue to seek ways to engage residents in the governance of the District. In the spirit of *Solving DC Problems Campaign 2006*, we hope residents take advantage of these open lines of communication.