



# 6 Month PROGRESS REPORT



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
**MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR**

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## Dear Washingtonians,

It is my great honor to serve as your Mayor. Six months into our fresh start, I am pleased to report that Washington, DC is strong and getting stronger. Our economy is thriving, our schools are improving, and our finances are in good shape.

Since day one, we have been looking to you – the residents of the District of Columbia – to shape our agenda. Through our Office of Community Relations & Services, we are bringing the Mayor’s office closer to where you live, work and play, so that we can better address your concerns. By opening a Mayor’s Office in Anacostia, we are making sure that no ward in our city goes unnoticed. And for the first time ever, we engaged the community on the front end of the budget process through budget engagement forums to inform and shape our priorities.

With your feedback in hand, we developed a budget that makes critical investments in education, health and wellness, public safety, affordable housing and jobs. We are focused on creating economic opportunity for every resident. While there is tremendous prosperity in DC, that prosperity does not reach every corner of our city. That is why we are creating pathways to the middle class, so every member of our community can benefit from our success.

We are also working to make DC government more effective and efficient. I retained and recruited a talented team of leaders who will make sure that progress continues and will work tirelessly to help the District reach its full potential. This is a team that gets things done.

Transparency and accountability will be hallmarks of this Administration, because this government belongs to our residents. We will use innovation to keep Washington on the cutting edge of excellence – from launching bold new strategies to end homelessness, to using technology to solve infrastructure challenges, to pioneering community policing methods that keep our neighborhoods safe.

This report provides a snapshot of our progress to date. I am proud of the things we have accomplished. But, this is just the beginning; we have so much more to do. With your help, the Bowser Administration will continue to make you proud.

Sincerely,

A large, white, handwritten signature of Muriel Bowser, written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned over the text "Muriel Bowser" and "Mayor".

Muriel Bowser  
Mayor

# What We've Achieved Together: Highlights from the First 6 Months

## Federal and Regional Collaboration



- ✓ Established the Mayor's Office on Federal & Regional Affairs to strengthen relations with the federal government
- ✓ Banned DC Government employees from travel to Indiana until the state lifted a discriminatory policy
- ✓ Hosted President Obama at the Anacostia Library and Vice President Biden at a major DC Water project
- ✓ Developed regional pledge with Montgomery and Prince George's counties to eliminate homelessness
- ✓ Co-hosted the 15th Anniversary of Emancipation Day

## Education



- ✓ Expanded the successful Kids Ride Free bus program to include free rides on Metrorail for students
- ✓ Launched dual enrollment program allowing Banneker Sr. High School students to take classes at Howard University
- ✓ Finalized Student Assignment Plan to allow for cross-park and cross-river school access
- ✓ Kicked off Empowering Males of Color in DCPS - 500 literacy coaches, grants, and plans for a new high school
- ✓ Launched the first DC public library at a charter school and at the DC Jail
- ✓ Planned two new Career Academies: Hospitality at Ballou HS and Public Safety at Anacostia HS

## Neighborhoods



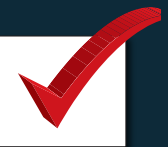
- ✓ Deployed massive *all hands on deck* trash collection
- ✓ Launched free broadband and WiFi at all rec centers
- ✓ Initiated pilot programs for food vendors at DC pools
- ✓ Brought the funk to U Street by allowing the Funk Parade to travel down the historic corridor
- ✓ Replaced the 16th Street Bridge and opened it one month ahead of schedule

## Jobs



- ✓ Expanded SYEP to 1,000, 22-24 year olds, which provided important resume building experiences for young people
- ✓ Launched LEAP Academy (formerly referred to as the DGS Academy) to train DC residents for government jobs
- ✓ Kicked off new recruiting initiative for DC Fire & EMS—opening the fire service exam for the first time in 8 years
- ✓ Reached an agreement with DC United and a labor peace agreement with Unite Here Local 25, paving the way for a new soccer stadium in Southwest along with hundreds of middle-class jobs
- ✓ Announced DC Water's large-scale infrastructure installations along the Potomac River and Rock Creek, cleaning our water ways and creating green jobs

## Public Safety



- ✓ Changed Radio Encryption Protocol for DC Fire & EMS to ease day-to-day communications between first responders across the region
- ✓ Changed the law to crack down on businesses that sell synthetic drugs
- ✓ Reintroduced in-person visits between DC Jail inmates and relatives

## Getting the Basics Right



- ✓ Established the Procurement Accountability Review Board to improve the contracting process
- ✓ Hosted the first-ever "Path to Zero" Waste Summit aimed at reducing waste, saving residents and businesses money, and creating jobs in DC
- ✓ Heard from DC government employees in first-ever Telephone Townhall with the Mayor
- ✓ Invested in competitive Class and Compensation reforms to attract and retain the best and brightest employees



## JANUARY

### LAYING OUT A VISION

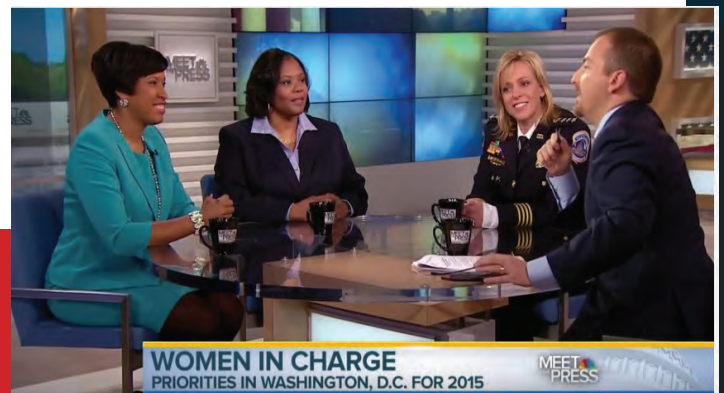
Mayor Bowser was sworn in on January 2, 2015. In her inaugural address, she laid out a vision: to create a government that works for its people, to bring economic opportunity to everyone, and to strengthen education, increase safety, and make DC a healthier and more livable community.

From day one, the Mayor and her team hit the ground running. The Bowser Administration has been focused on delivering for the residents of the District of Columbia – because **everyone deserves an effective and efficient government.**

We have a solid foundation to build on: Washington, DC is one of the most stable economies in the country. We are the economic engine of the region: accounting for one quarter of the job market, and, in the last year, over **two-thirds of the region's private sector job growth.** We are the **number one tech hot spot** and among the top ten cities for venture capital investment.

As an incoming Administration, the team assessed opportunities and challenges by conducting a top-to-bottom review of DC government agencies and major priority areas. The Administration inherited many good things happening in government, but we also inherited many challenges, including:

- A quarter billion dollar budget deficit
- Stalled projects that needed a fresh look
- A faltering emergency response system and a dysfunctional forensics lab
- Ballooning construction costs in some of the District's priority projects
- A shrinking borrowing capacity that would force the District to make tough choices about new buildings and infrastructure projects





## FEBRUARY DEFINING A FRESH START

While the Bowser Administration spent January standing up the new government, hiring the best and the brightest, and making plans to deliver on promises, Fresh Start February was a chance to focus on what residents want out of DC government – so that programs and services reflect their values. Before setting her agenda in ink and her budget in stone, the Mayor wanted to get feedback and ideas from the residents of the District of Columbia.

- Hosted an **Open House at the John A. Wilson Building**, an event attended by more than 2,300 residents, who had a chance to meet and chat with members of the Bowser Administration. This was just the first of more than 30 community events across all 8 wards that month. Being accessible and finding ways to connect with District residents will always be at the top of the Administration's agenda.
- Held three interactive **Budget Engagement Forums**, where hundreds of DC residents provided input to help shape the Mayor's first budget.
- Organized a **Budget tele-townhall** to hear directly from DC Government workers about their priorities in the budget. The Mayor also convened a number of meetings with members of the Labor Management Partnership Council, including labor leaders and cabinet officials, to discuss employment issues throughout the government.
- Brought back the **Mayor's Office of Community Relations & Services (MOCRS)**, to ensure that DC government delivers for our neighborhoods.

*The Mayor sent a strong signal early in her tenure that the people of the District of Columbia are her top priority. Despite a letter from Congress warning her of fines and jail time, the Mayor stood with DC voters in announcing her intent to implement the marijuana decriminalization law approved by 71% of voters. When the voters speak, she listens.*

- Relunched **CapStat**, a data driven approach to improve government efficiency and service delivery.

- Invited District residents to engage with the Mayor directly in our neighborhoods during

**monthly Community Walks and Community Office Hours.**



## MARCH MADNESS

### MAKING MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN A NEW WAY

DC's economic development engine enables jobs to be created, infrastructure to be updated and greater investments to be targeted to our neighborhoods. After a visit to Wall Street, the Administration reported that the District's bond rating went up, proving that our economy and governance is on the right track. March Madness revved our economic engine and moved us down that track even faster.

- Created **OurRFP**, a first of its kind initiative that engages residents in large-scale development projects so that their views are heard before development partners are sought.
- Launched **CompeteDC** to allow small businesses the opportunity to leverage the District's local procurement power, leveling the playing field for businesses of all sizes.
- Restructured development projects to better serve the residents of DC. Several large-scale, multi-use projects were opened up for development, including: **Truxton Circle (Ward 5), Waterfront Station (Ward 6), Capitol Vista (Ward 6), Parcel 42 (Ward 6), and the Anacostia Gateway (Ward 8)**. Through these projects and others, we expect to create thousands of affordable housing units and job opportunities for DC residents.
- Signed an agreement allowing for the revitalization of **Hill East in Ward 7**, creating permanent jobs, expanding affordable housing options, and adding vibrancy to the neighborhood.
- Put **DC Streetcar** back on track by commissioning an American Public Transportation Association study to identify issues and a check list that will allow us to open before 2016.
- Secured a final agreement between the District government and **DC United** that clears the way for our team to locate a new soccer stadium at Buzzard Point in Southwest Washington.





## MARCH & APRIL: PATHWAYS TO THE MIDDLE CLASS TOUR

### STATE OF THE DISTRICT

#### Laying Out Our Shared Values

Mayor Bowser delivered her first State of the District Address on March 31st at the Historic Lincoln Theater on U Street, as our country recognized the 150th anniversary of the assassination of President Lincoln. The speech culminated Mayor Bowser's **Pathways to the Middle Class Tour**, an effort to bring people together to find ways to expand opportunities. And the Administration moved the ball forward on a number of priority areas:

- **Getting the basics right** - Launched the 7th Annual PotholePalooza, filling 31,577 potholes in a one month period, a nearly 135% increase from the previous year's PotholePalooza. The DC Department of Transportation received and responded to residents and commuter requests via the Mayor's Call Center at 311, Twitter, emails to the Service Request Center, the Waze app, and the 311 smartphone app.
- **Focusing on our youngest residents** - Launched the Early Learning Quality Improvement Network (QIN) to provide high-quality early learning and development services for the District's infants, toddlers and families in day care centers across the city.
- **Creating quality middle schools** - Announced a \$17 million investment in middle schools that will improve educational enrichment activities like summer programming, international travel and athletics.
- **Transforming workforce training** - Launched the L.E.A.P. Academy (previously referred to as the DGS Academy) which trains District residents by putting them in entry-level DC Government jobs, like building maintenance and document management.
- **Ending homelessness** - Shifted resources to hire new housing navigators, people whose sole mission is to identify and secure housing for families in need. So far in 2015, 299 families exited from the emergency shelter system into safe, affordable housing, a 65 percent increase compared to last year.
- **Creating opportunities** - Established the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity (DMGEO), which will lead our efforts to create pathways to the middle class for those who are seeking employment or want to start or grow a business. The DMGEO's new office is located at 2235 Shannon Place, SE.





## BUDGET

### Prioritizing Those Values

On April 2, Mayor Bowser submitted her first budget. The Fiscal Year 2016 budget reflects the values and priorities expressed by residents in churches, grocery stores and doorsteps in every ward.

### Neighborhoods

The Mayor fulfilled her pledge to preserve and create affordable housing, by investing \$100 million in the **Housing Production Trust Fund** in FY2016. The District will invest \$132.7 million in pools, recreation centers, and parks over the next six years. In addition, the District will spend \$52.5 million for tree planting, greenspace management, trails, and bicycle & pedestrian improvements.



### Education

Our schools are on an upward trajectory, but we know we can do more. That is why the Mayor is accelerating reform.

- An additional \$31.4 million for increased enrollment in traditional public schools and public charter schools
- \$20 million designated over three years for the **Empowering Males of Color** initiative at DCPS
- \$76 million over six years for **neighborhood libraries**
- Advanced \$185 million by two years for a **new, central library**
- And invested \$7 million to expand the **Kids Ride Free program to Metrorail** from the Mayor's bus fare program

### Public Safety

Our Police Chief, our new Fire & EMS Chief and brave first responders protect our public safety. We will build on Fire & EMS' success and fix what isn't working.

- \$5 million for 2,800 **body worn cameras** for patrol officers in the next 18 months, pending Council action to restore full funding
- \$2.9 million on a civilianization program so sworn officers can perform policing duties, instead of more administrative tasks
- An \$80.8 million investment in **new Fire & EMS equipment** over the next six years to replace aging and outdated equipment



## Economic Opportunity & Jobs

Although our city has one of the strongest economies in the country, not every resident is benefitting from our success. We need to ensure that EVERYONE has an opportunity to succeed.

- Invested \$3.4 million in the **Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program** for wage increases and transportation benefits
- Invested a \$23 million down payment to transform our homeless services system so that homelessness is **rare, brief and non-recurring**. This is in addition to \$40 million in the capital budget to begin the replacement of DC General
- An additional \$1.5 million to expand career services for high school students with disabilities

## Sustainability & Resilience: Infrastructure and the Environment

Washington is the economic hub of the region, but we need to invest in our infrastructure to meet the needs of tomorrow.

- Funded the DC commitment to Metro at \$373.2 million, with no service cuts or fare increases
- Invested nearly \$175 million over the next six years to improve our local roads, alleys and sidewalks, including \$4 million for **AlleyPalooza**, a summer program to reconstruct and repair alleys in all eight wards across the city
- Committed to rightsizing the **DC Streetcar** program and getting the H Street line running - and eventually extend the line to connect Benning Road to Georgetown
- Funded new Circulator buses to support new lines, including new routes on the National Mall
- Announced a \$5 million investment for the intersection of **Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X Avenues, SE** to improve the safety of the intersection, the first Vision Zero site in the District
- Hosted first-ever **Waste Summit on Earth Day**





## MAY

### LAYING THE GROUNDWORK FOR INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS



During May—or innoMAYtion, as the Mayor dubbed it—the Bowser Administration pioneered a month-long initiative to spur innovative programs that create jobs, engage residents and create pathways to the middle class. With a focus on various sectors, including the arts, transportation and technology, innoMAYtion demonstrated that this Administration tackles challenges head-on.

- Partnered with Howard University to create **DC's first Technology and Innovation Hub**, which will expand the District's growing technology and innovation ecosystem
- Launched "**District Innovation Zones**" (DIZ), a unique program developed to activate locales across the District to test new ideas, conceptual art projects, and technologies
- Announced the **Innovate DC Special Arts Initiative**, which offers one-time grants up to \$100,000 to District-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts and community-based organizations. The program has already awarded more than \$1 million to 15 District-based arts organizations
- Appointed the District's **first-ever Director of Technology Innovation**, a position created to close the innovation gap, use technology to stimulate job creation, and improve access to innovative solutions to serve the District's most overlooked communities
- Joined 1776, a DC-based global technology incubator, to kick off a groundbreaking pilot program. This program will provide high-potential, low-income high school graduates with training opportunities for jobs in the digital economy

*In regards to the Technology and Innovation Hub, former DC Mayor Anthony Williams added, "With this announcement, Mayor Bowser is taking a major step forward in supporting the District's tech and innovative sector and providing greater job opportunities for DC residents."*



*Mayor Bowser: "My Administration is working to make sure every District resident has the opportunity to embrace emerging and high-end technology as we create more pathways to the middle class."*

- Hosted a **Hack-a-thon and Policy Jam**, a full-day event that brought together civic hackers, transportation experts and residents to develop innovative solutions to DC's transportation challenges.
- Announced Pigmental Studios new headquarters on the campus of Gallaudet University.
- Joined the DC Public Library and representatives from Google to create two new innovation spaces at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library that will expose District residents to cutting-edge technologies, which could lead to new entrepreneurial opportunities.
- Helped to launch the Aspen Institute Center for Innovation, which aims to bridge the gap between innovators and underserved neighborhoods.

Following the unrest and unsettling events in Baltimore, the Mayor took to social media platforms to engage our young people in the **#IWishUKnew digital engagement campaign**, designed to foster a dialogue between young residents and the faith community, law enforcement, businesses and others. District youth shared their thoughts using #IWishUKnew.

The Mayor continued her **Audacity of Hope program** with 110 young men of color from across the city - challenging them via Google Hangout to help us create opportunities for their peers.





## JUNE

### KICKING OFF A FRESH SUMMER



DC Government's commitment to young people doesn't start in September and end in May. We are committed to youth education and development 365 days a year. After schools let out, the Bowser Administration launched the **F.R.E.S.H. Summer initiative**. We provided city-wide summer programming so that DC residents of all ages have a safe, productive, and rewarding summer.

- Announced nine new Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) camp offerings, including coding, engineering, ballet and martial arts. In addition, DC Public Schools launched a new Summer Bridge program for 9th graders, and DC Public Libraries announced a Google Maker Camp, which hosted approximately 1,600 participants. Nearly 4,000 children enrolled in 86 DPR camps across the District.
- Because we know that health and nutrition are paramount to kids' well-being, the Bowser Administration kicked off the **DC Free Summer Meals Program**. Through this effort, all kids and teens 18 years of age and younger can receive free meals at hundreds of locations across all eight wards: no questions asked, and no parents required.
- More than 500 employers across the District signed up to host nearly 15,000 young people for the **Mayor Marion S. Barry Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP)**, a six-week internship that provides valuable, real-life work experience. While SYEP serves District youth of various demographic and education backgrounds, 61 percent of participants come from Wards 7 and 8, where the unemployment rate and the opportunity gaps are the highest. For the first time ever, the Bowser Administration expanded the program to include **1,000 youth ages 22-24**, and are connecting them to an array of job search services.





- Given the recent spike in synthetic drug overdoses - and their threat to public safety - Mayor Bowser **introduced emergency legislation and launched a bold new strategy to get these drugs off the streets.** MPD created one centralized, citywide drug unit under the Narcotics and Special Investigations Division, and created a Criminal Interdiction Unit to keep DC at the forefront of crime prevention and law enforcement.



- Established a **Community Stabilization Protocol**, harnessing the energy and bandwidth of a dozen agencies to provide support to the families of violent crime victims, in order to engage the community in finding a solution to violence and bringing an end to retaliation.
- Hosted four **4th of July FreshFest block parties** across the city to offer family-friendly fun and safe events for residents across DC.
- Announced a bold goal of **90-90-90-50 by the year 2020:** meaning 90 percent of DC residents with HIV will know their status, 90 percent of persons living with HIV will be in treatment, 90 percent of persons with HIV will achieve viral load

suppression, and the District will see a 50 percent decrease in new HIV cases. The DC Government is collaborating with DC Appleseed Center and other community partners to develop a plan - rooted in data and proven methods - to combat HIV more effectively in the District.



Lt. Kevin McRae

Nov. 22, 1970 - May 6, 2015



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

**John A. Wilson Building**  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**Let us know how we can better work together to move the city forward.**

Follow @TeamMuriel on Twitter for the latest news and information from the Bowser Administration.

Check out [www.dc.gov](http://www.dc.gov) for the latest on DC Government events, programs and services.

Call 311 to request city services and information.

For constituent issues, call the Mayor's Office of Community Affairs at 202-442-8150.

Head to [www.fitdc.com](http://www.fitdc.com) to find your ward's FitDC coach for helpful exercise and healthy living tips.

**Help us reach our goal of One Billion Steps!**