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DC

How the First Lady Could Really Help the City

By Rudolph A. Pyatt Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton continues to be an effective advocate for the District, articulating the need to rebuild its infrastructure and repair its economic fabric.

Recently, she urged Congress to approve an additional $100 million in federal funds for the District next year. As she explained last week, the president included the extra $100 million in his proposed budget for fiscal 1999. The money would be spent on economic development and a Metro station at the proposed site of the new convention center at Mount Vernon Square.

No first lady in recent memory has shown as much interest in District matters, especially in those relating to its economic well-being. But the District's economy and its financial health are more fragile than Mrs. Clinton and the president seem to realize.

Moreover, those advising the president on District issues don't seem to have a clue as to the city's underlying problems and how they have evolved.

Granted, the White House played a crucial role last year in helping the District avert financial collapse by putting together a rescue package that included a federal takeover of some city functions. But the city was forced to give up the long-standing annual federal payment in exchange for the government's assumption of responsibility for some D.C. government functions.

That initiative by the White House provided solutions to some of the District's more pressing fiscal problems. But an emergency rescue package and an occasional $100 million contribution from the federal government can't possibly solve the more serious long-term problem: declining revenue.

Simply put, the District needs more permanent and reliable sources of revenue to offset the loss of jobs, businesses, population and tax revenue.

The president should at least push for restoration of the federal payment, based on a percentage of locally generated revenue or some other formula. The last federal payment, in fiscal 1997, was $665.7 million, or about 20 percent of all revenue raised in the District, according to the D.C. Tax Revision Commission.

Even as the president seeks a $100 million contribution for the District, there are disturbing signs that the city's economy still isn't generating the kind of growth that will improve revenue.

Job growth between February and March of this year showed a slight improvement over the previous month-to-month period. But between March 1997 and March 1998, job growth in the District was a minus 1.2 percent, with increases occurring only in manufacturing, services and finance, insurance and real estate. Even so, growth in each of those sectors was less than 1 percent for the period.

The District's economy lost 4,300 jobs between January 1997 and January 1998, according to the D.C. Department of Employment Services.

And if that wasn't bad enough, consider the fact that the National Association of Securities Dealers is contemplating moving from the District some of the 600 jobs it has here, and perhaps its headquarters.

Another temporary federal aid package won't make up for the economic loss that would result from such a move.

Serious management problems, waste and a bloated bureaucracy figured prominently in the District's recent fiscal crisis. But, given the extent of erosion in the tax base that began with the loss of business and population at least 30 years ago, a fiscal meltdown was inevitable.

Other cities can at least rely on receiving their share of revenue from their respective states as supplements to locally generated funds. Moreover, unlike state governments, the District is prohibited by Congress from taxing the income of nonresident workers.

Although not as onerous as that ban, depriving the District of the federal payment is just as punitive.

If the first lady truly wants to be an advocate for the District, perhaps she will consider some recommendations contained in the D.C. Tax Revision Commission's recent report to the mayor and D.C. Council.

The federal government can provide "revenue certainty" to the District by making a payment in lieu of taxes for federally owned buildings and on properties that the government has exempted, the commission suggested. The commission also further recommended that there be a federal payment based on some formula if the government refuses to lift the ban on taxing nonresident income.

A recent recommendation by D.C. Appleseed, a nonprofit public interest group, is equally compelling. D.C. Appleseed suggests that the District is economically dependent upon the federal government. Thus, the organization recommends that a federal agency be required to prepare an impact statement before it is allowed to move from the District.

If Mrs. Clinton is truly interested in being an advocate for the District, she should consider those recommendations and lobby for their acceptance by the president and Congress.

The Washington Post
Monday, May 11, 1998

Minnesota Settlement A Letdown For Jurors

By Richard Chin
Knight Ridder

ST. PAUL, Minn.—It could be called a case of 12 frustrated jurors.

Although the $6.6 billion settlement Friday between the tobacco companies and Minnesota and insurance company Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota freed the tobacco trial jurors in time for Mother's Day and Minnesota's fishing opener, jurors expressed disappointment they didn't get a chance to decide the case that has preoccupied their lives for more than three months.

"We went through a long, long process here and we didn't get closure," complained Dorothy Hallen, 44, a cosmetologist from St. Paul, at a news conference.

The announcement that the state and Blue Cross and Blue Shield had reached a settlement with the tobacco companies on the day the case would have gone to the jury prompted one panel member to burst into tears in apparent frustration.

Hallen said the jurors felt as if they were at a wake as they sorted through their emotions at the end of the case.

Juror Jill Burton said the settlement announcement was like having "the carpet pulled out from under you."

"I wish we could have made a decision," said Burton, 37, a legal secretary from Mounds View, Minn. "I'm confident we would have made the right decision."

David Olson, 47, a single father from White Bear Lake, Minn., said his only income during the trial was the $30 a day he got for jury duty. The estimator and project manager for a plumbing and heating contractor said he lost about $13,000 in earnings, missing house and credit card payments.

"For me and my two daughters, it was a real hardship," Olson said.

The five jurors who attended the news conference only hinted at which way the verdict would have gone.

Several said they would have liked to hear the plaintiff's closing arguments.

James Otis, 32, of Maplewood, Minn., an assistant manager at Rainbow Foods grocery store, said he was "disturbed" and "shocked" at documents entered into evidence that he said indicated tobacco companies might be marketing to teenagers.

Burton said she saw "some incriminating evidence." But while tobacco companies studied trends among teenagers, she said, she didn't see an actual plan to market to underage consumers.

"I don't think they necessarily wanted underage [smokers]. The later documents warned against it," she said.

But Otis said, "If you're not marketing to them, why do you want to know what they're doing? Why research them if you're not marketing to them?"

Some jurors said the trial affected their personal relationship with tobacco.

Olson said he was trying to give up the habit he began when he was 18, but the stress of the trial made it too difficult. He said he'll try again.

The Washington Post
Monday, May 11, 1998

file D.C.

GREATER DC CARES

CHANGING LIVES THROUGH VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Greater Washington Business Philanthropy Summit
Greater D.C. Cares'
Proposed Follow-up Programs

I. Goals

The Business Philanthropy Summit '98 was an unqualified success, measured by the number of regional top executives that attended, the quality of the program, the media attention, and the participation of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton as keynote speaker. The response from the corporate community to this call to action has been incredible. To date, over 125 area business leaders have returned a Corporate Commitment Card to Greater D.C. Cares requesting assistance in becoming more involved in the community.

A task force consisting of Greater D.C. Cares' board members has had initial follow-up discussions with these business leaders to explore their areas of interest and to determine their current level of community activity. It is clear from these discussions that there is a sincere intention to become more effectively engaged, but there is a pervasive lack of knowledge about community needs. Business leaders are generally unaware of excellent programs currently in place to meet these needs. More technical support and community education must be given to these businesses before they will be able to give to the community in a meaningful way.

Greater D.C. Cares' goals are:

- To foster the momentum created in the business community and to help businesses raise their level of corporate volunteerism and support;
- To expand and enhance Greater D.C. Cares' Business Shares program to provide consulting to businesses that want to develop and manage a corporate volunteer program;
- To encourage businesses to raise their level of financial and in-kind support;
- To raise awareness of community-based organizations and their programs;
- To help match executives interested in board leadership with community-based organizations;

1201 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 150, Washington, DC 20005 202-289-7378 FAX 202-289-4108

II. Strategy:

The Business Philanthropy Summit was attended by 322 regional business executives. To date over 125 businesses have returned a Corporate Commitment Card to Greater D.C. Cares. Following is a response breakdown:

*Interest Breakdown of Returned Commitment Cards As of 5/20/98	
Just help me get engaged	37%
Corporate Volunteerism	35%
Board Level Leadership/Loaned Executive Program	25%
Partnerships with Community Organizations	23%
In-kind Giving	13%
Strategic Giving	11%

*Many checked more than one response

Follow-up calls to the business leaders responding have given the Greater D.C. Cares task force a strong indication that businesses need more assistance in defining their commitments to the community. It is clear that community education is needed. Businesses need a very broad overview of community needs and several vehicles for funneling their resources to the community.

It is also evident to the Greater D.C. Cares staff that community-based organizations need training and support to build their capacity to use corporate volunteers efficiently. Greater D.C. Cares can serve as the broker between interested businesses and community-based organizations in need of volunteers.

III. Program

Business Forums: Greater D.C. Cares will host a series of forums, panel discussions, and workshops for area businesses. Peer-to-peer presentations will provide concrete examples of strategic philanthropy. Greater D.C. Cares will present guidelines for developing a corporate volunteer program, using the training materials developed from the Hitachi study. The Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers and the Community Foundation of the National Capital Region have expressed interest in developing a program component to foster corporate giving.

Site sessions: Greater D.C. Cares will replicate site visits to select community organizations, developed by the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers for the National Council of Foundations meeting last April. This will provide an opportunity for business executives to learn more about community-based organizations. Community organizations will be selected based on their readiness to partner with business.

Corporate Newsletter: Greater D.C. Cares will publish a quarterly newsletter to businesses highlighting success stories, pointing out critical community needs, and providing useful "how to" information.

Community Organization Conference: Greater D.C. Cares will host a conference to support community organizations that are interested in building capacity to use corporate volunteers. Greater D. C. Cares will use the training materials and lessons learned in the Hitachi Study to present models which can be effectively replicated. Participating community-based organizations and businesses will have an opportunity to discuss the successes and challenges of partnering.

Second Annual Business Philanthropy Summit and *Guide*. Throughout the year, the *Washington Business Journal* will publish articles updating business philanthropy in the community. Contemporaneously with the Second Annual Business Philanthropy Summit tentatively scheduled for March 4, 1998, the *Washington Business Journal* will again publish the *Greater Washington Business Philanthropy Guide*, which will serve as a valuable measurement tool of progress in the community. Citing success stories, highlighting meaningful partnerships, and providing additional options for businesses to give back to the community, the annual Business Philanthropy Summit and *Guide* will help to sustain the momentum.

THE WASHINGTON POST COMPANY

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ALAN G. SPOON
President

January 15, 1996

Ms. Beth Dosoretz
Options HealthCare, Inc.
240 Corporate Boulevard
Norfolk, VA 23502

Dear Beth:

Below is the list we discussed. I'd be glad to discuss shortening it if you would like.

1. **<u>Business and Community Organizations</u>**

   Kenneth R. Sparks -- Executive Vice President of the Federal City Council, a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to projects which would benefit the nation's capital. Mr. Sparks is also an Executive Committee member of the Greater Washington Research Center of Washington and a National Capital Development Corporation member.

   John R. Tydings -- President of the Greater Washington Board of Trade, a large business group representing roughly 2,000 firms in the region. Mr. Tydings is also an Executive Committee member of the Greater Washington Research Center of Washington.

2. **<u>City Finances</u>**

   Alice M. Rivlin

   Carol O'Cleireacain -- Director of Brookings Institution's D.C. Revenue Project, a study researching city finances for the D.C. Financial Control Board. Ms. O'Cleireacain is also the former Budget Director and Finance Commissioner for The City of New York.

H. Beecher Hicks, Jr. -- Senior Minister of the Metropolitan Baptist Church in Northwest Washington and President of Kerygma Associates, a religious consulting service. Reverend Hicks is also co-chair of the American Baptist Ministers Council of D.C. and a member of the board for the Council for Court Excellence.

6. **Education and Other**

Floretta Dukes MacKenzie -- Founder of the MacKenzie Group and a director of numerous boards including WETA, Riggs National Corporation, Howard University, Marriott Corporation and Pepco. She is also a member of the Visiting Committee for the University of Maryland, College Park. Ms. MacKenzie was Superintendent of the District of Columbia Schools from 1981 to 1988 and has served as Deputy Assistant to the Secretary, U.S. Department of Education.

H. Patrick Swygert -- President of Howard University and former President of the State University of New York at Albany.

Best regards,

Alan

AS:wjb

3. **Business Executives**

Terrence C. Golden -- Chief Executive Officer of Host Marriott Corporation and Chairman of Reality Corporation and former administrator of the General Services Administration. Mr. Golden is also the former co-chairman of the D.C. Commission on Public Education and remains actively involved in educational issues and projects.

Delano Eugene Lewis -- President and Chief Executive Officer of National Public Radio and former president and CEO of C & P Telephone of Washington. Mr. Lewis is also former president of the Greater Washington Board of Trade and a board member of the Eugene and Agnes Meyer Foundation.

4. **Philanthropic Activities**

Julie Rogers -- President of the Eugene and Agnes E. Meyer Foundation, one of the community's largest and most influential private foundations. Ms. Rogers is also Chair Emeritus of the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers, a network of private, corporate and community foundations.

Harriet M. Ivey -- Vice President, Community Relations of Fannie Mae and Senior Vice President and Executive Director of Fannie Mae Foundation, whose primary mission is to support national and local non-profit organizations working to provide decent and affordable housing in communities throughout the U.S. Ms. Ivey is also Chairwoman of the Washington Regional Association of Grantmakers.

5. **Religious Leadership**

Reverend Wallace Charles Smith -- Since 1991, Reverend Smith has been pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church in Northwest Washington, whose congregation is the largest or second-largest in the city. Reverend Smith is a member of the Executive Board of the Chester Branch of the NAACP and had been pastor of the outreach ministry at Nashville's First Baptist Church and a professor at Vanderbilt University.

Letters
CATHOLIC STANDARD

Readers respond to the impeachment controversy

'Pharisees' on Capitol Hill

As we enter the new year with Congress focusing on moral leadership and the call to pass judgment, two parables from the Bible seem appropriate. *Luke 18:9-14* says that the publican who admitted to being a sinner was justified rather than the Pharisee who proudly reminded God that he was not a dishonest adulterer.

In *John 8:1-11*, Jesus asked that whoever is without sin cast the first stone at the woman caught in adultery. Everyone walked away (hopefully not to resign from their jobs). The Republicans seem to understand the first part of this parable – a sinner can't lead others in stone throwing at another sinner. But the main point of the parable is what Jesus said after the accusers left: "Neither will I condemn thee. Go thy way, and from now on, sin no more."

I hope that in the new year, the Republicans will redefine themselves, turning from being Pharisees to becoming Re-publicans, once again showing honest humility as the publican did. True morality comes from within and is not imposed on others by self-righteous people.

Theresa Knudson
Washington

Investigation went too far

I am a senior citizen from Temple Hills. Recently, I was sent a questionnaire asking me if I think Kenneth Starr went "too far by spending $40 million of our tax money on this (presidential) investigation?" Yes, I do. Too much time and money went into this investigation. That money could have gone to some of our health programs, such as Medicare, Medicaid or the Social Security retirement fund, just to name a few.

Many of us are trying to make ends meet, myself included. Being 83 years old and on a fixed income for the past several years, I have been trying to make ends meet on less than $900 per month, so after working in the hot sun on a farm in St. Mary's County, working from sun up to sun down for so many years, I'm sure you can understand my anger over a $40 million investigation.

Starr would not have looked so bad if he had spent millions of dollars trying to prove something of a violent nature or even a criminal charge against the president, then the money spent would have been worth it. He did not prove this, from where I'm sitting. The most Starr has shown the American people is that the president could be charged with a "he said, she said," sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky. This truth would not amount to anything more than an adulterous affair by a politician who committed a mortal sin, if there is such a term recorded in the Constitution.

I don't know if President Clinton is guilty or not of what he is accused of doing, but if the president has broken one of the Ten Commandments, he should confess his sins to God and ask for forgiveness. I understand that he has already done this. Since the president has confessed and has been released of any such sins, both by the majority of his peers and the almighty God, it's time for (House Judiciary Committee) Chairman Henry Hyde to come clean with the public and tell the reason why he and other members from both parties are so determined on having this great leader impeached.

Victor Holt
Temple Hills

CNS PHOTO FROM REUTERS

A woman reads President John F. Kennedy's *Profiles in Courage* as she demonstrates with others against the impeachment of President Clinton Dec. 19.

'Weep for your children'

I was recently asked by a colleague to reflect on my high school students' reactions to the impeachment saga ceaselessly unfolding before their eyes 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Media saturation has certainly managed to turn sin into soap. How do our young people react to this less-than-shining moment of national history? I believe that the reality is that they hardly react at all.

They have become desensitized. They are at too young an age (to become) soul-weary foot soldiers in modern America. They are numbed by the constant barrage of amoral behavior that surrounds those adults elected to model the virtues of public service.

This is not to say that our teen-agers are apathetic or without passion. Ask them about the recent floods in Honduras and their relief efforts on behalf of the victims. Witness the tons of food collected throughout our schools on behalf of the homeless and hungry. Sit in on a peer mentoring session. These young people are resurrected. They are full of opinions and passion and purpose.

Ask them whether or not they feel the president of the United States should be impeached. Some will offer a half-hearted defense or condemnation of the president or of the prosecutor or of the media. Most of the kids will simply offer you that glazed look that says, "Here we go again." The fact is that this sad spectacle holds no great moral lesson that keeps them riveted to their televisions. Good for them. There are no heroes or even conspicuously good guys who will emerge victorious from this story. There is no Daniel slaying the lion or young David besting a Goliath ... It is at best a tacky remake of Sodom and Gomorrah.

The real question is how can a young person in this country at the tender age of 15 or 16 years old demonstrate the same battle fatigue syndrome as the soldier on the front lines. The syndrome shows itself at some single moment in the mindless horror of war. The mind says enough, and simply shuts down to what is going on around it. What have we done to this generation of our children? Why have we abandoned them?

As parents we would crawl through a mine field to rescue our children from danger. Why are we not showing bold and equal courage in rescuing them from the danger of believing that what is going on in the White House is really not a big thing and is being blown out of all proportion? How does one blow mortal sin out of proportion? Why aren't we preaching from our pulpits and classrooms and religious education classes that an absence of fidelity and honor and truthfulness in anyone is a sin. In those we elect as leaders, it is a public and moral tragedy of grave consequence.

I want our young people to be angry, and to seek out opportunity for responsible discourse on issues of morality and public trust. I want them to awake from their sleep, and know that the Christian standards for how we are to live are alive and well. Just as we teach and model right judgment, responsibility and honor, so perhaps must we demonstrate righteous and just anger when those values have been betrayed by those in whom we have placed our public and collective trust.

There is too much at stake to ever allow our children to become numb to sin. As their parents, teachers, mentors and friends we must arise from our own slumber, and waken them to the reality that it is not the media or daytime television or the *Washington Post* that dictates the positions that we must take in response to the evil that surrounds us.

It is a far more fundamental authority that must guide us. It is the tenets of our faith and of God's commandments. Rather than lament the passivity of our young people to the scandals which envelop their leaders, we must rouse ourselves and – without reservation or concern for political correctness – tell them the truth.

A Christian life cannot turn away from that which is wrong, but must seek to be an instrument for good over evil. That even at great personal risk, we must speak out against that which is wrong. That is what has made this country great – ordinary people not being afraid to speak to our children about honor and dignity and truth. The final and ultimate litmus test is always the question "What would Jesus do?"

I think Jesus would seek every opportunity to preach the Good News that virtue and dignity and honor and truth is alive and well in the hearts and lives of most Americans. We just need to begin giving people of virtue the same by-lines and media coverage as we do those who disgrace us. The behavior of our president has been morally reprehensible. It's the truth, a sad and humiliating truth. Now we must take that truth and use it as a teaching moment for our young people. We must teach and model for our children that there are, in fact, many things in life to be frightened of, but the truth must never be one of them.

Heather Gossart,
president, Bishop McNamara High School,
Forestville

[Catholic Standard, January 7, 1999]

Prayer breakfast

From page 1

and praise for the incoming administration.

Cardinal James Hickey delivered the opening prayer and called upon God to "bless the District of Columbia, our home and our nation's capital, bless Mayor Anthony Williams as he begins the work of leading, guiding and serving our community."

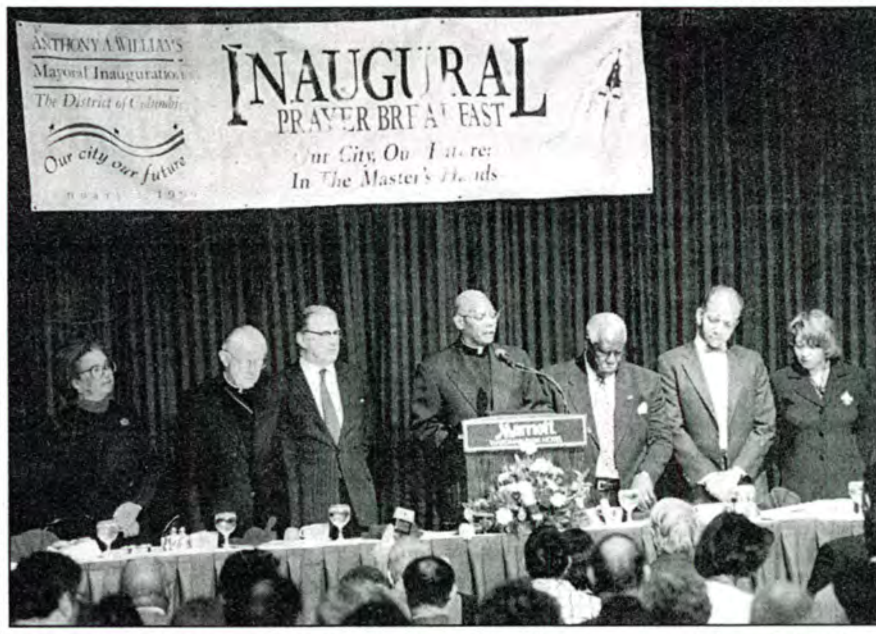
During the breakfast – with its theme, "Our City, Our Future: In the Master's Hands," Williams was seated next to his wife, Diane Simmons Williams and joined on the dias by about one dozen national and local dignitaries, including Cardinal Hickey and Msgr. Russell Dillard, pastor of St. Augustine Church. Williams, who is Catholic, attends the Northwest parish.

"Under the mayor's leadership and with the cooperation of this entire community, may our great city grow and flourish and become a model for other cities in our land," the cardinal said. "May it shine proudly as our nation's capital, as a center of culture, of education and of commerce. May it always be a safe home for families and children...Enable our District to stand as a place of true religious liberty, and a community which respects human life and truly cares for those who are in need."

In brief remarks at the end of the program, Williams, wearing his now famous trademark bow-tie, made reference to the nuns who taught him at Holy Name Catholic School while growing up in Los Angeles. The 47-year-old new chief official said they often stamped on his report card, "Needs Improvement."

The Harvard-educated adopted son of postal workers, Williams jokingly told parents in the audience that his response is: "There is hope after all the care and nurturing you are providing."

CS PHOTO BY MICHAEL HOYT



Msgr. Russell Dillard, center, pastor of St. Augustine Church, N.W., delivers the invocation during new District Mayor Anthony Williams' Inaugural Prayer Breakfast, held Saturday at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, N.W. From left to right are Marian Wright Edelman, president of the Children's Defense Fund; Cardinal James Hickey; B. Francis Saul II, president of Chevy Chase Bank and the chairman of the prayer breakfast committee; Msgr. Dillard; Walter Washington, first District mayor; Anthony Williams and his wife Diane Simmons Williams.

On a serious note, Williams said, "We are moving to becoming a the city of the celestial, not just the terrestrial...We can't just have the most efficiently-run city government. If we don't have community, we don't have that foundation."

He urged community leaders to help him bring the city "together, work together and build that city with a guiding star."

Earlier in the celebration, Williams' mother, Virginia, sang an emotional rendition of the Lord's Prayer, followed by several other musical interludes, Scripture readings and remarks by various religious and political leaders.

Former mayor Walter Washington, the District's first elected mayor, called the inaugural celebration, a "special day in the history of the District. This is a new era, a new leader who brings hope to our city."

He described Williams, who formerly served as the city's chief financial officer, as not only a "leader in restoring the city to fiscal responsibility, but one who brings competence, confidence and integrity to the table."

Ron Jackson, executive director of the D.C. Catholic Conference, attended the prayer breakfast, as well. He described the ecumenical event as "a good way to begin the new mayor's tenure, in the tradition of recognizing that it is through faith that the community is sustained."

Rev. H. Beecher Hicks, pastor of the Metropolitan Baptist Church, impassionedly used the analogy of Moses leading his people, to urge Williams "to speak for the common people."

Jackson also said city residents and community leaders need to be supportive of the mayor in his future efforts. "I think he (Williams) was saying, 'It won't just be me, and I'll need others to help me in leading," Jackson said, adding he hopes the new mayor "will see the faith community as one that will help bridge the gaps and heal the issues of divisiveness."

Prior to beginning his outsider campaign for mayor last year, Williams served for three years as the city's chief financial officer appointed by the congressionally mandated D.C. control board, which since 1995 has managed most of the District's services. Williams, who succeeds Marion Barry's almost two-decade mayoral administration, is credited with restoring much of the city's fiscal stability. As of last week, the control board had turned over to the incoming mayor most aspects of the city's day-to-day management.

During his inaugural address, delivered at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, Williams laid out his vision for the nation's capital.

"Our citizens deserve the best city in America. The very best. That means strong schools, safe streets, clean communities, affordable housing and reliable transportation," he told 2,000 attendees. "...Most of all, being the best means putting our bodies and souls in motion – empowering men, women and children of all communities to come together, to work together to succeed together, to make this the best city on earth."

In addition to assuring a "back to basics" approach to city services, he called on District residents to look to the city's young people as "our future and our focus... (In my family) as in most families, we were taught to see the grace of God in every child's face. But in the cold reality of America's cities, we have been forced to learn the bitter lesson that we are diminished as a people when our children suffer and despair."

The District's greatest challenge, he said, "is the fate of our children... (It is) the final and best measure of whether anything we do is actually worth the effort. We must save the children."

[Catholic Standard, January 7, 1999]