



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

OFFICE ON LATINO AFFAIRS



Muriel Bowser
Mayor

Jackie Reyes
Director

OLA FRESH START
February 27th 2015

Dear DC Latino Community,

Can you believe it! It has been already two months of Mayor Muriel Bowser’s Freshstart Administration. I would like to share the great accomplishments of the Mayor Bowser’s vision for the Latino community under my leadership as the Director of the Office on Latino Affairs (OLA).



We started on Mayor Bowser’s commitment to provide stellar constituent services by having a diverse staff; which includes different country backgrounds, age groups, and sexual orientation that represent the DC Latino community.

Then we followed up with OLA’s Freshstart Open House on January 28th 2015 at the OLA’s office located in the Frank D. Reeves Building where Mayor Muriel Bowser greeted more than 400 constituents. At this event, guests had the opportunity to network with DC Government Directors and Leaders from local Non-Profit Organizations. We had the pleasure to be joined by At-Large Council Member Elissa Silverman and Ward 1 Council Member Brianne Nadeau. We shared an evening of Latin American folklore and tasty food.



Next we aligned OLA’s mission with Mayor’s Muriel Bowser priorities as continue:

Education and Workforce Development; our office has started to recruit 50 Latino professionals to collaborate with the Mayor’s initiative of Empowering Male of Color. Also, I met with the Regional Alliance Students and Professionals (RASP) Conference where I learned the different needs of the students in Washington DC. After reviewing the rates of enrollment, graduation and drop outs, I have made Education one of my priorities in order to reduce the education gap in our community. I am convinced that empowering our community is a big step to move the District forward; We have continued supporting our families through the food bank distribution. We have partnered with LULAC, Verizon, and



Columbia Heights Educational Campus to launch the STEM Explorers Program. I coordinated a small job fair in partnership with Career Path where three members of the community were hired. OLA continues to support the education of our youth by giving them the opportunity to intern at our office.

Health, Community Development, and Small Business; During early January I met with over 100 Latino business owners to express commitment to support small business development and make sure DC Government is an enabler of opportunity, not an obstacle. In partnership with the Collaborative Solutions for Communities we have established a partnership to execute different soccer tournaments in Ward 1 and Ward 4 to keep youth away from the street. Our office participated in a partnership agreement with Mary's Center and Collaborated with DC Health Link to engage community partners to deliver better health services, educate Latino residents about critical health issues, and providing direct health-related assistance to at risk underserved Latinos. We partnered with Safeway and RASP to give out clothing to 150 Latino families to help them with job interviews. Also, I met with different Latino Non-Profits, such as Neighbor's Consejo; Teatro Gala; Casa Iris; and Vida Senior Center. OLA continues our commitment to the LGBT community by taking an active role in the LGBT Latino Task Force monthly meeting.



Immigration; Mayor Muriel Bowser joined Mayors from across the country, by joining a Mayoral Coalition to file Amicus Brief in support of President Obama's Executive Action on Immigration Reform.



Mayors Bill de Blasio of New York City and Eric Garcetti of Los Angeles announce plans by more than 30 Mayors to file an amicus brief in the Texas vs. United States lawsuit to support President Obama's recent Executive Action on Immigration Reform. The brief opposes a lawsuit pending in Brownsville, TX brought by states seeking to block President Obama's Immigration Reform efforts. OLA partnered with the Consulate of El Salvador to facilitate the renewal of their TPS-Temporary Protected Status. OLA hosted an event to promote this program and we had a lot of Salvadorians who have benefited from this event.

Good Government Relations; OLA testified at the FY 15 Performance hearing chaired by Councilmember Anita Bonds. OLA worked to smoothly maintain continued funding of their grantees and their programs after the transition under new leadership. I also met with the Director of the DMV, Lucinda Babers, Fire Chief, Eugene Jones, and DCRA staff to discuss the Language Access program and enhanced ways to better serve and reach out to the DC Latino Community.

Communications; OLA has been active and proactive with major Latino media outlets such as [Univision](#), [Telemundo](#), [Washington Hispanic Newspaper](#), [Tiempo Latino Newspaper](#), [El Imparcial Newspaper](#), [DC Contigo](#), [Connectate Magazine](#), [HIMNO Magazine](#), [KestaDC](#), [WJLATV](#) and many more...including [El Diario de Hoy](#). Please don't forget to follow us on social media [Facebook](#), and [Twitter](#).

I am pleased to have been welcomed by DC Latino community's stakeholders such as the Comité Cívico Empresarial Salvadoreño (COCIES), Regional Alliance of Students and Professionals (RASP), National Council of La Raza, Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and the LGBT History Project. Under my leadership, OLA will continue to nourish and strengthen our vision to improving the lives of the DC Latino community.

Mil Gracias,

Jackie Reyes, Director, OLA