

**TESTIMONY  
OF  
YOLANDA BRANCHE  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUDITOR**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE  
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUDITOR'S  
FISCAL YEAR 2011 SPENDING AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS AND  
FISCAL YEAR 2012 SPENDING AND PERFORMANCE PLAN**

**February 24, 2012**

**CHAIRMAN BROWN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE:** I am Yolanda Branche, District of Columbia Auditor. Accompanying me today is Deputy Auditor, Lawrence Perry. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you to present testimony on the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor's ("ODCA") Fiscal Year 2011 spending and performance results and Fiscal Year 2012 spending and performance plan.

**MISSION OF THE OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AUDITOR**

The mission of the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor is to assist the Council in performing its responsibilities by auditing the accounts and programs of the District to ensure that effective programmatic and budgetary decisions are made. The Office of the D.C. Auditor examines the use of public funds, evaluates District government

programs and activities, and provides analyses and recommendations to assist the Council in making effective oversight, programmatic and budgetary decisions. Through our audit work, we seek to ensure that the District government's operations, programs, and activities are conducted economically, efficiently, effectively, and in compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and rules. Underlying this mandate is our responsibility to be alert to instances of fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement of District resources.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2011 SPENDING AND PERFORMANCE RESULTS AND INITIATIVES**

The Auditor's Fiscal Year 2011 adjusted appropriated budget was \$4,414,669 and authorized 32 full-time equivalent positions. The adjusted budget of \$4,414,669 included \$575,000 in intra-district funding dedicated solely to a Council mandated independent evaluation of DC Public Schools.

The Auditor's Office expended 82% of the \$4,414,669 Fiscal Year 2011 adjusted budget. The unexpended 18% was related mainly to: (1) Personnel Service costs resulting from position vacancies of varying duration during the fiscal year, due to a mandated freeze on new hires, and (2) intra-District funds that were not utilized and returned to DCPS.

In Fiscal Year 2011, the Auditor's Office completed and issued 26 audit reports in which we certified revenues, and identified mismanagement, questionable costs, and potential revenue generating opportunities. During FY 2011 the Office of the D.C. Auditor initiated or completed initiatives to improve and enhance the operations of ODCA. These initiatives included:

- Revising the ODCA Website to increase transparency. The website includes information about agency operations, a step-by-step explanation of our audit process and an Agency Assessment section that includes information that agencies can use to ensure their business operations are consistent with best practices. The website also includes videos of the members of the staff of the D.C. Auditor.
- Presenting the Council with an Audit Plan for Fiscal Year 2012. Our audit plan includes 24 performance audits, 9 financial reviews, 7 reports on Certified Business Enterprise goals, 3 reports on the implementation of recommendations presented in previous audit reports and 2 reports on the financial activities of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.
- Revising the format of our audit reports to decrease the use of technical jargon. Our reports now include a "What This Means to You Section," so residents can quickly know the significance of audit findings. In addition to findings and recommendations, we revised our audit reports to highlight agency accomplishments.

- Implementing policies and procedures to ensure that all audit reports meet Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards.
- Taking steps to outsource the financial oversight functions of Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.
- Providing the Council with monthly reports on issued audit reports, status of current audit projects, a summary of planned audits and matters pertaining to Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

### **FISCAL YEAR 2012 SPENDING AND PERFORMANCE PLAN**

In Fiscal Year 2012, the Office of the Auditor has a budget of \$4,261,232 and authorizes 30 full-time equivalent positions. Of the \$4,261,232, \$575,000 is intra-district funding dedicated solely to a Council mandated independent evaluation of DC Public Schools and specialized services required to assist the Auditor in completing a financial and budgetary analysis of DCPS. Compared to the Fiscal Year 2011 budget, the Fiscal Year 2012 budget represents a 3.5 % decrease or \$ 153,436. In addition, compared to Fiscal Year 2011, in Fiscal Year 2012 the Office of the Auditor will have a decrease of 2 full-time equivalent positions.

In Fiscal Year 2012, the Office of the D.C. Auditor will continue to work to ensure that our audit reports focus on efficiency, and accountability and present recommendations to improve programs and result in cost savings.

Mr. Chairman this concludes my testimony. I will respond to any questions.