

# FEDERATION NEWS

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 4

APRIL 2009

FEDERATION ASSEMBLY  
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 6:45 PM  
Guest Speakers  
**COUNCILMEMBER MARY CHEH**  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
**DAVID GRAGAN**  
D.C. CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER  
*A Discussion of DC Contracting and Procurement*  
THE CHARLES SUMNER SCHOOL  
1201 Seventeenth Street, NW (At M Street)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There is something about a large, red fire truck and ambulance that attracts attention, especially if both are discovered AWOL, about to be shipped from the Port of Miami to a Dominican Republic resort. The fire truck and ambulance in question were donated by our Fire & Emergency Medical Services department (FEMS), reportedly through the Mayor's office, to a non-profit organization (recipient of DC grants) which planned to ship the apparatus to Sosua, a beach town in the Dominican Republic. FEMS' fire truck and ambulance quickly became the centerpiece of an embarrassing and dubious District transaction, now being investigated by two City Council committees and the Office of the Inspector General.

Concerning the city's largesse to the Dominican Republic, why was the "off-shore" resort town of Sosua singled out to receive a fire truck and ambulance? What other places have been gifted with DC surplus property and how/when were those locations selected? What has DC received in exchange for its generous donations of city-owned surplus property and/or supplies?

In 2007, the Government Accounting Office (GAO) issued a negative report on DC's Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP). What changes have resulted from that GAO report? What is OCP's mission, budget and review process and how does it protect the taxpayer's dollars? And what are the oversight responsibilities and further investigations of Council's Government Operations Committee?

Be sure to attend our April 28 Assembly when Councilmember Mary Cheh, Government Operations Committee Chair and Chief Procurement Officer David Gragan meet to delve into the complex and intricate infrastructure of city contracting and procurement. It will be a fascinating and enlightening session with time reserved for your questions and comments.

Cheers,  
Anne Renshaw

**Disclaimer:** The views and opinions expressed herein are those of the authors, and do not necessarily represent those of the Citizens Federation. Neither does their publication constitute any endorsement by the Citizens Federation.

AROUND TOWN: WOODLEY PARK

## Please Stand Clear of the Young Mothers!

The Woodley Park Community Association was founded in 1965 using the official maps of the boundaries for Woodley Park from the city’s old “neighborhoods” maps/surveys office. Throughout the years, WPCA has worked to maintain Woodley Park’s elegant and friendly neighborhood atmosphere, in the midst of the city!

One of the first projects (1969-70) was arranging for an elevator at the then-proposed Woodley Park Metro. Only long escalators, the engineers’ favorites, were in the first plans, but some young mothers took their babies, carriages, strollers, etc. to the planning meetings with Metro engineers and kept asking, “What about us?” The engineers, after repeatedly having to carry baby carriages and strollers down a steep flight of steps to the meetings in the church

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 ● .....

undercroft, relented and agreed to install an elevator. Later, elevators were added to all Metro plans, for babies, mothers and for the disabled.

Another successful effort involved the plans for the present Wardman Park Hotel. After plans for the “new” hotel were publicized (showing what is now in place) some WPCA members—architects—discovered that the proposed hotel was to be twice as large, with the plans on paper to be “flipped,” creating another, connected, half of the hotel on the west side. The architects, working together with the WPCA lawyer-members, were able to stop the “flip,” which explains today’s

large open area on the grounds. For more information on WPCA and our ongoing activities, visit our website at <http://www.wpcaonline.org>.

### The D.C. Office of Planning Launches First Amendment Cycle for 2006 Comprehensive Plan

(Washington, DC) — The DC Office of Planning announced the launch of the first Amendment Cycle for the 2006 Comprehensive Plan (Comp Plan), the District’s 20-year blueprint for the city. The 2006 Comp Plan, which was a major update, included over 600 action items and provided guidance on monitoring, evaluating and amending the Comp Plan. A series of public informational meetings have been scheduled. All meetings will cover the same information, so attend a meeting that is most convenient for your schedule. The meetings will cover the following topics:



- Progress on Comp Plan Action Items;
- Timeline for the Amendment Cycle Process;
- Criteria for a Proposed Amendment; and
- Process for Submitting, Evaluating and Approving Proposed Amendments.

MEETING SCHEDULE

**Thursday, April 30, 6:30-8 pm:** Kelly Miller Middle School, 301 49th Street, NE, WDC 20019

**Monday, May 4, 6:30-8 pm:** at McKinley Tech High School, 151 T Street, NE, WDC 20002

**Wednesday, May 6, 12-1:30 pm:** Judiciary Square Old Council Chamber, 441 4th Street, NW, WDC 20001

**Thursday, May 7, 6:30-8 pm:** Emery Recreation Center, 5801 Georgia Avenue, NW, WDC 20011

**Monday, May 11, 6:30-8 pm:** Columbia Heights Comm.. Ctr., 1480 Girard Street, NW, WDC 20010

For information on the Comp Plan Amendment Cycle, contact Jill Diskan of the DC Office of Planning at (202) 442-7628 or [jill.diskan@dc.gov](mailto:jill.diskan@dc.gov) or Kimberly Driggins at (202) 442-7600 or [kimberly.driggins@dc.gov](mailto:kimberly.driggins@dc.gov).



*Celebrating 99 Years of Citizen Activism*  
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FEDERATION ASSEMBLY – **TUESDAY, APRIL 28** – 6:45-9:00 PM  
THE CHARLES SUMNER SCHOOL – 1201 16TH STREET NW (AT M STREET)

**DC GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING AND PROCUREMENT SYSTEM:  
OPEN OPPORTUNITY OR CLOSED DOOR?**

COUNCILMEMBER **MARY CHEH**, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE CHAIR  
AND  
**DAVID GRAGAN**, D.C. CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Please join us for a lively discussion as CM Cheh and Chief Gragan explain and enlighten us on the city’s complex contracting and procurement system.

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*Thought to ponder:*

**“IF YOU WANT TO GO FAST, GO ALONE. IF YOU WANT TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER.”**

— Patricia Quigley Stonesifer, Smithsonian Institution Board Chairman

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**FED NEWS EXTRA: SELL ME SOME PEANUTS AND CRACKERJACKS**

As we go to press, Citizens Federation VP Dave Mallof is up to bat over at the DC Council Committee oversight hearing on the Sports and Entertainment Commission. Mallof has been posing a very interesting question to Economic Development Committee Chair Kwame Brown: Is your committee willing to look into selling the Nats stadium now, just like a toll road or an airport?

He points out the DC government’s seemingly long-standing, keen interest in “disposing” of public property in this town via Brown’s committee, and contends that the stadium is ripest of all to unload, profitably for a change. Recent reports value the stadium at \$1 billion, suggesting DC could potentially net a \$250

million gain on the sale, if we can find a buyer. This quarter of a billion dollars could be used for job training and affordable housing production, with the remaining \$750 million retiring a massive amount of DC debt and freeing up our balance sheet.

Getting ready for the pitch, Mallof points out a huge “hidden value” factor in the stadium: 267 unused days that could boost the sale price of this DC public asset. We agree with Mallof’s recommendation that Brown seize the opportunity to immediately call a special DC Council roundtable to explore this one-billion-dollar subject and what we think is a potential home run—with the bases loaded—for our city.