January 24, 2022

Dear Washingtonians:

On behalf of the Government of the District of Columbia, I am proud to present the District of Columbia’s (District’s) Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR). For the twenty-fifth consecutive year, the audit opinion is unqualified (unmodified). And, for the seventh year in a row, the auditors found no significant deficiencies or material weaknesses, demonstrating our continued financial discipline and strong management practices.

The District’s finances continue to be the envy of, and among the strongest of, any jurisdiction in the nation. As of September 30, 2021, the District had 60 days of operating cash in its reserve funds, providing greater financial flexibility and protection during the on-going global pandemic. This cushion has allowed us to continue to provide essential support to residents and businesses during this challenging time through rental assistance, grants, meal distribution, and more.

Accordingly, the District’s strong financial position has allowed us to make critical public health investments that include free, robust COVID-19 vaccination and testing; contact tracing; and personal protective equipment. We made significant investments to provide well ventilated public buildings, including installing state-of-the art HEPA filters in school classrooms and air quality monitors throughout our buildings. Because of our ability to make these critical investments, we were able to welcome our workforce back to their offices and all DC public school children back to in-person learning.

The economic impacts of the pandemic have been significant, yet we continue our substantial investments in public education, homeless services, affordable housing, and public safety. And, through continued revitalization of our schools, recreation facilities, and libraries, we are ensuring our neighborhoods are vibrant and thriving, thus enhancing the overall quality of life of all Washingtonians.

In 2022, we will continue our recovery together, and the financial strength demonstrated in this ACFR will help us do so equitably. With your support, I am confident that all Washingtonians will have a fair shot and we will raise up neighborhoods in all eight wards to achieve a healthier, safer, stronger, more prosperous, equitable, and resilient Washington, DC.

Sincerely,

Muriel Bowser
Mayor