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To: Chair. Mendelson and Committee of the Whole of the Council of the District of Columbia

Re: Letter of Testimony in Support of the Reappointment of Rhona Wolfe Friedman to the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities

Hearing Date: January 9, 2020

Date: December 24, 2019

Dear Chair Mendelson and the Committee of the Whole,

I have worked with Commissioner Rhona Wolfe Friedman for over a year on the Institute for Politics, Policy and History (IPPH, housed at UDC), which I founded with Mayor Muriel Bowser in the beginning of 2019. The Institute's mission is to rediscover the history of the District of Columbia and its role in determining contemporary politics and history. To further its objectives and goals, the Institute appoints prominent people in various areas, such as the arts, sports, policy and politics as Residents Fellows.

Ms. Friedman was appointed as IPPH's first Resident Fellow for the Arts and Culture. We were impressed with her background as an attorney, Board member of many DC organizations such as THEARC, and her commitment to furthering the arts and arts education in Washington, DC.

She quickly understood the role of IPPH and its importance to the DC community and developed two symposiums this year related to the arts and culture in Washington, from both the historical and contemporary perspectives. Her panels consisted of Pulitzer Prize winners as well as speakers with local, national and international expertise and experience in the arts. The symposiums were well-received and enabled the Institute to expand its programs about Washington DC and at the same time, make the District's history more accessible and intriguing to audiences.

It is a pleasure to work with Ms. Friedman at the Institute and I look forward to expanding her involvement in that areas of arts and culture. I am happy to support Ms. Friedman for reappointment as a

Commissioner on the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities.

Regards,



The Honorable Sharon Pratt

Former Mayor of the District of Columbia

Founding Director of IPPH at the University of the District of Columbia