

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of the Mayor

Office of Communications



MEDIA ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Tuesday, October 8, 2013

CONTACT: Doxie McCoy 202.727.9691; doxie.mccoy@dc.gov
Rob Marus 202.727.6853; robert.marus@dc.gov

**Mayor Gray and Congresswoman Norton to Warn of Shutdown's
Dire Effects on District Residents, Workers and Visitors**

Mayor Invites All District Residents to Join Him in Calling for Congress and President to Act

WHAT/WHO: Mayor Vincent C. Gray, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and D.C. Councilmembers will highlight the uniquely negative effects of the federal shutdown on the residents, workers, businesses and visitors in the District of Columbia. **The Mayor and the Congresswoman are inviting District residents to join them and show support for freeing the city from the negative consequences of the shutdown.**

WHEN: Wednesday, October 9
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WHERE: “Senate Swamp” site on the East Lawn of U.S. Capitol, across driveway from Senate east steps (near southwest corner of 1st Street and Constitution Avenue NE).

BACKGROUND: Earlier today, Mayor Gray sent a letter to President Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.), and House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) requesting an immediate meeting with them to discuss ways to alleviate the serious consequences of a federal shutdown for the District due to the capital city's lack of budget autonomy. The District, unlike every other state, county and city in the country, is prohibited from using its own locally-raised Fiscal Year 2014 funds to pay for operations during a federal shutdown. While the District has been able to continue operations by drawing on contingency funds, those will soon be exhausted. Meanwhile, the District's unique inability to spend federal pass-through funds that other states are able to use during a shutdown is causing significant problems (such as delaying payments owed to Medicaid providers, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, and, shortly, the District's public charter schools).

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