



Vincent Gray
Mayor, Washington DC

On January 2, 2011, Vincent C. Gray was sworn in as the sixth elected Mayor of the District of Columbia.

Mayor Gray is moving forward in accomplishing four top priorities: ensuring high-quality public education for all District children, creating jobs and economic development opportunities, making sure residents are safe in their neighborhoods, and ensuring that the city is fiscally sound. Mayor Gray also is focused on creating a more sustainable and greener city, achieving autonomy and full democracy for District of Columbia taxpayers, and improving health outcomes.

A native Washingtonian, Mayor Gray has tirelessly advocated for residents of the nation's capital for more than 30 years. His dedication to children and families has been the hallmark of his service in both the public and nonprofit sectors. His lifetime of public service can be best summed up by a singular governing philosophy—that the District of Columbia works best as "One City."

With the well-being of the District's children and their families in mind, the Gray Administration is implementing the Mayor's Vision for a Sustainable DC, a 20-year set of visions and goals to guide the District's leadership in sustainability. It sets goals such as reducing obesity by 50

percent, cutting unemployment in half, and ensuring everyone is within 10 minutes of a park. The plan presents the Mayor's overarching vision for the nation's capital: in 20 years the District will be the healthiest, greenest and most livable city in the United States.

Gray's disciplined approach to public service was born from humble beginnings. He grew up in a one-bedroom apartment with parents who never attended high school but instilled in him a solid work ethic and deeply rooted values.

Despite being scouted by two Major League Baseball teams, the Mayor chose to continue his education, studying psychology at The George Washington University. While at George Washington, he became the first African-American admitted in the GW fraternity system and the first black student to lead his fraternity.

Gray began his professional career with The Arc of DC (then known as the Association for Retarded Citizens). There, he successfully advocated for innovative policy initiatives on behalf of people with developmental disabilities.

In 1991, then-Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly named Gray Director of the Department of Human Services. As Director, he oversaw the functions of a 7,000 person department and directed activities related to public health and mental, social services and health care finance. In this role, the Mayor spearheaded the implementation of several initiatives to address the developmental needs of children.

In December 1994, he was named the first Executive Director of Covenant House Washington, an international organization dedicated to serving homeless and at-risk youth. During his decade at the helm of Covenant House, Mayor Gray helped make the organization one of the most effective of its kind, and led successful campaigns to obtain various facilities for homeless youth.

Mayor Gray's dedication to his community inspired a successful run for the City Council in 2004. Two years after being elected ward representative, Gray ran for the citywide office of Council Chairman. Running on the theme of "One City," he continued his focus on uniting disparate racial and economic groups, and equalizing services.

As Chairman, Gray was a leader in improving Council operations, and was a true champion for school reform. One of his biggest accomplishments in this role was to spearhead legislation that established what was believed to be the first universal pre-kindergarten program in the nation. Early childhood education continues to be the hallmark of Mayor's Gray's education agenda.



Government of the District of Columbia
Vincent C. Gray, Mayor