



NEWS FROM MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER



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January 21, 2018

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Washingtonians,

Coming into office, I promised we would close DC General and replace it with programs throughout the District that do a better job of supporting our most vulnerable families. Today, I am proud and excited to announce that we have a plan in place to close DC General once and for all in 2018.

The closing of DC General marks an important step forward in our plan to replace the shelter—which experts, community leaders, and current and former residents agree is too big, too old, and too geographically removed from the services that families experiencing homelessness need—with safe, dignified, service-enriched short-term family housing programs across all eight wards.

Over the next year, we will work to gradually and safely step-down the use of the hospital as a shelter by exiting families into permanent housing and placing families at other locations operated by the District. In April, we will begin the deconstruction of the vacant Building 9, and once DC General is completely vacant and closed as a family shelter this fall, deconstruction on the remaining hospital buildings will commence.

Ending homelessness is a citywide challenge that requires a citywide solution. We are making progress that you can be proud of, but we have more work to do. In 2018, we are putting our DC values into action, and bringing Washington, DC one step closer to ending homelessness.

Sincerely,

Mayor Muriel Bowser

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