



ADA TODAY

Newsletter

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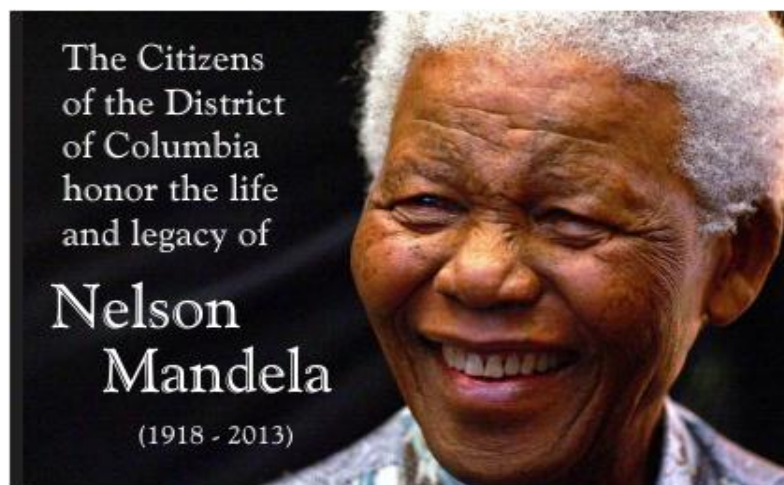
Holiday Celebration for The Senior Citizens of DC Rescheduled for December 19, 2013

Presented by Mayor Vincent C. Gray
DC Office on Aging and the Senior Service Network
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. ~ DC Armory ~ 2001 East Capitol Street, SE

The Mayor's Annual Senior Holiday Celebration will be held under the theme “**Live, Work and Play: An Age-Friendly Holiday Celebration,**” captures the Mayor’s goal of ensuring that the District is known as an Age-Friendly City, an inclusive and an accessible environment that encourages active healthy aging. More than 3,500 residents expected to attend the largest event held for District senior citizens. Hosted by the DC Office on Aging, the event will feature live entertainment, musical guests, wellness demonstrations, free facials, manicures and massages, information exhibits featuring community and government resources, with a festive lunch. The event is free, but a ticket is required for entry. Call (202) 724-5626 to reserve your ticket today! Invite your friends to celebrate the season with you.

Cost: FREE, Tickets Required

Mayor Vincent C. Gray Mourns Passing of Former South African President Nelson Mandela



Joins DC Office on African Affairs in Recognizing Nobel Laureate’s Legacy of Peace [View more »](#)

Mayor's Commission on HIV/AIDS



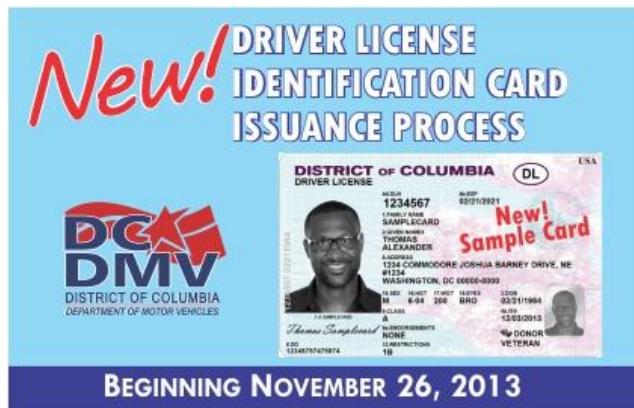
Mayor Vincent C. Gray swore in members of the Commission on HIV/AIDS, including DCOA Executive Director John M. Thompson, to help continue progress and save lives. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), 15 percent of new HIV/AIDS cases in the District of Columbia are among older adults. While this is a slow increase over several years, 75 percent of older adults are late testers, meaning that they test within 12-months of HIV contraction and are typically diagnosed with AIDS at the same time. For more information on older adults and HIV/AIDS, [click here](#).

Grand Opening of Judiciary Cafe



The Judiciary Café is a snack bar operated by Brenda Beaty a licensed blind vendor in the DC Randolph Sheppard Vending Facilities Program (RSVFP). Ms. Beaty was educated in DC Public Schools and is a graduate of the Small Business Administration Certification Program sponsored by Howard University and the DC RSVFP. Licensed in 1979 as a blind vendor, Ms. Beaty has managed over ten (10) vending facilities throughout her tenure, served on the elected Blind Vendor Committee, and has been a training mentor to blind vendor trainees. Andrew Reese, Deputy Director of the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) of DDS stated “Ms. Beaty truly embodies the entrepreneurial spirit of the Randolph Sheppard Program. We are proud of her accomplishments and the role model that she has become for all individuals with disabilities who have the desire to create their own business.” Read More:

<http://dds.dc.gov/DC/DDS/About+DDS/News+Room/Press+Releases/Grand+Opening+of+Judiciary+Cafe>



Central Issuance and New Credentials Brochure

Effective November 26, 2013, DC DMV is moving to a central issuance process. DC DMV will mail driver licenses and identification cards to customers. [View more »](#)



Death Penalty For Mentally Disabled Revisited By Supreme Court

How should states decide if someone convicted of a crime has an intellectual disability, when the answer means life or death? This spring the Supreme Court will wade back into these murky waters, 12 years after it took the death penalty off the table for criminals with mental disabilities but left the details to the states.

In its 6-3 decision in [Atkins v. Virginia](#), authored by Justice John Paul Stevens, the court prohibited states from executing anyone with “mental retardation.” Mental health professionals [define](#) it as substantial limitations in intellectual functions such as reasoning or problem-solving, limitations in adaptive behavior or “street smarts,” and evidence of the condition before age 18. (Mental retardation is the term used in law, but most clinicians and *The Associated Press* refer to the condition as intellectual disability.)

After the decision, most states stuck with the three-pronged clinical definition, but Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Texas set their own standards. Under Florida’s law, if you have an IQ over 70, you’re eligible for execution regardless of intellectual function or adaptive behavior.

Freddie Lee Hall, who has been on Florida’s death row for more than 30 years and scored in the mid-70s on IQ tests, is [arguing](#) the state’s standard amounts to unconstitutional punishment. Read more at: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/12/06/death-penalty-supreme-court_n_4399162.html

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

December 2, 2013

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, 2013

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Nearly a quarter century has gone by since our Nation passed the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a landmark civil rights bill that enshrined the principles of inclusion, access, and equal opportunity into law. The ADA was born out of a movement sparked by those who understood their disabilities should not be an obstacle to success and took up the mission of tearing down physical and social barriers that stood in their way. On this International Day of Persons with Disabilities, we celebrate the enormous progress made at home and abroad and we strengthen our resolve to realize a world free of prejudice.

Every child deserves a decent education, every adult deserves equal access to the workplace, and every nation that allows injustice to stand denies itself the full talents and contributions of individuals with disabilities. I was proud that under my Administration the United States signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, an international convention based on the principles of the ADA, and I urge the Senate to provide its advice and consent to ratification. By joining the 138 parties to this convention, the United States would carry forward its legacy of global leadership on disability rights, enhance our ability to bring other countries up to our own high standards of access and inclusion, and expand opportunities for Americans with disabilities -- including our 5.5 million disabled veterans -- to work, study, and travel abroad.

My Administration remains committed to leading by example. This year, as we celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act, we updated rules to improve hiring of veterans and people with disabilities, especially among Federal contractors and subcontractors. Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, insurers can no longer put lifetime dollar limits on essential health benefits for Americans with disabilities. And in January, it will be illegal to deny coverage because of pre-existing conditions. The changes achieved in the last two decades speak to what people can accomplish when they refuse to accept the world as it is. Today let us once again reach for the world that should be -- one where all people, regardless of country or disability, enjoy equal access, equal opportunity, and the freedom to realize their limitless potential.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim December 3, 2013, as International Day of Persons with Disabilities. I call on all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this second day of December, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA

For Information about ODR's Newsletter call 202-724-5055 or visit the web at odr.dc.gov.



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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the District Office of Disability Rights (ODR) is to ensure that the programs, services, benefits, activities and facilities operated or funded by the District of Columbia are fully accessible to, and useable by people with disabilities. ODR is committed to inclusion, community-based services, and self-determination for people with disabilities. ODR is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the City's obligations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) as well as other disability rights laws.