February 14, 2017

At-Large Councilmember Anita Bonds
1350 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 110
Washington, DC 20004

RE: Testimony Regarding Annual Review of the Age-Friendly DC Task Force

Dear Councilmember Bonds:

It is with great pleasure I write in strong support of the Age-Friendly DC Task Force. They have and continue to play an important role in assuring that the District is not only a highly livable city for young and middle-aged adults, but also for older adults. The work they have done in all of their areas of focus (including transportation, accessibility, social and civic participation, community services, and protection from abuse/neglect/exploitation) is to be highly commended.

The Consortium has partnered with the Task Force to create a website for university-sponsored opportunities for senior citizens. That website can be accessed at https://www.consortium.org/programs-for-senior-citizens/. The availability of this information puts the District ahead of other major metropolitan areas such as New York City.

Relatedly, individual Consortium member universities in the District have partnered with the Task Force to improve the accessibility of their neighborhoods, especially in terms of providing safe sidewalks and related improvements, and in terms of providing content and technical expertise to the Age-Friendly DC initiatives.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the leadership role of President Steven Knapp of The George Washington University, who has also been serving as the chair of the
Consortium Board of Trustees. He has strongly encouraged participation and partnerships among the Consortium member institutions.

In closing, I want to restate my strong support for the work that Gail Kohn and her team has done under the guidance of Deputy Mayor Chung. The Task Force should certainly be supported by you and the rest of Council, and encouraged to continue delivering a more age-friendly DC.

Thank you for your attention.

With best regards,

John C. Cavanaugh, Ph.D.
President & CEO