

# PRESS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## ***CONGRATULATIONS TO REGINALD WATSON ON HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE MAYOR'S COMMISSION ON AGING***

**Wednesday, June 26, 2024**, Reginald Watson was sworn in at the **Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL)** as a member on the **Mayor's Commission on Aging**. The Commission on Aging was established to advise the Mayor, the Director of DAAC, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the public at-large concerning the views and needs of the aged in the District of Columbia. As a Commissioner, his primary duty will be to advocate for DC seniors.

### **Mayor's Commission on Aging: Roles and Responsibilities**

**Advocacy for Seniors:** Acting as a vocal advocate for the senior population within the District of Columbia, ensuring their needs and issues are addressed at various levels of government.

**Annual Reporting:** Submitting an annual report to the Mayor, the Council of the District of Columbia, and the Department of Aging and Community Living. This report includes an analysis of the needs of seniors, as derived from the Director's report.

**Advisory Role:** Providing advice to the Director on collaborating with federal, state, and private agencies that are engaged in activities concerning the elderly.

**Plan Review and Commentary:** Reviewing and commenting on the annual state plan mandated by the Older Americans Act. These comments are then forwarded to the Department of Health and Human Services alongside the plan.

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**Director Recommendation:** Developing a list of up to three candidates recommended for the position of Director of the Department of Aging and Community Living when the position is vacant, and submitting this list to the Mayor.

**Public Engagement:** Conducting or participating in public hearings and forums to gather opinions from older residents and the general public on issues affecting the health, safety, and welfare of the elderly in the District of Columbia.

**Addressing Neglect and Abuse:** Bringing cases of neglect, abuse, and bias against the elderly to the attention of the Mayor and the Department of Aging and Community Living.

**Legislation and Policy Review:** Reviewing and commenting on the Director's evaluation of proposed District and federal legislation, regulations, policies, and programs. The Commission also comments on the Director's policy recommendations related to senior health, safety, and welfare.

**Ongoing Review:** Providing continuous oversight of the activities of the Department of Aging and Community Living, issuing reports on these activities at least annually.

Note: **Reginald Watson** is the grandson of **Genevieve N. Johnson** and is extremely proud to follow behind her enduring legacy by serving as a catalyst for change, a clearinghouse for resources, an identifier for gaps in services and the provider of results-oriented strategies and coordination for service delivery to the seniors of the District of Columbia.

For more information regarding how you can benefit from and become engaged with the Genevieve N. Johnson Senior Center Lead Agency Ward Four's initiatives with the older adults community please visit our website at [www.gnjward4.org](http://www.gnjward4.org) or contact us at (202) 723-8668.

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