

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BOARD OF ETHICS AND GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY**



December 31, 2014

The Honorable Vincent C. Gray
Mayor, District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building, Ste. 316
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building, Ste. 504
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Re: BEGA Annual Best Practices Report


Dear Mayor Gray and Chairman Mendelson:

I am pleased to present you with the enclosed copy of the 2014 Best Practices Report of the Board of Ethics and Government Accountability (BEGA). The report, which caps BEGA's second full year of operations, contains discussion of the specific questions the Ethics Act requires be addressed in an annual assessment to the Mayor and the Council, as well as BEGA's recommendations for legislative and programmatic action. Some of the recommendations are new and others, prompted particularly by continuing experience, are repeated from last year.

The report also reflects the lessons learned by the Office of Open Government (OOG) during its first full year of operations. In it, you will find a discussion of the OOG Director's recommendations regarding best practices to make District government operations more transparent and accessible.

The Ethics Board is pleased and encouraged that, in the committee report accompanying the Comprehensive Code of Conduct and BEGA Amendment Act of 2014, the Council recognized the importance of the Best Practices Reports by noting that "the most critical recommendations" made in the first two reports were incorporated into the legislation. Together with my fellow Board members, I hope you find that this report will also serve as a helpful guide in taking even further steps to amend the Ethics Act and, in the process, continue to promote a culture of high ethical standards in District government. For your convenience, the [2014 BEGA Best Practices Report](#) may also be accessed on the BEGA Website.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Spagnoletti
Chairman
Board of Ethics and Government Accountability

Enclosure

Copies to:

Yvette Alexander, Council of the District of Columbia
Anita Bonds, Council of the District of Columbia
Muriel Bowser, Council of the District of Columbia
David Catania, Council of the District of Columbia
Mary Cheh, Council of the District of Columbia
Jack Evans, Council of the District of Columbia
Jim Graham, Council of the District of Columbia
David Grosso, Council of the District of Columbia
Kenyan McDuffie, Council of the District of Columbia
Vincent Orange, Council of the District of Columbia
Tommy Wells, Council of the District of Columbia
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council
Brian K. Flowers, General Counsel to the Mayor
V. David Zvenyach, General Counsel to the Council