



KIMBERLY BASSETT

Secretary of State of District of Columbia

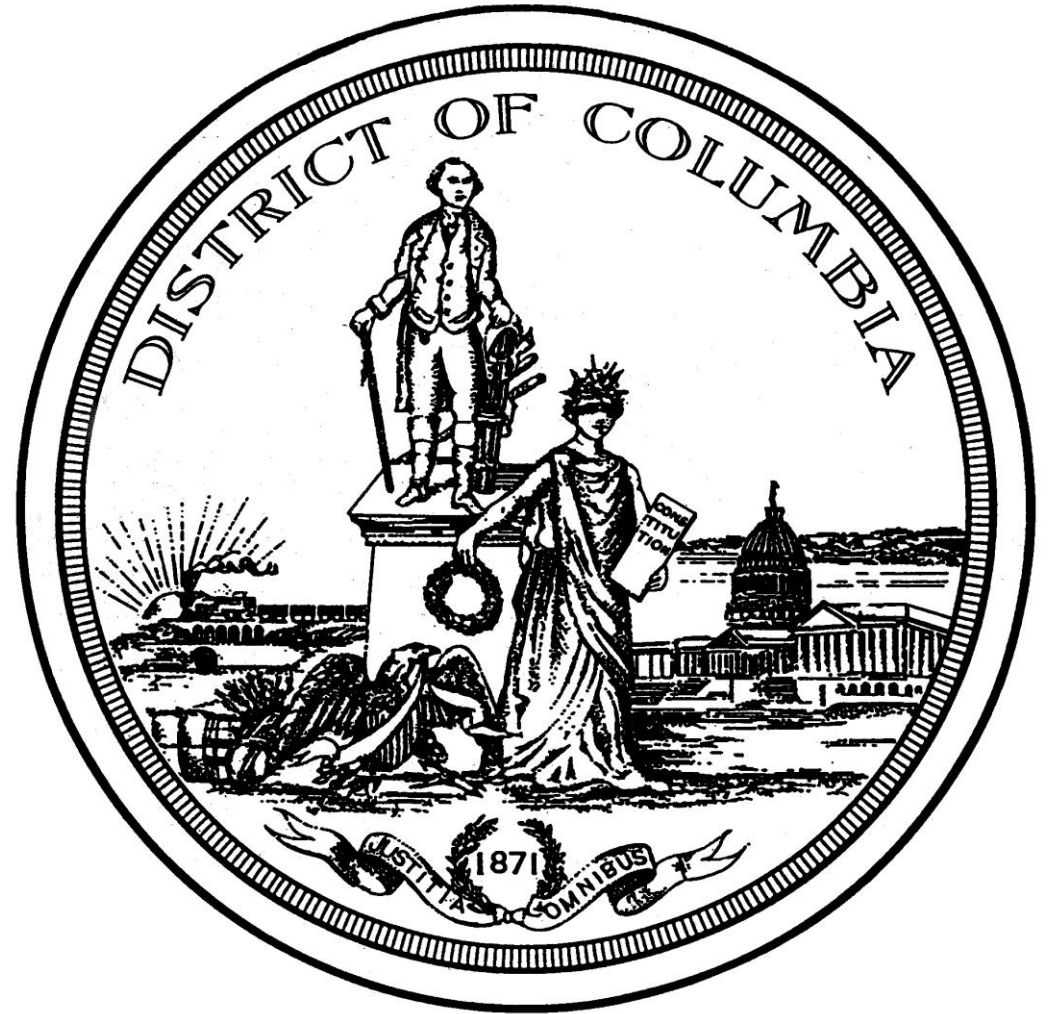
**2024 NASS SUMMER CONFERENCE PUERTO RICO
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE PANEL**



WE ARE WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

The Office of the Secretary

- The Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia is the official resource for protocol, legal records, history, and recognitions for the public, governments, and the international community.
- Within the Office of the Secretary, the Office of Protocol and International Affairs is the primary liaison office to our diplomatic corps and international community.





Office of Protocol and International Affairs

- Manages the relationship with over 180 diplomatic missions in Washington, DC.
- Serves as the official authority on protocol issues for DC government.
- Connects international community to District of Columbia Government.
- Works closely with the U.S. Department of State Office on Foreign Mission and the Subnational Diplomacy Unit





Hosting International Delegations

- Office receives requests for meetings with international visitors primarily through the **International Visitor Leadership Program**.
 - OS works with U.S. Department of State program partners to identify relevant subject matter expert to facilitate meetings.
 - Best practices on governance, climate change, housing, emergency management among others.
- For other international requests, sponsoring organization is vetted. Sample requests come from federal agencies, universities, and international organizations.
 - Level of request is considered. The Mayor meets with capital city Mayors and Ambassadors as her schedule permits.
 - When the Mayor is not available and the meeting is accepted, the Office of the Secretary receives international groups.





Sister City Program

- OS Manages the District of Columbia's Sister City Program.
- Currently we have 15 Sister City agreements.
- DC's Sister City program partners with other capital cities around the world on issues of mutual interest.
- DC's areas of focus historically are economic development, cultural exchange, public administration, urban development, education, tourism, and environment & energy.





Gift Protocol

- The Office of the Secretary advises DC Government leadership on gifts given and annually reports on gifts received from international or diplomatic sources.
- All gifts presented to the District of Columbia government adhere to all relevant rules and regulations.
- Currently, each state has its own guidelines for accepting gifts. However, gifts exceeding \$480 USD must be reported to the federal government in accordance with 5 U.S. Code § 7342 .





Official Ceremonial Gifts

- OS considers the rank of the diplomat when selecting gifts.
- In the District of Columbia, we utilize a 3 tiers system when gifting items to visitors of note:
 - 1. Chief Diplomat Level
Ambassadors/Mayors/Chief of Missions
 - 2. Midlevel Diplomat Level–
Charge d’Affaires/Social Secretaries/Counsellors
 - 3. Career and Entry Level Diplomats
Executive Assistants/Staffers





International Outreach

- Co-host informational briefings on issues of interest.
- **Latin American Consular Group**
 - Date: June 2023
 - Office facilitated seminar with Peruvian and Uruguayan Consul Generals for the entire Latin American Consular Cohort.
- Topics Covered:
 - Notary Commissions in DC.
 - Document Authentication for international use.
 - Resulted in further inquiries about DC's human services for diaspora communities.

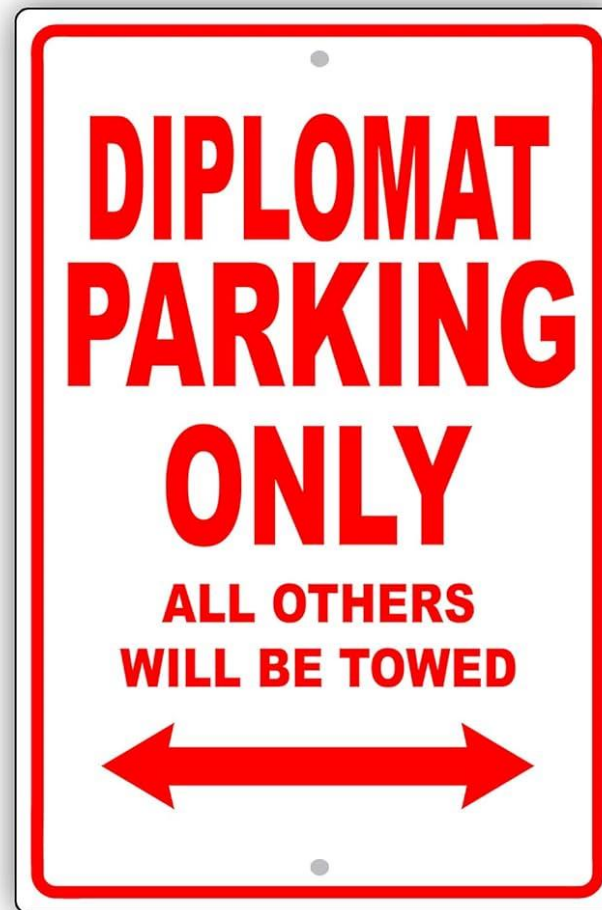




International Outreach

- **Embassy Neighborhood Taskforce**

- Working structure to help mediate issues between embassies and neighbors in DC.
- Partner with the U.S. Department of State Office on Foreign Missions.
- Typical issues include parking, noise, yard maintenance, rodents, water runoff, and permitting.
- Example: Diplomatic Parking Violations/Fee Recovery
 - Liaison work with embassies and multiple DC departments.
 - Delicate handling of collections while respecting diplomatic principles.





Community Engagement Programs

- **Embassy Adoption Program**
 - Provides 5th/6th grade students attending DC Public Schools with the opportunity to learn about the language, customs, history and culture of their partner's home country and culture.
- **Mini UN Conference** – 1 day conference where students come together, prepare brief presentations to showcase what they have learned through the program.





Engagement Programs

- **Passport DC/Europe Day**
 - Passport DC pays tribute to Washington, DC's thriving international diplomatic community and diverse culture. The first two Saturdays in May are devoted to embassy open houses.
 - An estimated 27,000 attendees participate annually.
- **Winternational Embassy Showcase**
 - The Winternational Embassy Showcase is an exciting celebration of the cultural and culinary traditions of Washington's diplomatic community.
 - Festival boasts a bustling global marketplace where over fifty embassies showcase their nations through engaging displays of visual art, authentic cuisine, handcrafted treasures, and insights into travel and tourism.
- **Embassy Chef Challenge**
 - The Embassy Chef Challenge is a gathering of Embassy chefs from around the world, featuring the unique flavors of their home countries in a friendly, delicious culinary competition.





Thank You!

Questions and Answers (Q&A)



