



December 2019

Dear Friend of Open Government:

As the New Year approaches, the D.C. Open Government Coalition (DCOGC) would like to thank you for your commitment to enhancing the public's access to government information and ensuring the transparency of the District of Columbia government. We are pleased to report that 2019 has been one of our most productive years, from achieving several victories for transparency at the D.C. government level to rolling out a more efficient and easily navigable website at www.dcohc.org.

This past year marked our 10th as a 501(c)3 organization, and DCOGC is proud of what we have been able to accomplish during our decade of work for D.C. government transparency. We have consistently made a difference by influencing D.C. government policies and procedures; over the past decade, for example, we have worked steadily to open up access to our government, recording such victories as obtaining FOIA access to DC Council members' emails on private accounts, helping to enhance access to police body cam videos, and improving the processing of FOIA requests.

One of our biggest efforts in 2019 was support for more sunshine for D.C. charter schools, and that will continue into the new year. We [testified](#) before the Council in the fall and released our [nationwide survey](#) of the charter school laws and practices in all 50 states and 16 major cities governing open records and open meetings. We also responded successfully to help block D.C. Council efforts to drastically narrow records available under D.C. FOIA and testified before the Council and wrote letters on a range of topics – from improving the FOIA portal to misuse by government officials of WhatsApp messaging technology. And, once again, we sponsored our Annual Sunshine Week Community Summit in March and a transparency workshop in the fall.

As with every new year, we are mindful that there still is a lot of work to do in 2020 and beyond. We are confident that, with your help and enhanced collaboration with others in the District's watchdog community, we will meet the mounting challenges and have a productive year. But our board consists of all volunteers with their own full-time day jobs, and we find ourselves drawn into more and more open government challenges and opportunities each year.

The D.C. Open Government Coalition also requires no dues — we rely solely on the generosity of people like you. Any amount you would contribute would go directly to strengthening what we do. Please consider supporting us by making a year-end donation at <https://dcohc.org/donate/> or via check to DCOGC, P.O. Box 73771 Washington, DC 20056.

On behalf of the Coalition, thank you for your support. Together, we can bring more transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement to the District of Columbia. Wishing you a happy holiday season and a healthy, prosperous 2020!

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas M. Susman", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Thomas M. Susman
President, D.C. Open Government Coalition

The D.C. Open Government Coalition is exempt from federal income tax as an organization described in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Our EIN is 26-4520540.