A little over a month ago, I testified before the Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization for our annual Performance Oversight hearing. I always enjoy hearing your thoughts, ideas, and experiences and the ways we can improve how we serve you. And just that quickly, it’s time for us to come together again for one of the most important seasons in our city – budget season. 

Budget season in the District is a time where we get to put our DC Values into action. It’s time for us to turn the biggest challenges we’re facing into even bigger solutions and investments for all Washingtonians. My Budget Oversight hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 21 and I invite you to be a part of this process. Over the next two weeks, I’ll be meeting with seniors at our wellness centers to talk more about the budget. This is an opportunity to learn about how Mayor Bowser’s proposed 2023 investments will go towards ensuring every District resident has a fair shot at opportunity here in the District — especially our seniors, adults with disabilities, and those who care for them. If you’re unable to stop by one of our wellness centers, please feel free to email me at dacl@dcl.gov to share your thoughts and ideas.

If you joined me for the Mayor’s Annual Senior Budget Engagement Forum, then you know just how much your input means to our Mayor. The Mayor continues to remind us that all the investments made in our city are driven by you. Investments like $3 million for neighborhood-based senior socialization hubs, and expanded senior village programming to combat isolation and increase outreach in all eight wards. Or $1 million investment for expanded transportation access through the District’s Connector Card programs, providing more choice in transportation options for qualifying seniors. These and so much more are all possible because you know what it takes to make DC a city where we can all live boldly. And that’s why I need you to keep telling us your stories – tell us your experiences, your needs, and your priorities so we can ensure Washington, DC remains the best city in the world to age.

I know these past two years have been incredibly challenging, but what they have taught us is just how much we can accomplish together. And this budget season and beyond, I’m looking forward to us accomplishing even more – together.
Thanks to DC Public Schools, DC Public Charter Schools and, with the help of the DC Public Library, the entire DC community, DACL distributed more than 4,600 handmade Valentine’s Day cards! These cards were delivered to homebound seniors who receive home delivered meals, and were given to older residents visiting our senior wellness centers during COVID test kit distribution.

### Rapid Antigen Tests Are Still Available at Senior Wellness Centers

District residents ages 65 and older are now able to pick up rapid antigen tests and KN95 masks at six senior wellness centers. Seniors are able pick up two rapid tests per person, per day. On days that centers have rapid tests, free tests are available from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more information, please visit coronavirus.dc.gov.

### Senior Wellness Centers are Now Open!

Beginning March 1, all senior wellness centers will reopen. For more information on center hours and COVID guidelines, please contact your local senior wellness center.