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HOUSE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT OF
REAR ADMIRAL EARL L. GAY, USN
COMMANDANT, NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON
&
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DIRECTOR, CORPORATE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
NAVAL DISTRICT WASHINGTON
BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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Madame Chair Norton, distinguished members of the committee, Good morning.

In the 1990s, under the Base Realignment and Closure Acts (BRAC), the Navy moved about 6,000 personnel from various leased locations to the Washington Navy Yard which then had a population of approximately 5,000. We now have about 12,000 employees at the Yard and receive nearly 300,000 tourists a year to the U.S. Navy Museum and the Display Ship Barry and other sites.

We knew that the growth of the Navy Yard would have a significant impact on the local community. Although difficult to quantify financially, contracts let by Washington Navy Yard tenant commands to businesses in Washington DC and adjacent Maryland suburbs have injected millions of dollars into the local economy and boosted employment.

The growth of the Washington Navy Yard has invigorated and enriched the local community in other non-financial ways; specifically partnership:

- We maintain a vigorous Navy Community Service Program aimed at providing opportunities for our personnel to volunteer in community projects. For example: Sailors and Civilian employees give tours, act as school mentors and as Science Fair judges.
- The United States Navy Ceremonial Guard provides a very impressive Color Guard for appropriate community events and the United States Navy Band conducts numerous concerts and a free summer concert series in the community.

- We periodically open our installations to the public. For example, in October we hosted NAVY DAY OPEN HOUSE IN DC at both the Navy Memorial and the Navy Yard.

- We also lead STARBASE ATLANTIS, a Navy Math and Science mentor program for 5th grade students in the DC Public Schools that has benefited over 3000 DC students in the past 5 years. Recently, Rear Admiral Gay, Commandant Naval District Washington, met with DC School Chancellor Rhee to better align our mentoring efforts with the DC Public School system.

- To support a modern workforce of 12,000 personnel, it's imperative to nurture a strong partnership with our local community. We accomplish this through an Outreach Program which includes meeting with local government officials, including the Councilmember for Ward 6 and the Advisory Neighborhood Commissions affected by our growth. We visit various resident and business associations and discuss our plans as they evolve. We articulate our plans to the local media and meet often with our own employees, both the people who already work at the Yard as well as future potential employees.

We work closely with the City which invested in the infrastructure of both 8th Street SE and M Street SE. The streetscapes are now attractive and well lit, with crosswalks and turn lanes to make both driving and walking safer.

We also have met with Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, which established bus route N22 to add service in the area. There are now over 25 restaurants on Barracks Row

serving not only Navy Yard customers, but local residents, tourists and the employees of the additional businesses which have relocated to the Navy Yard area.

We also made ourselves accessible to local businesses and potential enterprises to explain our efforts when we anticipate making large moves and to discuss what impact there might be on their customer base. Our contracting organizations hold classes and community workshops to advise small business owners how they might find out about and seek to be suppliers of the additional services we forecast.

In closing, early and continuing engagement by all entities to form a collaborative, synergistic vision is the key to success. I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.