



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

August 15, 2011

Ralph Nader
Center for the Study of Responsive Law
1530 P Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Nader:

Following up on our August 3rd meeting, I have tasked the Deputy Mayor for Education, DeShawn Wright, to work with Robin Diener, Director of the Library Renaissance Project, and the Mt. Pleasant community to address the concerns regarding the architectural designs for the Mt. Pleasant Library. Although he has been on vacation this past week, he will be in contact shortly upon his return to the office.

I would also like to thank you for your thoughtful comments and suggestions on how best to increase local involvement in the Presidential election process. As you know, the District of Columbia is home to more than 600,000 residents who remain excluded from the democratic process because we lack voting representation in the U.S. Congress. To change this injustice, I strongly believe the District of Columbia must raise the issue in national forums and participate in the "Road to Twenty One Presidential Debates in 2012." The District of Columbia would be pleased to be one of the twenty-one debate venues to host a Presidential debate.

Finally, I have made self-determination one of the priorities of my administration and would welcome any additional suggestions you may have on how the District of Columbia can achieve budget and legislative autonomy and ultimately statehood.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vincent C. Gray".

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

St. Paul

BUSBOYS
AND POETS



Thank you for meeting with Ralph Nader and I earlier this year regarding hosting a presidential debate in Washington DC.

As a business owner and the president of an association that represents over 300 small, independent businesses (Think Local First DC) I want to ensure that we have a transparent and fair democratic process in how we elect our president.

Knowing full well that Washington DC still does not have full representation in Congress, the presidential elections become that much more significant for local residents.

I know that there is a great deal of interest in the presidential debates and campaigns here in Washington DC. Right here at Busboys and Poets, we have a packed house everytime there is a televised debate.

Hosting the debates here would give residents a connection to the process as well as allow their "voice" to be heard on a national stage.

For the past several years, presidential debates have been controlled by candidates of the two major political parties through the Commission on Presidential Debates (CPD). Unlike other debates, a debate in Washington DC will will have a very different style and focus. Issues that deal with voting rights, the challenges of poverty, gentrification etc. would take center stage.

Please let me know if there is anything I or my organization can do to help make this a reality.

Yours truly,

Andy Shallal

Busboys and Poets
Eatonville Restaurant