

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



May 16, 2023

Mr. Joon Bang
Chief Executive Officer
Iona Senior Services
4125 Albemarle Street, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Mr. Bang:

I am writing to express the support of our Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC 3A) for Iona Senior Services to be selected by the District Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL) as the lead agency in Ward 3 for delivering services to area seniors and caregivers.

Iona is an exemplary organization, providing high quality services to thousands of seniors and their caregivers annually in Ward 3. Iona has been a mainstay of community programs and services for older adults in Ward 3 since 1975. Operating out of its beautiful and welcoming center in Tenleytown, it provides innumerable opportunities for individuals and families including counseling, support groups, information and referrals to other sources of needed help, nutrition services, a food pantry, a Food Guide reference useful for all residents, health and wellness activities, arts and recreation, day programs for adults needing more intensive attention and assistance, meal and exercise programs at St. Alban's across the street from many of our constituents, and links to DC rec centers and a range of other venues and events through its AroundTown project to let people know about additional opportunities.

Since it was first named as lead agency in 1982 by the District Office on Aging, Iona continues to add new services to meet needs, match best practices, and provide the best possible support for people in the community it serves. The dementia support is a particularly important contribution for seniors and their caregivers. In the past year, Iona also led a pilot of the city-wide In-Home Peer Support Program and a Supportive Amenities Program at Regency House in Chevy Chase DC, reaching older adults who found their lives and network of connections most disrupted through the years of the COVID-19 emergency. Iona also has been working closely with all the senior "villages" that serve Ward 3, offering them support and professional services to strengthen and backstop their important work around the neighborhoods for people who are aging or caring for those who are aging and want to "age in place."

It would be a major loss to Ward 3 if people in the ward could no longer work with Iona Senior Services as the lead agency and have the benefit of their long experience, care, knowledge, understanding of the interests and needs of households and individuals aging in Ward 3, and continual efforts to refine, improve, and expand its important services. Of all possible applicants, Iona is best prepared to receive the DACL grant as lead agency and continue delivering services in Ward 3 in Fiscal Year 2024 and beyond. We hope DACL will accept the grant proposal and select Iona as the lead agency for Ward 3, with the full funding they are requesting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis".

Thaddeus Bradley-Lewis
Chair, ANC 3A

This letter was approved by the Commission by a vote of 4-0 at a duly-noticed public meeting at which a quorum was participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.) By this vote, the Commission also designated the Chair to represent the ANC on this matter.