



Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia
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Press Release

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The Public Service Commission Celebrates 100 Years of Service *Events Planned to Commemorate Public Service for a Century*

(Washington, D.C.) The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia (Commission) turns 100 years old today on March 4, 2013. The Commission will kick-off a year of celebrations with a one-day symposium held March 15th at the Kellogg Conference Center at Gallaudet University that will focus on the history of the Commission and its role in the growth and development of the District.

The Commission was established in 1913 by Congress to regulate electric, gas, telecommunications and transportation services, including taxicabs, buses, and streetcars. The Commission's regulatory role has evolved as jurisdiction over transportation services was transferred to newly created agencies and the Commission became responsible for introducing competition into the District's retail electric, natural gas, and telecommunications markets.

"Although utility regulation has changed throughout our 100 years of service, the Commission has maintained its primary mission of protecting consumers by ensuring safe, reliable and quality utility services, by ensuring rates for monopoly services are reasonable, fair, and just; by resolving disputes among consumers and utility service providers, and by educating consumers and informing the public," stated Chairman Betty Ann Kane.

The Commission has redesigned its logo to commemorate the Centennial Anniversary and will release a new book on its history later this year. The Commission is also planning to host several symposia during the upcoming year. The first symposium, held at Gallaudet University on March 15th, will include a panel of the current and former Commission Chairpersons who will discuss major Commission accomplishments during their tenure. The Commission will also share the results of its research on the history of the Commission through the agency's Annual Reports and orders dating back to 1913 and now displayed on the Commission's website.

A second symposium, to be held jointly with the Howard University School of Law, will focus on the role of the law school in the history of the Commission, and it will include special emphasis on the national and local leadership role of the Commission on telecommunications issues since the break-up of AT&T in the mid-1980s. A third symposium will be planned focusing on the role of community groups in the establishment and work of the Commission over the last century.

Commissioner Joanne Duddy Fort stated "By showcasing the history and work of the Commission, we hope to raise the public's awareness about the importance of the Commission while also highlighting its achievements. Most importantly, we hope to inspire the next generation of engineers, economists, and utility advocates who will carry on the mission of ensuring safe, reliable and quality utility services for the District community."

The Commission invites persons who would like to attend upcoming Commission Centennial events to sign up at <https://s.zoomerang.com/s/dcpssc-centennial-celebration> or by calling the Commission at 202-626-5100.

For further questions or additional information, please contact the Commission at 202-626-5100 or visit the PSC's website at www.dcpssc.org.

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