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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, TRANSMITTING REORGANIZATION PLAN No. 3 OF 1968, BRINGING RECREATION PROGRAMS UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA COMMISSIONER

*To the Congress of the United States:*

In the past few years Congress and the President have pledged to make the Nation's Capital a model of excellence in government, in housing, in city planning, in law enforcement, in transportation.

But the quality of any city is not just a matter of efficiency and public order. If it is to be truly great, the city must be lively and inviting—a place of beauty and pleasure.

The city's life is lived not only in its buildings, but in its pools, playgrounds, and recreation centers, in the places where the young gather to find excitement and delight, where the old come to find relaxation, fresh air, companionship.

In Washington, recreation is a vital element of the city's school-enrichment activities, its model city project and its summer programs.

But the District of Columbia Recreation Department is not an integral part of the District government. With its six-member independent board, the autonomy of the Department prevents the District of Columbia Commissioner from providing policy supervision to the city's recreation activities and from relating them to other community service programs—in health, education, child care, and conservation.

There is no reason to distinguish between recreation and other community service programs now vested in the Commissioner.

Accordingly, I am today submitting to the Congress Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1968. This plan brings recreation programs under the authority of the District of Columbia Commissioner. It enables the new city government to make recreation an integral part of its strategy to bring more and better community services to the people who live in the city.

The plan achieves these objectives by abolishing the present Recreation Board and the Office of the Superintendent of Recreation. It transfers their functions to the District of Columbia Commissioner.

The accompanying reorganization plan has been prepared in accordance with chapter 9 of title 5 of the United States Code. I have found, after investigation, that each reorganization included in the plan is necessary to accomplish one or more of the purposes set forth in section 901(a) of title 5 of the United States Code.

Closer coordination of recreation with other municipal improvement programs of the District government and the improved efficiency of recreation management will produce a higher return on the taxpayer's investment in recreation programs, though the amount of savings cannot be estimated at this time.

I urge the Congress to permit this reorganization plan to take effect.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON.

THE WHITE HOUSE, March 13, 1968.

REORGANIZATION PLAN No. 3 OF 1968

(Prepared by the President and transmitted to the Senate and the House of Representatives in Congress assembled, March 13, 1968, pursuant to the provisions of chapter 9 of title 5 of the United States Code)

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA RECREATION FUNCTIONS

SECTION 1. *Definitions.* (a) As used in this reorganization plan, the term "the Recreation Board" means the District of Columbia Recreation Board provided for in District of Columbia Code, sec. 8-201 and in other law.

(b) References in this reorganization plan to any provision of the District of Columbia Code are references to the provisions of statutory law codified under that provision and include the said provision as amended, modified, or supplemented prior to the effective date of this reorganization plan.

SEC. 2. *Transfer of functions to Commissioner.* There are hereby transferred to the Commissioner of the District of Columbia all functions of the Recreation Board or of its chairman and members and all functions of the Superintendent of Recreation (appointed pursuant to District of Columbia Code, sec. 8-209).

SEC. 3. *Delegations.* The functions transferred by the provisions of section 2