

**March 22, 2012**  
**DORIS/DCAS Merger Meeting Agenda**

Purpose for the meeting:

- Members of the archives, records management, history, and genealogy communities feel that DORIS will operate best as an autonomous records agency.
- DORIS must have its interests and essential functions protected so that the value and accessibility of its records will be a part of the future of NYC.

We have written a position statement and collected over 2,000 signatures in support of the position statement. Archivists, records managers, historians, and genealogists have all expressed concern over this merger.

**Key concerns:**

- **What are the primary reasons why the Administration wants this merger?**
  - Is this purely a budgetary consideration?
- **Records agencies working as independent units provide better services than records agencies working as part of larger, less specialized departments.**
  - DORIS did not flourish under the Municipal Services Administration, where it was placed by Mayor Lindsay in 1969. This agency had other priorities, namely, maintaining facilities and providing offices with necessary supplies and equipment; the support and care of the city's records were not priorities for this department.
  - It was not until 1977, through Local Law 49, that DORIS became a standalone agency, and its archives and records management divisions began to expand and function more effectively.
  - History has proven that DORIS will not continue to provide the same level access to its resources or of service to the City and the public if merged with DCAS.
- **Archivists and records managers are skilled professionals with advanced degrees, specialized knowledge, and extensive training in the evaluation of records and the retention of materials with historical importance.**
  - By merging with a much larger and less specialized agency, their unique skills and knowledge become devalued.
  - DORIS' position as an independent, stand-alone agency has allowed its professionally trained staff to perform their duties without interference from nonprofessional management. This arrangement is similar to the operational models of other agencies of the local government with professional staff such as the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.
- **The proposed legislation includes no provisions for DORIS' future and no long-term protection.**
  - The potential for DORIS to be denied an active role in the management of its budget, its personnel, and its records is too great a risk
- **There is no assurance that DORIS as part of DCAS would have the staff, funding, or mandate to fulfill its vital role.**