



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING**  
**1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW**  
**ROOM 107**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20004**



Harry Thomas, Jr.  
Councilmember, Ward 5  
Chair, Committee on Libraries,  
Parks and Recreation

Tel: 202-724-8028  
Fax: 202-724-8076  
HThomas@DCCouncil.US

**For Immediate Release**  
April 13, 2010

**Contact:** Grace Lewis  
Phone: 202.724.8067  
Email: glewis@dccouncil.us

**Thomas Calls Firing of 266 Teachers Due to Erroneous Budget Calculations Unconscionable, Promises to Pursue Legislative Remedies to Reinstate Those Dismissed by Chancellor Rhee**

**Washington, DC**—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr. learned today that erroneous budget calculations led to the firing of 266 DC Public School (DCPS) teachers earlier this year. The teachers were dismissed through a Reduction in Force (RIF) to address a reported \$43 million budget pressure.

Chancellor Rhee has acknowledged that the RIF was based on an average teacher salary of \$81,000 provided by the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, when the correct average is approximately \$67,000. As a result, DCPS now has a \$34 million surplus in its personnel budget. The Chancellor has indicated the surplus will be used to help fund the 22 percent teacher pay raises outlined in the newly proposed contract with the Washington Teachers Union. In response, Chairman Gray is requesting a cost analysis of the teachers' contract and Councilmember Thomas is calling for a strategy to fund the contract and make the dismissed teachers whole.

“It is unconscionable that teachers have lost their jobs because of faulty data, and it is morally reprehensible to turn around and then use those dollars to fund pay raises” said Councilmember Thomas. “I will be examining all legislative remedies available to reinstate the teachers who were dismissed,” stated Thomas.

###