



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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Thomas Calls for Administration to Request Federal Emergency Assistance for DC Residents Impacted by August 12th Flooding

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. today called upon the Mayor to seek federal emergency assistance in response to the flooding that occurred on Thursday, August, 12, 2010. The storm that swept through the District that morning caused severe flooding in parts of the District, including in many Ward 5 communities that have a combined rain water and sewer overflow (CSO) system. Consequently, sewage water flooded many basements, resulting in considerable damage. And for some Ward 5 neighborhoods – like Bloomingdale – this is the third time in less than 10 years that serious flooding has occurred.

If a federal disaster were declared for the District, residents with flood damage would be eligible to apply for federal aid, including grants to cover temporary housing costs, emergency home repairs, and other serious disaster-related expenses. Low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration would also be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by insurance.

Councilmember Thomas personally has visited a number of homes that suffered flood damage, seeing first hand the damage residents have incurred. “Federal emergency assistance would help ease the financial burden of District residents hit hard by the August 12th flooding,” stated Councilmember Thomas.

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