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Thomas Conducts Oversight Hearing on Closure of DPR Childcare Sites

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr., Chair of the Council’s Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation, held a hearing on December 4, 2008 regarding the closure of seven DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) childcare sites. Councilmember Thomas, whom DPR did not inform in advance, learned from concerned parents about the agency’s decision to reduce its childcare sites.

Nearly a dozen parents testified at the hearing in support of DPR’s childcare programs. Most were critical of the agency’s one-week notice regarding the closure of the seven sites.

At the hearing, Councilmember Thomas expressed concern that under enrollment in DPR childcare programs is due to insufficient recruitment efforts. “We must actively market our childcare activities and do a better job of getting the message out about their availability,” said Councilmember Thomas. “Given the number of working parents that reside in the District, I am confident that demand for these programs exists.”

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