



**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
December 23, 2010

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

Thomas Tapped to Chair Council's Committee on Economic Development
*Goals of Chairmanship Include Connecting Small Businesses and Residents to Large
Development Projects*

Washington, DC-Ward 5 Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr. has been selected to Chair the Council's Committee on Economic Development. Council Chairman-elect Kwame Brown announced the assignment on Wednesday, December 22, 2010, which the full council must approve when it reconvenes in January.

"It is an honor to be selected to chair a committee that has such tremendous impact on the economic engine of this city and the direction of its growth, especially when the selection comes from the committee's outgoing chair," said Councilmember Thomas. The Committee on Economic Development is responsible for matters related to economic, industrial, and commercial development policy; the disposition of property for economic development purposes; tourism and cultural affairs; international business and affairs, and local business development policy and programs. During Chairman-elect Brown's tenure on the Council serving at-large, he chaired the committee.

Currently, eight District government agencies fall under the purview of the Committee on Economic Development. They are the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, the Department of Small and Local Business Development, the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission, the Washington Convention Center Authority, the DC Boxing and Wrestling Commission, the Washington Convention and Tourism Corporation, the Commission of Arts and Humanities, and the Office of Motion Picture and Television Development.

As chair of the Committee on Economic Development, Councilmember Thomas will focus on strengthening small, local businesses and promoting their participation in the District's large economic development projects. He will also concentrate on bringing more and diverse retail to the city, building on what he has accomplished in this area for Ward 5. And most importantly, through his chairmanship, Councilmember Thomas will work to connect District residents to the employment opportunities that the city's large economic development projects will create.

"Chairman-elect Brown provided excellent stewardship of the Committee on Economic Development and guided the agencies under its purview through difficult budget cuts," stated Thomas. "I look forward to continuing strong and thoughtful leadership of this committee during the next council term."

###