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Media Advisory
February 12, 2009

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**Thomas Calls for Use of Stimulus Funds for Neighborhood-Based
Economic and Workforce Development**

Washington DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. today called for the use of federal stimulus funds to jumpstart neighborhood-based economic and stimulate workforce development initiatives, such as projects in the Ward 5 communities of Carver Terrace, Ivy City, Trinidad, Bloomingdale, Lamond-Riggs, Brookland, Fort Lincoln, and Brentwood.

“The District’s budget gap and tight credit markets have bruised the momentum of a number of projects planned for Ward 5,” said Councilmember Thomas. “Stimulus funds can help us get back on track.”

Stimulus funds, for example, can be used to:

- Add Carver Terrace to the New Communities initiative;
- Provide the McMillan Reservoir project in Bloomingdale, the New Town project in Trinidad, and the Shops at Dakota Crossing project in Fort Lincoln with government-sponsored TIF financing;
- Issue property tax abatements to facilitate redevelopment of the old Hecht’s Warehouse in Ivy City and EC 12 in Bloomingdale;
- Expand programs at the Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering (PACE) High School in Trinidad to include adult workforce training;
- Budget much-needed streetscape improvements to major Ward 5 transportation corridors like North Capitol Street and New York, Florida, Bladensburg, and Rhode Island Avenues; and
- Transform the now-closed Bertie Backus Middle School, located in Lamond-Riggs, into a community college and workforce training institute.

“Investing stimulus funds in neighborhood-based economic and workforce initiatives will aid us in stabilizing underserved communities, stimulating employment, and providing job skills to those seeking to improve their economic circumstances,” said Thomas.

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