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Thomas Urges Parties to Resolve Nursing Dispute at Washington Hospital Center

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. today called upon the management of the Washington Hospital Center to resolve its dispute with National Nurses United. Thomas and nine of his colleagues sent a letter on February 23, 2011 to John Sullivan, President of the Washington Hospital Center, outlining their concerns.

The central issues in the dispute, from the nurses’ perspective, are the need for a safe staffing plan that allows nurses to adequately care and advocate for their patients, and an attempt to rescind hard-won economic gains from the nurses. The nurses also indicate a general lack of respect from managerial staff toward the nursing staff.

“Nurses are our front-line caregivers, and it is important that our hospitals are appropriately staffed to meet patient needs,” said Thomas. The turnover rate of nurses at the Washington Hospital Center has exceeded 13 percent annually for the past six years.

“I am hopeful that the Washington Hospital Center management team will work together with National Nurses United to resolve all outstanding concerns,” stated Thomas.

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