



# The Thomas Connection

February 2011

Building Bridges, Finding Solutions

Volume 5, Issue 2

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## *The Newsletter of Ward 5 Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr.*

### STRENGTHENING FIRST SOURCE: A PRIORITY FOR THOMAS

Councilmember Thomas, and his colleagues Chairman Kwame Brown and At-Large Councilmember Michael Brown, have introduced legislation to strengthen the requirements of the District's First Source Employment Agreement program.

Currently, First Source requires that, for projects receiving District funds, each employer sign an agreement ensuring that all job openings created are listed with the Department of Employment Services, and that 51 percent of new hires are District residents.

Introduced at the Council's January 18, 2011 legislative session, Bill 19-50: The District of Columbia Workforce Intermediary and Reform of First Source and Living Wage Amendment Act of 2011, would require, for government-assisted projects of \$300,000 or more, that District residents perform: 20% of all non-construction hours, 25% of journey worker hours by trade, 50% of apprentice hours by trade, 60% of skilled laborer hours by trade, and 70% of common laborer hours by trade.

In addition, the bill would require employers to provide evidence of best efforts to comply with First Source before obtaining a waiver, and increases the fines for violating First Source agreements from 5% to 10% of the total amount of the contract's labor costs. The bill calls for implementation of the DC Auditor's May 2010 recommendations regarding oversight of the First Source program, including enforcing compliance recordkeeping, requiring contractors to meet their obligations under land disposition and development agreements, and creating and implementing regulations for the Living Wage Act. Bill 19-50 also stipulates that the city form a task force to review best practices for workforce intermediary programs, including those in Boston, Minneapolis, and San Francisco.

### THOMAS INTRODUCES FOUR YOUTH-RELATED BILLS IN JANUARY

During January 2011, Ward 5 Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr. introduced four bills related to young people, demonstrating his commitment to their well-being and education:

- **B19-0007: Athletic Concussion Protection Act of 2011**—Requires removal from play of public school athletes displaying signs of concussion and prohibits their return until a health care provider submits written clearance.
- **B19-0011: Bullying and Intimidation Prevention Act of 2011**—Requires the establishment policies and programs to prohibit harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including cyber bullying, in District-operated schools, recreation facilities, and libraries.
- **B19-0041: Youth and Young Adult Promise Act of 2011**—Requires an action plan to intervene and assist at-risk youth and young adults, and development of a Center for Youth-Oriented Policing utilizing the Roving Leader Program.
- **B19-0045: District of Columbia Community Schools Incentive Amendment Act of 2011**—Requires the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to establish a process to ensure District eligibility for federal and private dollars to support community schools.



Councilmember Thomas introduced four youth-related bills in January 2011.

## COUNCILMEMBER'S MARCH-AUGUST 2011 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Saturday, March 12** Ward 5 Community Development Expo and Small Business Showcase
- Monday, April 25** Easter Egg Hunt
- Monday, August 22** Back-to-School Day
- Saturday, August 27** Harry Thomas, Sr. Day

## WASHINGTON, DC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP HOSTS THOMAS BREAKFAST WITH DEVELOPERS

As Chair of the Council's Committee on Economic Development, Councilmember Thomas now has oversight responsibility for the vast majority of development projects involving District funding or property, including the Southwest Waterfront, St. Elizabeth's, Walter Reed, and McMillan Reservoir, among others. On January 10, 2011, the Washington, DC Economic Partnership hosted a breakfast to formally introduce Councilmember Thomas in his new role to members of the development community. Mayor Vincent Gray stopped by and provided brief remarks, as well.

Councilmember Thomas shared his vision of economic development as community development, and the importance of connecting residents to the jobs these development projects will generate. "We must harness these projects to create career opportunities for our residents," he stated.

Councilmember Thomas also indicated he would be holding monthly roundtables to assist with developing a positive working relationship with the development community.



*Thomas spoke to members of the development community at January 10, 2011 breakfast hosted by the Washington, DC Economic Partnership.*

## THOMAS ADDRESSES NORTH CAPITOL STREET PUBLIC SAFETY CONCERNS

Councilmember Thomas is very concerned about the unsettling number of recent homicides, shootings, and other types of crimes occurring in the North Capitol Street area. In direct response to the shooting death of Bloomingdale resident Billy Mitchell on January 19, 2011, Councilmember Thomas held a community meeting on January 25, 2011, where residents outlined their issues and concerns, which included the need for greater lighting on North Capitol Street, as well as public drunkenness, loitering, and drug activity on the corridor.

As follow-up, Councilmember Thomas held a public safety assessment walk of North Capitol Street and other portions of PSA 501 on January 31, 2011. Mayor Gray, Chief Lanier, 5D Commander Greene, agency heads, and several civic leaders were also in attendance. Councilmember Thomas will be scheduling similar walk-throughs for the other PSAs in Ward 5.



*Councilmember Thomas, joined by Mayor Gray, assessed public safety along North Capitol Street in PSA 501 on January 31, 2011.*

## THOMAS SPEAKS AT WASHINGTON HOSPITAL CENTER'S MLK CELEBRATION

Councilmember Thomas was a featured speaker at the Washington Hospital Center's (WHC) January 14, 2011 5th Annual MLK Celebration. The WHC, stated Thomas, is an great example of Dr. King's commitment to public service. In 2009, the hospital's volume of service included 43,000 admissions, 24,000 surgeries, 82,000 emergency room visits, and 412,000 ambulatory care visits. Also demonstrating the WHC's commitment to service, said Thomas, is the institution's history of community involvement in Ward 5, providing turkey baskets for seniors at Thanksgiving, donating backpacks for students on back-to-school day, and participating in health fairs and other community events. "The staff of WHC are tremendous," said Thomas. "Their spirit of giving back is unparalleled and a great example for us all."

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

OFFICE OF WARD 5 COUNCILMEMBER  
HARRY "TOMMY" THOMAS, JR.  
1350 PENN. AVE., NW SUITE 107  
TEL. NO. 202.724.8028  
WEBSITE: WWW.HARRYTHOMAS5.COM