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Council Passes Thomas Bill to Increase Protection of City Residents from District Government RIFs

Washington DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. today introduced emergency legislation that increases the protection of bona fide District residents from reductions-in-force actions currently underway in District government agencies. The Council passed the bill unanimously.

The “District Residency RIF Protection Emergency Amendment Act of 2009” amends the District of Columbia Comprehensive Merit Personnel Act of 1978 to raise the threshold of creditable service from three years to six years for reduction-in-force actions for District residents. Providing an increased preference to District government employees who are District residents mitigates any potential reduction in the city’s income tax base.

“In response to projected budget pressures, the Administration is undertaking reduction-in-force (RIF) procedures in the Department of Parks and Recreation and other District agencies,” said Councilmember Thomas, Chair of the Council’s Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation. “In times like this, it is fiscally prudent to adopt a RIF strategy that preserves our local tax base to the greatest extent possible. Raising the preference threshold from three to six years helps us achieve that goal. ”

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