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Thomas Releases Findings of Survey of Trinidad Neighbors' Reaction to Checkpoints
Survey Results Indicate Residents' Assessment Is Mostly Negative

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. today released the results of a survey of Trinidad residents regarding the Neighborhood Safety Zone checkpoints. The survey was conducted at a June 13, 2008 community meeting that Thomas held with Trinidad residents. Sixty meeting attendees completed the brief survey on the checkpoint initiative.

The survey results indicate that the most impacted Trinidad residents have generally negative opinions about the checkpoints. More than three-quarters view the checkpoints as ineffective at deterring criminal activity. More than seven in ten oppose the strategy of closing streets and alleys to funnel vehicular traffic to the checkpoints. The vast majority also oppose turning away at checkpoints drivers who could not or would not state their purpose for entering the community. Residents indicate more foot patrols are needed to reduce violence, as well as community-based programs for youth and ex-offenders and vocational training opportunities. A summary of the survey is available at:
http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=6wtJfsgnCEmjw1Qf6_2bnC7_2bsngo6dFEdHwJvvItYThw_3d.

“The checkpoints were implemented without adequate input from Trinidad residents, and they included some controversial tactics,” said Councilmember Thomas. “As Councilmember, I felt it was imperative to measure whether residents support these types of law enforcement strategies and get input from the residents themselves on ways to reduce violence. We cannot solve the underlying causes of violence without community buy-in and input,” said Thomas.

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