



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
ROOM 107
WASHINGTON, DC 20004



HARRY THOMAS, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER, WARD 5
CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON
LIBRARIES, PARKS, AND
RECREATION

TEL: 202-724-8028
FAX: 202-724-8076
HTHOMAS@DCCOUNCIL.US
WWW.HARRYTHOMAS5.COM

For Immediate Release
March 5, 2010

Contact: Grace Lewis
Phone: 202.724.8067
Email: glewis@dccouncil.us

Thomas Announces Council's Selection of Special Counsel to Investigate DPR Contracts

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr.—Chair of the Council's Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation and Chair of the Council's Joint Public Oversight Roundtable on the Contracting Process Related to Parks and Recreation Roundtable—announced today that the Council has retained Robert P. Trout of the law firm Trout Cacheris to serve as special counsel regarding the inquiry into the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) contracts. He was joined at the press conference by Council Chairman Vincent Gray and At-Large Councilmembers Kwame Brown and Michael Brown.

The Joint Oversight Roundtable—which includes Councilmembers Mary Cheh, Chair of the Committee on Government Operations and the Environment; Kwame Brown, Chair of the Committee on Economic Development; and Michael Brown, Chair of the Committee on Housing and Workforce Development—has been holding a series of hearings on why DPR capital projects were routed circuitously via memorandums of understanding from the agency through the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development to the DC Housing Authority. The special counsel will review hearing testimony and documents collected by the Joint Roundtable and issue a report to the Council recommending whether the matter needs to be referred to the U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia.

Robert P. Trout has over 35 years of experience in civil and criminal litigation. His practice has concentrated primarily on complex commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense, as well as the defense of administrative agency enforcement actions. He began his legal career at the Department of Justice, where he served for two years in the Criminal Division, followed by four years as an Assistant United States Attorney in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Trout served as Associate Deputy Independent Counsel in 1995-96. Before founding his current firm in 1996, Mr. Trout was a partner in a large national law firm. Mr. Trout is a member of the bars of the District of Columbia, Virginia, and Maryland and practiced in all three jurisdictions. He is admitted to practice before a number of federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the Fourth Circuit, the Third Circuit, the Seventh Circuit, the Ninth Circuit, the Tenth Circuit, the Eleventh Circuit and the Federal Circuit, as well as the U.S. Tax Court. Mr. Trout earned his B.A. in 1970 from Washington & Lee University and his J.D. in 1973 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

"I am pleased that Mr. Trout has agreed to serve as the Special Counsel to the Council in this matter," stated Councilmember Thomas. "I look forward to receiving Mr. Trout's report and recommendations."

###