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Thomas Thanks President Obama for Paving Way for Federal Aid to Supplement the Recovery Efforts from District Snowstorm

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. today extended his heartfelt thanks to President Obama, who yesterday declared that a major disaster exists in the District of Columbia and ordered Federal aid to supplement the District’s recovery efforts in response to the snowstorm that occurred between December 18 and 20, 2009.

The declaration makes federal funds available to the District and certain nonprofits organizations for emergency work and the repair or replacement of facilities damaged by the severe winter storm and snowstorm. Specifically, the declaration enables the District and other affected local governments to apply for the following:

- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, bridges, utilities, buildings, schools, recreational areas and similar publicly owned property, as well as certain private non-profit organizations engaged in community service activities. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*)
- Payment of not less than 75 percent of the eligible costs for removing debris from public areas and for emergency measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*)
- Payment of not more than 75 percent of the approved costs for hazard mitigation projects undertaken by the District to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural or technological disasters. (*Source: FEMA funded, state administered.*)

“I am appreciative that President Obama has issued this declaration, which will enable the District to apply for federal aid to offset costs incurred for snow removal,” said Councilmember Thomas. “Given the budget pressures the city is facing, this is welcome news.”

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