



# The Thomas Connection

May 2011

Building Bridges, Finding Solutions

Volume 5, Issue 6

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

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## **THOMAS CHAMPIONS ANTI-BULLYING BILL AT PRESS CONFERENCE**

Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr. is an active advocate for advancing anti-bullying programs and policies in the District of Columbia. On April 21, 2011, he held a press conference to promote Bill 19-11, "The Bullying and Intimidation Prevention Act of 2011," and "Bully Free DC," an initiative to end bullying in the District. He was joined by a number of his colleagues and a host of students, educators, and advocates from the more than 20 organizations that comprise the DC Safe Schools Coalition. Mayor Vincent Gray also proclaimed April 21, 2011 "Bully Free DC Day" to demonstrate his commitment to fostering an environment where all children are able to learn and feel safe.

Bill 19-11—which Councilmember Thomas co-introduced with colleagues Chairman Kwame Brown, At-Large Councilmember Michael Brown, and Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham—calls for the establishment of policies within DC Public Schools, DC Public Charter Schools, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the DC Public Library, and the University of the District of Columbia to prohibit harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including by means of electronic communication. The bill also calls for establishment of bullying prevention programs in the respective agencies. A hearing on the bill is scheduled for May 2, 2011.



Thomas held a press conference on April 21, 2011 to promote passage of B19-11.

## **NEW HIRES AT RHODE ISLAND STATION EXCEED REQUIREMENTS**

Councilmember Thomas has been actively working with developer RI Station, LLC (a joint venture between Urban Atlantic and A&R Development Corp.) and its general contractor, Bozzuto Construction, to ensure that hiring at Rhode Island Station complies with the District's First Source program, and that whenever possible, Ward 5 residents are hired.

To date, the total number of new hires by contractors working on the project is 31, of which 26 (or 84%) are District residents. Ten (or 32%) of the new hires are Ward 5 residents. The percent of new hires that reside in the District exceeds First Source requirement of 51%.

During March 2011, the total workforce at the site stood at 188. Of the 188 workers, 39 are District residents (21% of the total workforce). Of the 39 District residents, 12 are Ward 5 residents (6% of the total workforce). Since the project broke ground in May 2010, a total of 479 workers have been employed at the site (work for some trades is completed), of whom 85 (18%) are DC residents and 25 (5%) reside in Ward 5.

All wages paid have been in accordance with Davis-Bacon requirements and are payroll certified. Bozzuto's First Source reports are sent monthly to DOES according to First Source program requirements. Summary hiring reports are provided regularly to the Ward 5 council office and several community organizations.

"Our proactive work with the developer and Bozzuto Construction is paying off, as the new hire statistics demonstrate" said Councilmember Thomas. "As vertical construction continues at Rhode Island Station, my goal is to link more Ward 5 residents to the employment opportunities this project is creating."

## COUNCILMEMBER'S UPCOMING EVENTS

**Monday, August 22** Back-to-School Day  
**Saturday, August 27** Harry Thomas, Sr. Day

### THOMAS CO-INTRODUCES RESOLUTION CALLING FOR "JOCK TAX"

At the Council's April 19, 2011 legislative session, Councilmember Thomas co-introduced a resolution calling upon Congress to amend the Home Rule Act to allow the District to collect income taxes from nonresident, professional athletes for work performed in the District. The resolution was introduced along with Ward 2 Councilmember Jack Evans.

Councilmember Thomas' support of collecting income taxes from nonresident, professional athletes dates back to the Council's spring 2010 budget discussions. At an administrative breakfast held in May 2010, Councilmember Thomas raised the concept of a "jock tax," noting that 20 of 24 states having professional sports teams have such taxes.

The "Sense of the Council in Support of Tax Parity for Nonresident, Professional Athletes Resolution of 2011" notes that the Supreme Court ruled it permissible in 1920 for a state to tax the income earned by nonresidents within its borders, provided that the tax is "not more onerous in its effect" than that assessed on residents. Since then, a number of states and other governmental entities have crafted tax codes that equitably tax incomes of nonresident athletes for work performed within the relevant jurisdiction. California is one such state, and has received more than \$100 million annually from taxing nonresident athletes.

Currently, the Home Rule Act prohibits the District from enacting these types of laws. "This provision unfairly penalizes the District," said Councilmember Thomas. "It is in our best interest that we have the ability to collect income taxes from nonresident, professional athletes for work performed in the District."



*Councilmember Thomas co-introduced a measure calling for Congress to amend the Home Rule Act to allow the District to tax the incomes of nonresident, professional athletes.*

### THOMAS CELEBRATES CITYCENTER GROUNDBREAKING

On April 4, 2011, Councilmember Thomas took part in the groundbreaking for CityCenter DC, located at the site of the former convention center at 9th and H Streets, NW. The \$700 million project is a 10-acre, mixed-use development. It is the largest downtown redevelopment project currently underway in any US city, and will be completed in two phases. The first phase includes a pedestrian friendly neighborhood of 458 rental units, 216 condo units, and more than 185,000 square feet of retail. The second phase will comprise a 350-room upscale hotel and an additional 110,000 square feet of retail.

To-date, more than 190 District Certified Business Entities (CBEs) have been involved in the planning, design, and construction of the project. "Not only is this project significant in that it helps complete the redevelopment of our downtown, but also because it will generate a large number of construction and permanent jobs," said Thomas. "I look forward to working with the development team to ensure First Source requirements are met, if not exceeded."

### EASTER BUNNY COMES TO WARD 5

One of Councilmember Thomas' signature events is the Ward 5 Easter Egg Roll. This year, the occasion was held on April 25th at the Fort Circle Park at South Dakota Avenue and Galloway Street, NE. More than 100 children and their parents participated. And of course, the Easter Bunny was on hand to play games, give away candy, and pose for pictures. "It is such a pleasure to see the excitement on children's faces when they meet the Easter Bunny," said Thomas. "Creating joyful opportunities and wholesome fun for our children is one of my passions."



*The Annual Ward 5 Easter Egg Roll was held on April 25, 2011 at Fort Circle Park.*

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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