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**Thomas Introduces Bill to Provide Property Tax Relief to
Businesses Impacted by Streetscape Construction**

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr. today introduced the Streetscape Corridor Taxation Relief Act of 2011. This bill would amend the DC Code to allow commercial property owners substantially impacted by streetscape construction to have penalties and interest for delayed real property tax payments waived.

To qualify, commercial property owners must 1) demonstrate that the streetscape project resulted in a substantial loss of revenue that created an inability to pay taxes in a timely manner; and 2) that the property was not classified as a Class 4 blighted property by the Office of Tax and Revenue and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham and Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser were co-introducers of the bill, which has been referred to the Committee on Finance and Revenue.

“Ever since the streetscape project began on 12th Street in Ward 5, I have received calls from business owners about the loss of parking, and in turn, the loss of revenue due to the lengthy construction schedule,” said Councilmember Thomas. “In my role as Chair of the Committee on Economic Development, I’ve heard similar concerns from business and commercial property owners throughout the city. Therefore, if a city activity, such as a streetscape project, results in severe hardships for our small businesses, then it is prudent for this Council to address the concerns.”

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