



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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**Thomas Vows to Restore Funding for Construction of
New Edgewood Recreation Center in FY2011 – FY2016 Capital Budget**

Washington, D.C. – Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr., Chair of the Council’s Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation, stated today that he will work to restore \$11 million in the FY2011-FY2016 capital budget to fully fund construction of a new Edgewood Recreation Center. The Mayor’s FY2011-FY2016 capital budget eliminates \$11 million of the project’s \$14 million budget.

The FY2011-FY2016 capital budget, as proposed by the Mayor, pushes funding for a new Edgewood Recreation Center into FY2014 and beyond, allocating only \$1 million in FY2014 and \$2 million in FY2016. The remaining \$11 million necessary to complete the project is not included in the Mayor’s FY2011-FY2016 capital budget.

The Edgewood neighborhood, which has lost several young people to violence in recent years, has a large number of children who need a clean and safe place in which to play. “A new Edgewood Recreation Center will enable us accommodate more children and expand programming,” said Councilmember Thomas.

Demonstrating his commitment to the Edgewood community as well as providing all District residents with equitable recreation opportunities, Councilmember Thomas’ support was instrumental in securing NFL funding for a new ball field for Beacon House, a neighborhood-based organization that supports at-risk youth and families in the Edgewood Terrace community. The ribbon cutting for the new ball field will be held at 11 am on Saturday, May 15, 2010 at the Edgewood Recreation Center, 3rd and Evarts Streets, NE.

“I am committed to bringing resources to Edgewood,” stated Thomas. “I am at a loss to understand why the Mayor would eliminate funding for a new Edgewood Recreation Center when the need for a replacement facility is so critical.”

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