



# The Thomas Connection

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Building Bridges, Finding Solutions

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

### THOMAS HOLDS ROUNDTABLE ON TRANSFER OF DPR FUNDS TO DCHA

Ward 5 Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr., Chair of the Council's Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation—joined by his colleagues At-Large Councilmember Kwame Brown, Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh, and Ward 8 Councilmember Marion Barry—held a roundtable on October 30, 2009 regarding the transfer of Department of Parks and Recreation capital improvement funds to the DC Housing Authority.

Through the diligent work of his staff, Councilmember Thomas uncovered that more than \$82 million of DC Department of Parks and Recreation capital improvement funds had been surreptitiously transferred from the agency to the DC Housing Authority, through the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (see table). Additional research by the Councilmember's staff and the Council's budget staff identified roughly another \$88 million that had been transferred, bringing the total to more than \$170 million.

The transfer of District funds to an agency outside the purview of the Office of Chief Financial Officer—such as DCHA—creates the potential for contract awards that do not comply with municipal procurement competition and regulations. Indeed, the 12 projects in the accompanying table each list Banneker Ventures and Regan Associates as the contract manager. "I am determined to get to the bottom of this scheme and ensure that the District's procurement process is followed," vowed Thomas at the October 30th hearing.

### DPR CAPITAL FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO DCHA

#### 7<sup>th</sup> and N Park

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Forrester Construction (Non-CBE)  
Date of Award – September 1, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$800,000

#### Bald Eagle Recreation Center

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Blue Skye Construction (CBE)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$5.3M

### DPR CAPITAL FUNDS TRANSFERRED TO DCHA (CONT'D)

#### Barry Farm Recreation Center

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – RBK Construction @ Forrester Construction (CBEJV)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$15M

#### Chevy Chase Playground

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – RBK Construction (CBE)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$1.3M

#### Emery Ball Field

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Forrester Construction (Non-CBE)  
Date of Award – January 1, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$1.3M

#### Fort Stanton Recreation Center

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Winmar Construction & Dustin Construction (CBE JV)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$12M

#### Guy Mason Recreation Center

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – District Development Group & Hamel Construction (CBE JV)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$3M

#### Justice Park

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Capital Construction & Winmar Construction (Both CBEs)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$12M

#### Kenilworth Recreation Center

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Blue Skye Construction (CBE)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$12M

#### New Park in LeDroit Park

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Capital Construction & RBK Construction (CBE JV)  
Date of Award – September 28, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$1.7M

#### Parkview Ball Field

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Forney Enterprise Construction (CBE)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$1.2M

#### Rosedale Recreation Center

CM – Banneker Ventures/Regan Associates  
GC – Blue Skye & Coakley Williams Construction (CBE JV)  
Date of Award – September 21, 2009  
Contract Amount – \$16M

## THOMAS DENOUNCES CHANCELLOR'S TEACHERS RIF BY IGNORING DC LAW

After participating in the Council's October 29, 2009 Committee of the Whole Roundtable on the District of Columbia Public Schools' 2009-2010 Equalization Process, Budget Reductions, and Reductions in Force, Councilmember Thomas expressed outrage that Chancellor Rhee, without informing or consulting the Council, chose to ignore the FY2010 Budget Support Act—a document approved by the Council, Mayor, and Congress—in order to redirect approximately \$9 million to justify a Reduction in Force of school teachers. Many teachers who lost their jobs were certified and had above-average performance ratings.

At the hearing, Councilmember Thomas expressed concern that the Chancellor's decision to ignore the Budget Support Act could trigger violations of the Anti-Deficiency Act should the Council deny the reprogramming request that must now follow the Chancellor's redirection of funds. "I am troubled by the Chancellor's continued failure to communicate her intentions to the Council, and her blatant failure to confer with all stakeholders involved in public education reform," said Councilmember Thomas.

## 5D OFFICERS SALUTED AT ANNUAL 5D CAC DINNER

At the 5th District Police District Citizens' Advisory Council (5D CAC) dinner, held at the Navy Yard on October 22, 2009, Councilmember Thomas acknowledged the hard work and superior efforts of 5D officers and civilian employees, as well as the tireless dedication of residents active in the Advisory Council. He highlighted the critical role that the 5D CAC plays in linking the community to officers, and applauded the organization for its untiring service to Ward 5 residents and businesses. In particular, Councilmember Thomas saluted 5D CAC Chairman Robert Brannum for his outstanding leadership, and commended the organization for the difference it has been making in addressing public safety issues in Ward 5. "It takes strong community-based organizations like the 5D CAC to coordinate activities with MPD and address quality of life issues necessary to maintain a first class community," noted Councilmember Thomas.



Councilmember Thomas and his colleagues acknowledged the donations of Target and Nextel to 5D public safety initiatives at the 5D CAC awards dinner on October 22, 2009.

## COUNCILMEMBERS THOMAS'

### UPCOMING EVENTS

(GO TO [WWW.HARRYTHOMAS5.COM](http://WWW.HARRYTHOMAS5.COM) FOR MORE DETAILS)

**November 17** — WKYS Live Broadcast with Redskins at McKinley Tech High School

**November 23**—Ward 5 Turkey Give-Away at Greater Mt. Calvary Holy Church

**December 3** — Project Funway with the Greater Washington Fashion Chamber of Commerce at McKinley Tech High School

**December 16** — Ward 5 Holiday Open House at the Wilson Building

**December 19** — Breakfast with Santa at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center

## FOOD & FRIENDS' SLICE OF LIFE DRAWS COUNCILMEMBER SUPPORT

On October 19, 2009, Councilmember Thomas joined the staff of Ward 5's Food & Friends to promote Slice of Life, the organization's fundraising bake sale. The mission of Food & Friends is to foster a community caring for men, women, and children living with HIV/AIDS, cancer, and other life-challenging illnesses by preparing and delivering specialized meals and groceries in conjunction with nutrition counseling. Since its inception, Food & Friends has provided nearly 12 million meals to more than 18,850 individuals. In 2008, Food & Friends served more than 913,036 meals to more than 2,679 individuals.



Councilmember Thomas urges a passerby to support Food & Friends at the organization's October 19, 2009 Slice of Life promotional event.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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