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**Thomas Requests the Testimony of CFO Dr. Natwar Gandhi at Council Roundtable on the Transfer of DPR Capital Improvements Funds to DCHA**

**Washington, DC**— Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Tommy” Thomas, Jr., Chair of the Council’s Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation, announced today that he has requested that Dr. Natwar Gandhi, the District’s Chief Financial Officer, testify at the Council’s October 30, 2009 roundtable regarding the transfer of Department of Parks and Recreation capital improvement funds to the DC Housing Authority. The October 30<sup>th</sup> roundtable will be held at 11:00 a.m. in the Council Chamber (Room 500) of the John A. Wilson Building.

In his letter requesting Dr. Gandhi to testify, Councilmember Thomas expressed concern that 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. “The transfer of District funds outside the control of the Office of Chief Financial Officer circumvents the CFO’s fiduciary responsibilities and the expectations of our citizenry for an open and transparent government,” states Councilmember Thomas.

Yesterday, Councilmember Thomas and his colleagues—At-Large Councilmember Kwame Brown, Ward 3 Councilmember Mary Cheh, and Ward 8 Councilmember Marion Barry— requested the attendance of, and testimony from, the following at the October 30<sup>th</sup> roundtable: Neil Albert, City Administrator; Valerie Santos, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development; David Gragan, Director of Contracting and Procurement; and the acting director of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

“Tens of millions of dollars of contracts to undertake capital improvements of our recreation centers, parks, and playing fields have been awarded to a single developer by diverting funds to the DC Housing Authority. I am determined to get to the bottom of this scheme and ensure that the District’s procurement process is followed,” states Thomas.

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