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For Immediate Release
October 6, 2009

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Council Disapproves Dr. Ximena Hartsock as Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation
Thomas Pledges to Work with Executive to Rebuild Agency

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Tommy Thomas, Jr., Chair of the Council’s Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation, announced today that the Council, following the recommendation of the Committee, voted at its legislative session to disapprove the nomination of Dr. Ximena Hartsock as Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation. The Council’s vote was seven to five in support of the disapproval resolution.

In his remarks about the “Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation Ximena Hartsock Disapproval Resolution of 2009,” Councilmember Thomas outlined the Committee’s rationale for recommending the disapproval of Dr. Hartsock’s nomination. Thomas noted that the nominee lacks recreation administration experience and that, under her leadership, the agency has:

- Engaged in irregular personnel practices;
- Failed to foster labor relations;
- Suffered from deteriorating staff morale; and
- Failed to comply with the law.

“It is my hope that the Committee on Libraries, Parks and Recreation can work with the Executive to move the agency forward,” said Councilmember Thomas. “In the past six months, the Department’s management team—those with the most institutional and practical knowledge—has been dismantled. We must work together to rebuild a qualified management team for the Department of Parks and Recreation, as well as engage frontline staff to ensure service delivery to District residents is not disrupted.”

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