



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
ROOM 107
WASHINGTON, DC 20004



Harry Thomas, Jr.
Councilmember, Ward 5
Chair, Committee on Libraries,
Parks and Recreation

Tel: 202-724-8028
Fax: 202-724-8076
HThomas@DCCouncil.US

For Immediate Release
September 20, 2010

Contact: Grace Lewis
Phone: 202.724.8067
Email: glewis@dccouncil.us

Superior Court Judge Winfield Grants Council's Motion to Compel Testimony of Key Figure in DPR Contracting Investigation
Deposition of Omar Karim Scheduled for Tomorrow

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. announced today that DC Superior Court Judge Susan Winfield has granted the Council’s motion to compel the testimony of Omar Karim, principal owner of Banneker Ventures and the Liberty Law Group, two firms that figure prominently in the DPR contracting investigation. Judge Winfield ordered that the deposition of Mr. Karim take place on Tuesday, September 21, 2010 in a closed proceeding.

Judge Winfield’s order, issued on September 17, is in response to the "Enforcement of Subpoena of Omar Karim Resolution of 2010," legislation introduced by Councilmember Thomas on August 12 authorizing the Council of the District of Columbia to petition the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to compel testimony and documents from Mr. Karim. Mr. Karim had refused to answer questions relating to the Liberty Law Group during a August 5, 2010 deposition with Robert Trout, the Special Counsel appointed by the Council to investigate the contracts.

In particular, Mr. Karim was nonresponsive to questions about Liberty Law Group’s use of and payment for office space at 700 12th Street, NW; the circumstances under which Liberty Law Group, Banneker Ventures, and Liberty Engineering share the same office; Liberty Law Group’s payments to Liberty Industries; and the financial relationship between Liberty Law Group and Blue Skye Construction. Liberty Engineering and Liberty Industries are both owned by Sinclair Skinner. Blue Skye Construction was selected as one of the general contractors for the parks contracts.

“I am pleased that Judge Winfield recognized the need to compel Mr. Karim’s testimony,” said Councilmember Thomas.

###