



**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

TEL: 202-724-8028
FAX: 202-724-8076
HTHOMAS@DCCOUNCIL.US

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

Thomas Praises MPD and US Attorney's Office for Todd Place Crew Indictments
*Allocating Resources to Grass Roots Initiatives Is How
We Can Best Prevent Crime, States Thomas*

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. today praised the diligent work of the DC Metropolitan Police Department and US Attorney’s office in investigating a spate of gang-related shootings that occurred in the Lincoln Road/North Capitol Street area last spring. Law enforcement efforts led to a Superior Court grand jury returning on September 23, 2009 a 92-count indictment charging four alleged members of the “Todd Place Crew” with conspiracy and first degree murder while armed. If convicted, the defendants face a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

“I thank the police task force and the prosecutors who diligently investigated these shootings,” said Councilmember Thomas. “The indictments bring us closer to closure on an unfortunate episode of gang violence that took a life and injured many others, including innocent bystanders.

Councilmember Thomas has worked to bring resources to the Lincoln Road/North Capitol Street. During his first year in office, as part of the FY2008 budget, he successfully expanded the Great Streets and Main Streets initiatives to include North Capitol Street. As part of the FY2009 budget, he included funds to launch a Green Team for the corridor. To address gang activity, Thomas allocated funding through the FY2010 Budget Support Act to support youth outreach and gang prevention programs in Ward 5. Thomas also has restored nine Roving Leader positions to the Department of Parks and Recreation’s budget so that recreation centers in areas of need have sufficient outreach personnel to work with at-risk youth.

“It is absolutely critical that we allocate resources to programs that can make a difference at the grass roots level where we can best prevent crime and the behaviors that lead to crime,” said Councilmember Thomas. “I plan to do everything within my purview to ensure that as a city we continue to undertake grass roots initiatives that promote safety in Ward 5 and throughout the city.”

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