



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
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**HARRY THOMAS, JR.
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Thomas Sponsors Town Hall Meeting for Teens to Discuss Violence Gripping Ward 5

Washington, DC—Ward 5 Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr., in partnership with WPGC and the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, will host “Yo Listen Up”—a town hall meeting for teens on Monday, April 28, 2008, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center. The purpose of the town hall meeting is to discuss the epidemic of homicides and violence gripping Ward 5. Event details are listed below.

Other invited guests include Mayor Adrian Fenty; Kathy Lanier, MPD Police Chief; Diane Groomes, Assistant Police Chief; Lamar Greene, Fifth Police District Commander; Ronald Moten, Peaceholics; Anwar Glover (Big G), The Wire/Backyard; Reverend Tony Lee; Joshua Symonette, Youth Minister from Greater Mount Calvary Church; and other members of the Ward 5 pastoral community.

Councilmember Thomas expects approximately 200 youth to attend the town hall meeting and discuss the recent violence in Ward 5, which includes a total of 17 homicides since January 1, 2008. The most recent homicide occurred over the weekend at Joe Cole Recreation Center in the Trinidad neighborhood.

“This town hall meeting is one of several initiatives I am undertaking to reach our teens and talk to them about resolving conflicts and disagreements without the use of a gun, knife, or fists,” said Councilmember Thomas. “We must begin to change the behavior of our kids and their views toward violence. Engaging teens in a frank discussion is part of this journey,” said Thomas.

- Who:** DC Councilmember Harry “Tommy” Thomas, Jr. (D-Ward 5), WPGC, and DC Department of Parks and Recreation
- What:** “Yo Listen Up”—A Town Hall Meeting for Teens
- When:** Monday, April 28, 2008, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Where:** Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, 10th Street and Michigan Avenue, NE

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