



PRESS RELEASE

November 3, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Bowser introduces legislation to remove assessment cap on home renovations

Washington, D.C. – In today’s legislative session, Councilmember Bowser introduced the **“Home Improvement and Age-in-Place Incentive Act of 2009,”** which will remove the assessment cap credit on home renovations. This bill provides an economic incentive for homeowners, most especially seniors, to renovate their homes.

District law currently limits the increase on a homeowner’s property tax bill to 10 percent above the previous year’s assessment. This cap, however, does not apply if a homeowner undertakes renovations that result in at least a 10 percent increase in property value. In this scenario, the entire value of the renovations as well as the market price are captured and taxed accordingly. Councilmember Bowser said “Not only does this law adversely affect lower-income homeowners but also seniors who must renovate their homes to make them, at the very least, habitable so that they may age-in-place.”

If passed, homeowners, including seniors, may renovate their homes, install a first-floor bathroom, fix a roof, install a wheelchair lift, or replace windows. Further, this bill will permit owners of lower-valued homes to benefit from the tax break to the same extent as owners of high-valued homes.

Councilmember Bowser said “Although implemented with good intentions, the renovation cap treats owners of lower-valued homes differently than owners of higher-valued homes. This bill is a straightforward way to give a small break to homeowners, and to seniors, and it levels the playing field for homeowners of all economic backgrounds.”

Also today, the Council approved the “The **“Hospital and Medical Services Corporation Regulatory Amendment Act of 2009.”** Introduced by Councilmember Bowser, this bill is intended to create a public-private partnership that will ensure that the District is able to provide quality affordable health insurance to more residents in the Healthy DC program. CareFirst will contribute \$5 million annually during the term of the agreement to the soon-to-be implemented Healthy D.C. Fund.

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A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. She is also a member of the Committees on: Economic Development, Human Services, Public Works and Transportation, and Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information.

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