



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Councilmember Bowser's Introductions at Legislative Meeting

(Washington, DC) – Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, at today's second legislative meeting introduced the *Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act of 2009* and reintroduced the *Demolition or Raze Permit Community Notification Amendment Act of 2009*.

The *Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act of 2009* is a permanent version of legislation that the Council of the District of Columbia passed as an emergency on December 22, 2008, and which is currently District law on an emergency basis, effective until March 22, 2009. The temporary version of the legislation was signed by the Mayor on January 22, 2009, and is undergoing congressional review.

“This legislation will ensure that when District residents apply for a mortgage, that they are working with brokers that follow a national standard,” said Councilmember Bowser.

This emergency legislation brought the District of Columbia into compliance with Title V of the Federal Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA), which was enacted by congress in July of 2008. Title V of HERA requires that all states' and the District's mortgage regulators become members of the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS). NMLS an internet based system that state regulators within the District Department of Insurance Securities and Banking (DISB) must use in the licensing of the residential Mortgage industry. Title V of HERA also requires that all states and the District must utilize the NMLS by August 2009. This measure was co-sponsored by Councilmembers Marion Barry, Jack Evans, David Catania, Mary Cheh and Yvette Alexander.

The *Demolition or Raze Permit Community Notification Amendment Act of 2009* would require that 30 days prior to the demolition of a structure in the District of Columbia, the owner would post notice on the exterior of the property stating that the structure will be demolished. This legislation would amend the Construction Codes Supplement of 2003, to require an applicant for a demolition or raze permit to post a notice, sign or placard on the premises. The sign must be in place 30 days before any demolition could take place. Additionally, the notice should be placed on the main entrance doors or another place on the premises and should be visible from the street 30 days prior to demolition. This measure was co-sponsored by Councilmembers Marion Barry, Jack Evans, David Catania, Kwame Brown, Mary Cheh, Harry Thomas and Michael Brown.

“I introduced this bill last council period because I believe that it is important that residents of a neighborhood are given notice of impending demolitions,” said Councilmember Bowser. “When a building is demolished, it affects the entire neighborhood, not just the parcel of land where the structure once stood. Demolishing a structure dramatically changes the dynamic of a street, and can change the look and feel of a whole neighborhood.”

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