



Media Advisory

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Councilmember Muriel Bowser delivers on her promise to focus on Ward 4 priorities in the FY2009 budget

(Washington, DC) – “We listened to the Ward 4 community and demanded additional resources for projects that will improve our streets and alleys, increase public safety and make all our neighborhoods cleaner,” said Councilmember Bowser after leaving the Council hearing yesterday on the FY2009 budget. The Council unanimously voted to support the “Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Request Act” and the “Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Support Act.” The budget, which includes \$5.7 billion in proposed local funds and \$8.7 billion in total funds, is one of the most fiscally conservative budgets DC Council has passed in recent years.

Since joining the DC Council a year ago, Councilmember Muriel Bowser has delivered on her promise to focus on our neighborhood infrastructure and public safety, fix our schools, and bring much needed economic development to Ward 4. “I’m pleased my colleagues on the Council agreed with me and voted to support these initiatives to benefit all our neighborhoods,” said Councilmember Muriel Bowser.

Here are some highlights, Councilmember Bowser demanded for Ward 4 in the FY2009 budget:

Safety First

Funding for the city-wide Smoke Alarm Verification and Utilization (SAVU) program. This funding will ensure the continuation of the program initiated by DC Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department (FEMS) earlier this year. The SAVU program tests and installs FREE smoke detectors in homes around the city. These smoke detectors also detect carbon monoxide, another toxic gas. I encourage all residents to call 727-1600 or visit www.fems.dc.gov to schedule the installation of a FREE smoke detector.

More than \$800,000 has been included for the installation of crosswalk lighting and a study of lighting improvements needed around the Metro Stations at Takoma, Petworth and Fort Totten. This funding will install light tripping technology and photo radar equipment for 16th Street, 14th Street, and Military Road, NW. There will also be a comprehensive lighting program around our Metro Stations at Takoma, Petworth and

Fort Totten. “I’ve heard from a number of residents concerned about the criminal activities around our Metro stations and have mentioned the inadequate lighting on these highly used pedestrian routes,” said Councilmember Bowser. “These funds will go directly to install lighting that shines on the pedestrian walkways to improve safety.”

Funding for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. “In response to residents’ perception that people arrested for crimes are quickly returned to the street before adjudication, I asked for and received funding by which the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council will conduct a cross-jurisdictional study of arrests and sentencing to see how DC compares to near-by jurisdictions,” said Councilmember Bowser.

Economic Development

\$1 million for continuation of Ward 4 Business Improvement District project begun in 2008 and support for capital improvement projects along Ward 4 commercial corridors. Since joining the Council, revitalization of the commercial corridors of Ward 4 has been one of my biggest priorities. Funds will be allocated to continue the pilot business improvement district I received funding for in 2008 which provides enhanced DPW services along Georgia Avenue and Kennedy Street, NW. There will also be one-time grants to support capital improvement projects along our commercial corridors, such as the Takoma Theater Conservancy. The small business micro loan fund will increase the categories of potential fund recipients and will allow eligible recipients to receive financial assistance, including grants and loans.

Commercial property tax relief “My colleagues and I on the DC Council know that small businesses provide the majority of retail and support services throughout the District of Columbia,” commented Councilmember Bowser. “In response to small business’ concerns about the rising property assessments and waning revenues, we voted to reduce the current tax rate on the first \$3 million of assessed value from \$1.85 to \$1.65 per \$100 of assessed value.”

Schools and Recreation

“Our schools are our greatest asset and I’m very pleased my colleagues and I approved the **funding necessary to expand pre-kindergarten and repair school facilities,**” said Councilmember Bowser. These funds will establish a voluntary high quality pre-kindergarten program throughout DC Public Schools to ensure that all 3 and 4-year olds who reside in the District have an opportunity to participate in high quality pre-kindergarten settings. The restructuring plan also includes adding music, art and physical education instructors at all public schools.

More than \$2 million for capital improvements to Ward 4 Parks: Funds were designated to begin to rebuild and renovate Raymond Recreation Center and also for Fort Stevens, Upshur and Hamilton Recreation Centers.

Youth Employment There will be a Youth Jobs Fund established to be sure that all District of Columbia young people who want enriching summer jobs, have the opportunity to have one.

Infrastructure

Funding to rebuild Klingle Road Councilmember Bowser has fought long and hard to reopen Klingle Road, a cross-park connector road. Unfortunately, the majority of DC Council members did not agree. The recommended \$2 million to begin to repair Klingle Road and reopen this road for motor vehicle traffic was not approved. Instead the \$2 million designated in the Mayor's budget will be used to fund alley repairs. The final vote on Klingle Road will be on June 3, 2008.

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