



PRESS RELEASE

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Councilmember Bowser brings programs and services closer to Ward 4 constituents through FY2010 budget

Washington, DC – The Council of the District of Columbia unanimously voted to support the “Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Request Act” and the “Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Support Act.” The budget includes \$5.4 billion in proposed local funds.

Bowser said “I’m pleased my colleagues on the Council agreed with me and voted to support initiatives that will ensure economic vitality and quality of life through a variety of projects to benefit the entire city.”

Included below are the projects that Councilmember Bowser brought home to Ward 4 in the FY2010 budget:

Infrastructure Improvements

\$2.1 Million Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue: The Council approved funding for a shovel-ready capital project at Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue. The District Department of Transportation will begin to reconfigure the roads and relocate a utility so that an important redevelopment project can move forward.

Bowser said, “Crucial to making the District greener is to make it more walkable. The reconfiguration plan will turn a block of Riggs Road NE into a walkable business street. The intersection of Riggs and South Dakota Avenue is a high-speed traffic zone. The road reconfiguration will make the intersection more pedestrian friendly with the installation of a crosswalk.”

Economic Development

\$1 million Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF): Brightwood will receive a NIF grant to assist in financing economic development and neighborhood revitalization.

\$125,000 North Tivoli Business Association: The association advocates for businesses in Wards 1 and 4. North Tivoli has demonstrated a commitment to innovation in promoting member businesses in challenging economic times and to this end has partnered with the Deputy Mayor’s Office for Economic Development.

\$150,000 Vinegar Hill South Main Street: The grant will continue to assist businesses along the Kennedy Street corridor in revitalization efforts.

\$150,000 Upper Georgia Avenue Main Street: The grant will continue to assist businesses along the Georgia Avenue corridor in revitalization efforts.

\$250,000 Kennedy Street and Georgia Avenue Green Team: Neighborhood clean team services supplement public maintenance by the Department of Public Works. It is an effective mechanism for addressing targeted cleaning and safety needs of commercial corridors that have trouble-spots and high-volume traffic areas.

“The District has not been as economically hard hit as other parts of the country,” Bowser said. “But we must do all we can to ensure our city’s businesses remain economically viable. Increased investment in the corridors will ensure just that. Green teams on Kennedy Street and Georgia Avenue have improved the Ward’s business climate, which will help attract private sector investment. “

\$125,000 Ward 4 Corridor Improvement Grants Program: The program includes funding for property improvement grants to address deferred maintenance, exterior security fixtures, business branding and demarcation, and other storefront upgrades.

Public safety

\$250,000 Youth Violence Prevention: The Georgia Avenue Rock Creek East Collaborative has partnered with the Columbia Heights/Shaw Family Support Collaborative to bring the Gang Intervention Partnership (GIP) to Ward 4. The GIP is a unique multi-agency gang prevention and intervention initiative that brings together law enforcement, community institutions and city agencies to address gang-related violence through comprehensive and holistic strategies and services.

\$75,000 Safe Takoma: The Council approved funding this community-based group whose objectives are to help reduce crime and promote public safety.

Parks and Recreation

- \$1.5 million Shepherd Park for field improvements and a tot lot
- \$500,000 Upshur Hamilton Park for completion of its playground
- \$145,000 Fort Stevens tennis courts for improvements
- Ward 4 passive parks (any unused funds from the three projects above will go toward the construction of these passive parks)

Included below are the projects the Council approved that will greatly assist citizens District-wide.

Safety First

The “**Elevator Maintenance Standards Act of 2009**” will help to protect our residents and visitors by establishing a professional licensure category for those individuals who work on or inspect elevators, or who own companies that work on elevators and other related conveyances

within the District, and it would protect the health, safety, and welfare of District residents and visitors by establishing licensure qualifications.

As part of the **Budget Support Act**, the Council approved a new proactive inspections program for multi-family housing in the District. Instead of an inspections program that is reactive in nature, that is, that responds to inspections requests; proactive inspections would see that the Department of Regulatory and Consumer Affairs (DCRA) regularly inspects all rental properties with more than three units.

Bowser said, “Proactive inspections have long been a goal of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs and we are pleased to see its implementation forthcoming.”

The Council also approved adding one additional attorney for the Office of the Tenant Advocate.

Children and Families

The Council increased by \$1,465,000 over Mayor Fenty’s budget funding for the Child and Family Services Grandparents Subsidy Program that provides low-income District grandparent caregivers with much-needed assistance by making them eligible for the same subsidy payments as foster parents.

Green Energy Agenda

The Council’s approved budget includes legislation for the implementation of the smart grid, which will ensure that the District is able to maximize its access to federal stimulus funding intended to build out the smart grid. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contained billions of dollars intended to begin the transformation of our country’s energy infrastructure. The ARRA contained \$4.5 billion for development of the smart grid. The smart grid will utilize wireless sensor networks, software and computing to enable utilities to identify the location and amount of energy consumption, and to determine the presence of network blackouts and other problems. This measure will put the District on track to become a leader in clean and renewable energy.

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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 and the Office of the People’s Council and is also a member of the Committee on Public Committee on Economic Development, Committee on Human Services and Committee on Public Works and Transportation. [Click here](#) fore more information on Councilmember Bowser.

For more information or to interview Councilmember Bowser, please contact Communications Director Phallan Davis at 202-741-0915 or pdavis@dccouncil.us

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