



Media Advisory

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CONTACT: Phallan Davis 202-741-0915 office or pdavis@dccouncil.us

Councilmember Bowser leads effort to defeat Used Car Dealers License Reform and Relief Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2009

Washington, DC – In today’s legislative session, Councilmember Muriel Bowser led the fight to defeat the “Used Car Dealers License Reform and Relief Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2009,” introduced by Ward 8 Councilmember Marion Barry.

Councilmember Bowser said “Barry’s emergency measure threatened the quality of life for all District residents. For many years, used car lots have served as a source of visual blight. These are often illegitimate businesses that do not sell cars in the District but rather serve as dumping grounds before the cars are shipped elsewhere. As dumping grounds, these illegitimate businesses harbor rats, discourage commercial investment, and cause environmental and health hazards.”

The District enacted permanent rules in April to address the lots. These rules require used car lots to maintain an office with heating, electricity, and a bathroom. They also require used car owners to maintain business hours, actually sell cars, and keep records. Lot owners are also required to beautify their lots. These are reasonable rules meant only to ensure that businesses in the District are actually conducting business.

Councilmember Bowser added “Barry’s emergency measure would repeal these rules and replace them with rules that would return some of our commercial corridors to blight. For instance, the proposed emergency measure does not require lots to have business hours, sell cars, or keep files. I am pleased that we were able to resoundingly defeat the measure.”

Other legislative matters:

- The Council passed the FY2010 budget, which will include many initiatives that will help to secure the District’s economic vitality and the betterment of our residents.
- The Council took its first vote on “The Raze Permit Community Notification Amendment Act of 2009” and will have a second reading in two weeks. This bill, introduced by Councilmember Bowser, will require that the owner of a structure to be razed must post a placard, sign, or notice on the exterior of the structure 30 days prior to the due date of raze, so that the neighborhood will know that raze will take place. The notice must be visible to the street and placed on the premises at least 30 days before the demolition.
- Councilmember Bowser helped to defeat the “Summer Youth Employment Emergency Act of 2009.” Introduced by Councilmember Barry, the bill would have shortened the weeks that youth are employed from nine to six. **Councilmember Bowser said**, “We owe it to the students thousands of students who so dutifully signed up for the program to keep up our end of the

bargain. A six-week program is unfair to the students because they need the time to cultivate their newly acquired skills.”

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 406, Washington, DC 20004
202-724-8052 phone 202-741-0908 fax
