



STATEMENT

September 22, 2009

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

Statement: Councilmember Bowser on Council's decision to approve blight tax

At today's legislative session, I fought successfully to ensure that blighted properties continue to be taxed at the highest tax rate that the District has ever known — \$10 per \$100 of assessed value. The vacant and nuisance property tax debate has raised passions on both sides. While my original proposal for a four-tiered approach included separate classes for vacant and blighted, I am pleased that we saved the \$10 rate on blight. I believe that the \$10 rate, above any other approach, has spurred improvements in my ward on the part of the owners of the most dilapidated and unsafe properties.

Blighted properties, including boarded-up storefronts and residences, sully whole neighborhoods because they bring trash, rats, graffiti, and crime. I am pleased that the Council's action today will continue to push owners of blighted property to renovate, sell or occupy their property, which will result in cleaner and safer neighborhoods.

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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 is also a member of the Committee on Economic Development, Committee on Human Services, Committee on Public Works and Transportation, and the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information.

For any media inquires, please contact Communications Director Phallan Davis at 202-741-0915 or pdavis@dccouncil.us.

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 110, Washington, DC 20004
202-724-8052 phone 202-741-0908 fax
