



Gray's News and Notes

Chairman Vincent C. Gray, Council of the District of Columbia

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Upcoming Council Hearings

Tuesday, Sept. 22

10:00 AM, Room 500
Committee of the
Whole Meeting to be
followed by
[Legislative Meeting](#)

Wednesday, Sept. 23

10:00 AM, Room 500
Committee on
Economic
Development:
[Department of Small
and Local Business
Development Act](#)

10:00 AM, Room 412
Committee on Human
Services
[Lead Entities/
Services Coalition
Grants at New
Beginnings Youth
Development Center](#)

1:00 PM, Room 120
Committee on Public
Services and
Consumer Affairs:
[Certified Capital
Companies
Improvement Act](#)

Thursday, Sept. 24

Street Names Honor Pioneers Who Pave a Better Way for Others

Dear Friends,

The Council of the District of Columbia is set to hold its first legislative meeting on September 22nd, since the summer recess ended on September 15th. The recess gave Councilmembers opportunities to spend more time in the community since committee hearings and legislative meetings were not held, even though our Council offices remained open. Among the events many attended was a street naming ceremony in honor of Chuck Brown, the "King of Go Go Music." A bill I introduced with Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham, and the Council passed, symbolically designates 7th Street, NW, from T Street to Florida Avenue, as "[Chuck Brown Way](#)." The bill recognizes Brown's musical talents and his positive influence on the District. The same act designates blocks in the area around the historic Howard Theater to honor Duke Ellington, the late jazz great; and Cathy Hughes, the radio station trailblazer.



Chairman Gray and Chuck Brown
(courtesy: Ron Thomas)



Loree H. Murray
(courtesy: Vanessa Ruffin-Colbert)

Before Council recess, I also was delighted to have introduced with Ward 6 Councilmember Tommy Wells a bill to name the 1100 block of 7th Street, NE as "[Loree H. Murray Way](#)." She was a brave community activist who lived on that block in the same neighborhood where I was raised. Before her death at the age of 88, Ms. Murray set an example of how everyday citizens can be catalysts for change. Murray founded the Northeast Citizens Against Crime and Drugs as a response to the violence and crack cocaine epidemic that was devastating D.C. and many U.S. cities in the 80s. This fearless heroine served as one of the first Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners and was a leader in the rebirth of the H Street Business Corridor. Ms. Murray was a fighter on many fronts, and received "Points of Light" volunteerism awards from Presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush.

Bud Doggett, parking lot magnate; Hal Gordon, advocate for the homeless; Abe Pollin, sports team owner; and Rev. M. Cecil Mills, Baptist church leader, are among other respected citizens worthy of Council street designation bills. While only symbolic, these acts are a visible way to thank people whose commitment and dedication have improved the quality of life of others.

Vincent C. Gray

10:00 AM, Room 412
Committee on
Economic
Development:
[Small and Local
Business
Opportunity
Commission](#)
[Christian Salvatori
Confirmation](#)

2:00 PM, Room 500
Committee of the
Whole: [Florida Ave.
Market Small Area
Plan Resolution](#)

Monday, Sept. 25

9:30 AM, Room 412
Committee on Public
Safety and the
Judiciary: [Fire
Hydrants & Fire
Fighting Water
Supply](#)

Tuesday, Sept. 29

Committee on Public
Works &
Transportation:
2:00 PM, Room 412
[Wastewater System
Regulation Act](#)

[Check Out the
Schedule of Council
Meetings and Events
on TV 13](#)

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Community College on the Move



Chairman Gray joined UDC President Allen Sessoms, [Community College](#) CEO Jonathan Gueverra, Councilmember Mary Cheh, UDC Board Chair Emily Durso, and others, including Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr., to cut the ribbon to open the new Community College. CCDC will offer 19 associate degrees, 22 workforce development programs and three certificate programs to train residents in fields such as health care, technology, hospitality and green energy.

Bagging to Beat Cancer



Safeway invited Chairman Gray to be a Celebrity Guest Bagger to raise awareness and funds for the [Prostate Cancer Foundation](#). The grocery store chain raised \$12 million nationwide for research this year. D.C. has the highest prostate cancer death rate in the nation, with black men's rate twice as white men.

Moving Toward Statehood



The Chairman with Councilmembers Harry Thomas, Yvette Alexander and Michael Brown, members of the Special Committee on Statehood and Self-Determination, at the National Conference of State Legislators meeting in Philadelphia. With Chairman Gray, Committee Chair Brown led the Council's effort to educate attendees about D.C.'s quest for [voting rights](#) and independence from Congress.

(Photo by Ron Thomas)

Setting an Example to Fight HIV/AIDS



A health professional from the [Women's Collective](#) helps the Chairman take an HIV/AIDS test. The Council offered free screenings and information to government employees and the public at the Wilson Building to observe National [HIV Testing Day](#).

Health Care Watch

[AARP DC Lowering Prescription Drug Costs Forum 9/29](#)
[Community Education Group HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project](#)