

FRIENDS OF  
HARRY THOMAS COMMUNITY SERVICE CENTER  
1743 LINCOLN RD., NE  
WASHINGTON, DC 20002  
202-576-5642

P E T I T I O N

**Reinstate Lionel Taylor**

Mr. Adrian Fenty  
Mayor - Washington  
District of Columbia

Dear Mayor Fenty,

This petition calls for the reinstatement of Mr. Lionel Taylor to the Director of the Harry Thomas Community Service Center. Mr. Taylor was terminated on Friday April 24, 2009. To the best of our knowledge, it was for budgetary reasons, and because he is a at will employee. We want to try and understand the budgetary constraints the Department of Recreation may find itself in, but is this truly the only and best why to balance a budget.

Mr. Taylor is a Washingtonian born at 1836 N. Capitol St. NW. in 1950. In 1970 he joined the Department of Recreation at the Saint Martin Teen Center under what was known as the Youth Opportunity Service Center as a trainer. From 1975-1992 he was transferred to the Neighborhood Planning Council also as a trainer and lastly as a administrator. In 1993 he joined the Roving Leaders as Unit Organizer. From 1995 until the present he has been the site manager and director of the then Langley Recreation Center which was renamed the Harry Thomas Community Service Center at its dedication to deceased Council Member Harry Thomas Sr. in 2000.

Through this long tenure and service to this community he has gained the respect and admiration of thousands of young people who are now adults and productive citizens in this city and throughout the country. He was responsible for the design and implementation of the Jabbo Kenner Football League and the Ghetto Football League. He is a Seventh Degree Black Beltist of Bando Martial Arts and conducts the only martial arts training classes in the Department of Recreation for both male and female. The list of all his accomplishments are too many to include in this petition, but we hope you get the message. It is truly sad that one can dedicate themselves to their career and community and than have others negate them as though they were nothing. What are we to tell our young people about doing the right thing, when they see some of their heroes treated in such a negative manner. Mr. Taylor deserves the right to a higher level of dignity and recognition then this termination has afforded him.

Sincerely,  
All of the Undersigned