



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
ROOM 107
WASHINGTON, DC 20004**



HARRY THOMAS, JR.
COUNCILMEMBER
WARD 5

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September 24, 2009

**RE: Support of Ward 5 Residents and Bates Area Civic Association to
remove Illegal Billboards.**

This letter recognizes and supports the efforts of Ward 5 residents and the Bates Area Civic Association to remove the billboards located on the corners of New Jersey Avenue, 4th Street, and P Street, NW (Square 0521 Lot 0800). I acknowledge that my constituents have long pursued the removal of the billboards for the following reasons:

- The billboards are located within a residential district, despite DC Code 3107.7.6.7, which states that a "billboard shall not be located on lots within 200 feet (60 960mm) of any Residential District."
- The billboards encourage graffiti and attract squatters and illegal dumping of trash.
- The land is often neglected, with waist-high grass, debris, and other sources of rat harborage.
- The billboards encourage criminal activity and create a dangerous environment for the community.
- Billboards on residentially zoned land are a visual blight for local residents.

I am pleased to represent the interests of Ward 5 residents in this matter. I will work on their behalf in collaboration with the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs and the DC Attorney General to ensure compliance of the laws prohibiting billboards and correct this highly visible blight in this valued Ward 5 neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr.
Ward 5 Councilmember