



THE BROWN BULLETIN

DECEMBER 2011

Michael A. Brown Councilmember At-Large

Council of the District of
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Small and Local Business
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Happy Holidays!

As we end the year 2011, I want to thank all the unsung heroes, at home and abroad, who have contributed to the benefit of our great city and her people. I am proud the District is comprised of so many giving individuals who spend enormous time and treasury in service to our country and community, volunteering with our schools, organizations, neighborhood associations and charitable causes without recognition. To these unknown angels, I thank you. Your service is needed and truly appreciated.

On behalf of the Brown family, my staff and committee office, I wish you and your loved ones a safe and joyful holiday season. Regardless of your religious affiliation, we can all take time to honor our faiths and give a little to those who are in need.

Until then, I wish you a Happy New Year and hope your 2012 is full of good health and prosperity.

Merry Christmas,

Michael

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Reformed DC First Source Amendment passes final reading- Establishes the largest jobs bill in District history.

Authored by Chairman Kwame R. Brown in January 2011, and under the Committee leadership of Councilmember Michael A. Brown, the “***District of Columbia Workforce Intermediary Establishment and Reform of First Source Amendment Act of 2011***” has passed by a Council vote of 13-0. The legislation was vetted through a public hearing last spring, and more than 30 subsequent meetings with diverse constituencies including the non-profit sector, organized labor, community activists, businesses, and governmental agencies.

“This historic jobs bill will provide District residents with meaningful employment opportunities,” said Chairman Kwame R. Brown. “I want to thank Councilmember Michael Brown and his staff for their work to strengthen our First Source law and helping to ensure that the District addresses the high rate of unemployment.”

“After almost thirty years, we have finally closed the loopholes of our city’s first source law to ensure that projects funded with billions of DC taxpayer dollars will be used to hire DC residents. Today’s unacceptable high unemployment rates and the resulting demand for safety-net services place our city in an unsustainable economic position, and one which this bill will help to reverse,” stated Councilmember Michael A. Brown.

Highlights of the legislation, crafted to place DC residents into DC funded jobs, include:

- The creation of a bifurcated hiring policy that demands that:
 - A) For projects receiving between \$300,000 and \$5 million in city subsidy, 51% of new hires must be District residents.
 - B) On projects receiving \$5million or more in city subsidy, more aggressive requirements based on total hours worked will be in effect.
- Increases in oversight of first source laws into other industries beyond the construction and development field.
- Strengthened monitoring and compliance of the law by including updated reporting requirements, increased fines for not reaching specific hiring requirements and debarment authority for repeat violators.
- The authority for beneficiaries to double-count the hours worked by District residents who are “hard to employ” (such as TANF recipients or the long-term unemployed)
- The establishment of a workforce intermediary pilot program that will coordinate new and existing training opportunities to match job seekers to businesses and projects with job openings.

“This bill takes several important steps in the right direction. With the establishment of a Workforce Intermediary to connect employers with qualified candidates, First Source has a much better chance of working as intended. That will benefit the District, its employers, and its citizens seeking work,” stated Marina Streznewski, Executive Director of the DC Jobs Council.

The bill will now proceed to the Mayor who is expected to sign the bill on Wednesday, December 21st.



(Left) Councilmember Michael A. Brown, his sons and staff were honored to volunteer at Food and Friends in advance of the Thanksgiving Holiday.

(Right) Councilmember Michael A. Brown and George A. Jones, Executive Director of Bread for the City, preparing Thanksgiving food baskets for many families across our city.

Donate to your favorite charity this holiday season and beyond!

This holiday season, the **Michael A. Brown Community Fund** will be donating to the following worthy charities across the District.

Anacostia Community Center	2443 Ainger Place, SE 20032	202-889-5607
Bread for the City	1525 7th Street, NW 20001	202-265-2400
Center for Child Protection	714 G Street, SE 20003	202-544-3114
DC General Family Shelter	1900 Mass. Ave., SE 20003	202-698-6063
DC Housing Authority's 2011 Gift of Love Campaign		
Latin American Youth Center	1419 Columbia Road, NW 20009	202-319-2225
Martha's Table	2114 14th Street, NW	
Northeast Performing Arts Grp.	3431 Benning Rd., NE	202-388-1274
Sasha Bruce House	1022 Maryland Ave., NE 20002	202-546-4900
So Others Might Eat	71 O Street, NW 20001	202-797-8806
Transitional Housing Corp.	4506 Georgia Ave., NW 20011	202-722-6305



children's law center
holiday hope drive

The Council office and the Committee on Housing and Workforce Development office is joining the **Children's Law Center Holiday Hope Drive** by adopting two families who do not have the means to celebrate or purchase gifts. The Councilmember and staff have donated their personal funds to provide clothing and toys to the foster children.

Councilmember Michael A. Brown introduces legislation that will provide tax reductions for businesses that employ DC residents.

In the December 6th legislative session of the Council of the District of Columbia, At-large Councilmember Michael A. Brown, Chairman of the Committee on Housing and Workforce Development, introduced **the *District Resident Workforce Tax Incentive Act of 2011***.

The Act will provide a tax incentive for District based companies whose workforce is predominantly made up of District of Columbia residents, with further tax incentives for hiring "hard to employ residents". Specifically, the bill allows companies that have between 60 and 80% of their employees residing in the District to get a reduction in their franchise tax rate from 9.975% to 9.15% and companies that have over 80% of their employees residing in the District will get a reduction in their franchise tax rate from 9.975% to 8.25% (which is the current franchise rate in Maryland).

"While I have no illusion that this alone will address our city's unemployment crisis, I do believe that it is another tool that can help put our residents back to work while rewarding businesses in our city who are supporting our residents more than most," stated Councilmember Michael A. Brown.

The bill also provides companies that are eligible an additional tax incentive to employ "hard to employ residents" which are defined as TANF recipients, food stamp recipients, long-term unemployed, returning citizens, and other disadvantaged segments of the population. This tax incentive would allow the company to deduct 50% of the wages paid to each "hard to employ resident" up to \$25,000/year for the first two years of employment.

"The DC Chamber of Commerce has always worked to make it easier to live and work in the District. The introduction of this legislation is a pro-active step in helping to increase District resident employment. The Chamber has made it a priority of its "Fix List" to lower the franchise tax and ensure tax incentives are provided to businesses that hire DC residents, specifically hard to employ DC residents. We look forward to working with the Council on getting the District Resident Workforce Tax Incentive Act of 2011 passed as quickly as possible," stated Barbara Lang, President of the DC Chamber of Commerce.

The act was co-introduced by Chairman Kwame R. Brown, Councilmembers Jack Evans, and David Catania and was co-sponsored by the entire body and was referred to the Committee on Finance and Revenue.



Byte Back, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that provides computer literacy and employment readiness skills to underserved communities throughout Washington D.C.

Photo- Councilmember Brown with Kelly Ellsworth, Executive Director at the Byte Back fall graduation ceremony.

District to Consider “Community Schools”

Councilmember Michael A. Brown has introduced legislation that will allow our public school buildings to be used as neighborhood hubs to offer a vast array of services including health clinics, child tutoring sessions, adult education and other services that all members of the community can utilize on evenings and weekends.

[The Community Schools Incentive Amendment Act](#) would designate 5 schools in the city’s neediest communities to be eligible for government grants of up to \$200,000 per year to those schools that develop a plan approved by an advisory committee made up of leaders from D.C. Public Schools, the parks department, the health department, and other agencies.

“Research has found that the community schools approach of co-locating naturally allied programs in local schools can lead to more parental engagement in a child’s education while providing the holistic wrap-around services needed to allow a child to thrive academically and a community to succeed socially and economically,” stated Councilmember Michael A. Brown at the bill’s introduction.

A public hearing on the bill has been scheduled for January 31st at 4:30pm in room 500. Individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to testify at the public hearing are asked to contact Priscilla McIver, Administrative Assistant to the Committee of the Whole, at (202) 724-8196, or via e-mail at pford@dccouncil.us.



(Left) Finishing up the **StatehoodDC** packets which are being mailed to Governors and state legislators across the nation asking them to support Statehood and Voting Rights.

(Right) Councilmember Michael A. Brown places DC Flags on the **StatehoodDC** Holiday Tree.

For more information on our renewed effort to promote Statehood across the USA visit www.StatehoodDC.com



The United States fights for democracy around the world, **but denies it to the residents of our nation’s capital.**

Support DC Statehood
StatehoodDC.com

DID YOU KNOW?

Employee Withholding Taxes to change in 2012 and changes to your Tax Year 2011 Return Reporting.

Effective January 1, 2012, the District of Columbia income tax withholding table and formula to be used in calculating employee withholding will be changed to eliminate the use of the standard deduction in the formula. This change will result in an increase in an employee's withholding.

The FR-230, District of Columbia Income Tax Withholding Instructions and Tables booklet, has been changed to reflect the change in the formula. These booklets will be mailed at the end of December 2011. Copies are available online at www.taxpayerservicecenter.com. For those employers who use the tables in the booklet, you must begin using the new tables beginning January 1, 2012 to be compliant with this change.

For those who use the formula to calculate withholding amounts and do not use the FR-230 tables, there is only one subtraction needed to calculate the income on which withholding is required. The new formula requires subtracting the result of \$1,675 times the number of exemptions from the annual amount of wages. There is no longer a subtraction amount for a standard deduction.

Tax Year 2011 Information Reporting Changes in W-2 and Form 1099 Electronic Filing Requirements

As of the filing season for tax year 2011, anyone filing 25 or more W-2 or 1099 series forms is required to submit them electronically on or before January 31, 2012. This change will assist the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) in its efforts:

- to eliminate fraudulent W-2 and form 1099 series statements and prevent the payment of unwarranted refunds; and
- to better protect District of Columbia residents from identity theft associated with fraudulent income tax returns.

Timely electronic filing of employer W-2's will significantly reduce employee and OTR requests of employers for verification of DC withholding during this year's filing season. For additional information, please contact OTR's Customer Service Center at (202) 727-4TAX. [District of Columbia INCOME TAX WITHHOLDING Instructions and Tables*](#)

Download Music for Free at DC Public Library!

The DC Public Library now offers library cardholders access to more than 2 million songs to download on their MP3 players or computers. Library users can keep the music they download. The files never expire! Music from Sony Music's vast music collection and more than 10,000 independent labels are available at the library. Library users with valid library cards can download up to three music tracks each week — 156 songs a year — at no cost from the library's website, dclibrary.org. Songs can be searched by artist, song title and genre.

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