

# COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

## Office of At-Large Councilmember Kwame R. Brown

Chairperson, Committee on Economic Development

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### PRESS RELEASE

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## Councilmember Brown Tours Stadium, Looks to Future Projects

*Council briefed on Stadium's progress and challenges*

*Washington, (D.C.)* – This morning, as a part of his oversight responsibility as Chair of the Council Committee on Economic Development, At-Large Councilmember Kwame R. Brown toured the new Nationals Baseball Stadium. The Stadium is currently in the final stage of construction and slated for completion in April of 2008. The purpose of the tour was to review construction progress and to determine how local businesses and District residents benefit from this and future projects.

### **Goals, Measurability and Accountability**

For the first time, goals, accountability and measurability have been incorporated into a major economic development project in the District with the aim of increasing District resident and local businesses participation. "In order to ensure that local businesses and District residents directly benefit from economic development projects, high standards have to be set," said Councilmember Brown. "We not only have to have high standards, we also need to have accountability and measurability."

There are four key goals that were set for the Stadium project, which were created to ensure District resident participation:

District Resident Participation Goals (Data as of 8/31/07):

**Goal 1:** Fifty percent of all journeyman hours must be clocked by D.C. residents on a craft-by-craft basis. The actual project percentage stands at 28.68%.

**Goal 2:** Fifty percent of all apprentice hours must be clocked by D.C. residents on a craft-by-craft basis. The actual project percentage stands at 78.07%.

**Goal 3:** One hundred percent of all new apprentices hired for the project must be D.C. residents. The actual project percentage stands at 91%.

**Goal 4:** Fifty-one percent of all new hires must be D.C. residents. The actual project percentage stands at 50%.

Local Business Participation Goal (Data as of 9/20/07)

**Goal 1:** Fifty percent of all awarded contracts must go to local, small, disadvantaged business enterprises (LSDBE). The actual project percentage stands at 53.67% for committed subcontracts. As of the latest report, \$203,254,514 have been committed or awarded to LSDBEs and \$95,963,514 has been paid.

### **Looking To the Future**

Councilmember Brown views the Stadium project as an incubator for building an infrastructure for increased local business and District resident participation. He also believes that more needs to be done to lay the proper foundation for the future. “In order to increase District resident participation, the District government needs to invest in training programs that provide District residents with opportunities to improve their career paths,” said Councilmember Brown.

Step one is to have training facilities, like Phelps Vocational Engineering Academy, for young residents to ensure they get the training they need for future jobs. Brown co-introduced the **School Modernization Funds Resolution of 2007**, which authorized **\$30 million** to build the Phelps facility. Phelps is currently under construction. He also recently introduced the **Vocational Education Feasibility Act of 2007**, which would require the Mayor to conduct a study on the feasibility of building an adult vocational facility by 2009.

Step two is to ensure high standards are maintained in future projects. Councilmember Brown is reviewing the possibility of making the current Stadium project goals a permanent part of economic development projects when District dollars are at stake.

“To meet the goals we have set for local participation, we have a responsibility to provide an infrastructure that trains District residents for future projects,” said Councilmember Brown. “We should take the lessons we’ve learned from the Stadium project and turn them into future opportunities. I’m encouraged by the progress we’ve made but there’s a long way to go.”

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