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Councilmember Harry Thomas, Jr.

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To declare the existence of an emergency with respect to restrict payments of Department of Parks and Recreation appropriations to the District of Columbia Housing Authority; and to require notification to the Council of all transactions by the Department of Parks and Recreation in excess of \$75,000.

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this resolution may be cited as the “Department of Parks and Recreation Budget Transparency Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2009”.

Sec. 2. (a) There exists an immediate need to address a lack of budget transparency within the Department of Parks and Recreation (“DPR”) as represented by memoranda of understanding, signed by DPR officials, transferring capital dollars out of the realm of Council oversight.

(b) Many of the memoranda have totals in excess of one million dollars, but more challenging, are projects that have funds transferred under the one million dollar threshold, but in the aggregate, total over one million dollars per project.

1 (c) Without complete Council knowledge of many budget transactions, a serious
2 challenge in Committee oversight over DPR and District funds is created, and due to
3 these challenges there must be strict safeguards in place for data collection, on an
4 emergency basis, to ensure appropriate budget oversight.

5 (d) On October 30, 2009, a roundtable was held on The Contracting Process of
6 Parks and Recreation Projects, and during that roundtable it was stated by the Office of
7 Chief Financial Officer that a significant amount of funds, originating in the Department
8 of Parks and Recreation, slated to go to the DC Housing Authority pursuant to
9 memoranda of understanding had yet to be expended. Therefore, budgetary controls are
10 necessary to stop any future expenditure, unless it is pursuant to the fiscal year 2010
11 budget or approved by the Council pursuant to law.

12 Sec. 3. The Council of the District of Columbia determines that the
13 circumstances enumerated in section 2 constitute emergency circumstances making it
14 necessary that the Department of Parks and Recreation Budget Transparency Emergency
15 Act of 2009 be adopted after a single reading.

16 Sec. 4. This resolution shall take effect immediately.