



**District of Columbia
Latino Caucus**

**RESPONSES OF COUNCILMEMBER HARRY "TOMMY" THOMAS, JR.
RE-ELECT WARD 5 COUNCIL**

1. Discuss what you have done or will do to work collaboratively with other elected officials on issues important to the Latino community.

As the incumbent, I have strong record of working with the Latino community. Since I was sworn in to represent Ward 5 in January 2007, I have been working closely with representatives of the Latino community and others to resolve the day laborer situation at the Rhode Island Avenue, NE Home Depot. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation to create a working group comprised of civic leaders, business owners, OLA, OAG, my office, and workers' representatives to formally develop and implement a solution for the day laborer situation. I held a series of community meetings on the situation, and proposed the installation of a multi-cultural center to provide an orderly day labor system as well as job training and other programs to benefit residents and workers. Most recently, my office has been working with Israel Baptist Church, which will be building a life learning center on property abutting Home Depot, and has agreed to provide services at this center that will be of assistance to the day labor population.

In addition, my office also has a long-standing and positive working relationship with the Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. We have teamed up together to provide Ward 5 businesses with technical assistance. In fact, on Saturday, June 26, 2010 GWHCC and my office are hosting a speed networking event for Ward 5 CBEs in the trades to meet and network with purchasing agents and facilities managers from larger institutions from across the city, as well as general contractors with large District-based projects.

2. Describe what your policy agenda would be, including ways you would improve the economic and social condition of Latinos and their families, if elected.

I have been and will always have a policy agenda that includes improving the economic and social condition of Latinos and their families. I have been a strong advocate for creating affordable housing, funding adult education and job training, and promoting a health care system that provides equal access for all. I also supported restoration of OLA's grant making authority and any attempts to combine its services with those of the Office of Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs.

3. What is your position on DC implementing the secure community program, and what is your position on comprehensive immigration reform.

I oppose the implementation of the secure community program and was a co-sponsor of the Council's legislation to prohibit the District's involvement in this program. I am also supportive of comprehensive immigration reform.