

**Kwame Brown for Council Chair**  
**Latino Caucus Endorsement Meeting Questions**

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

Throughout my career, I have supported issues that are important to members of the Latino community such as affordable housing, economic development, safer neighborhoods, and improving our schools. I have worked with my colleagues on the Council to drive an agenda that promotes the use of local businesses. I have worked closely with such organizations as the Carlos Rosario Public Charter School, the Latino Economic Development Corporation, the Norwood Tenants Association, and the parents at Bruce Monroe to address immediate issues that affected members of the Latino community.

As an At-Large Councilmember, I have made it a priority to create greater opportunities for local businesses and DC residents to participate in the economic reward of the city. I have championed and pushed for increased diversity on Boards and in hiring practices. More importantly, I have led the way by example by hiring and promoting Latinos within in my own office.

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

As the largest ethnic minority in the United States, the concerns facing Latinos in many ways, the same concerns facing all Americans. You are concerned about making sure that your children receive a quality education, that you have good job that allows you to provide for your family, and that you can afford to live in a safe neighborhood at a reasonable price.

If elected Chairman of the Council, I will fight to ensure that all District residents have an opportunity to live their version of the American dream. That means that I will make sure that all schools across the District receive funding for modernization and for quality teachers. That means that I will continue to make it easier for small businesses to flourish in Washington, D.C.—where the number of Latino small business owners has increased by more than 65% in less than 5 years. That means that I will continue to support housing policies that make it more affordable for families to live in the District and policies that do not allow developers to push residents out of their community solely for the sake of money. Finally, that means that I will continue to support, advocate for, and create programs focused on equipping District residents with the skills needed to obtain quality jobs and will also encourage businesses to make hiring District residents their first choice.

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

I oppose having the District of Columbia participate in the Secure Communities Program. While I applaud the effort to focus the enforcement of immigration laws on those individuals who commit other criminal offenses, I am sensitive to the concern that the program may increase the likelihood of having discriminatory motives influence the decision to arrest and prosecute individuals from certain ethnic groups. That's why, earlier this year, I joined with all members of the Council to introduce the Secure Communities Act of 2010—a bill that would prohibit the

District of Columbia from sending arrest data to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Division of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

Any program that lends itself to ethnic profiling is unacceptable, unless there are built-in safeguards that can ensure that groups are not being singled out for even the most minor of offenses. Until a proposal exists that is capable of addressing these concerns, I will continue to oppose the District's involvement in the Secure Communities Program.

Instead of focusing our energy and efforts on that program, I believe that we all would be better served by developing, passing, and implementing a Comprehensive Immigration Reform model that would allow individuals, in some instances, to obtain citizenship even if they have previously resided in the United States unlawfully.