

Councilmember Tommy Wells
www.TommyWells2010.com

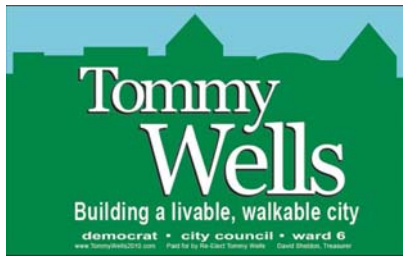
DC Latino Caucus Questionnaire June 24, 2010

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

I believe the issues of building a livable and walkable city that respects all communities are the same no matter one's age, ethnicity, gender or background. I will continue to work with the Latino community to create a shared vision for a rich and diverse city that celebrates all of our strengths and differences.

Specific to the Latino community in Washington, DC, some of my recent collaboration with other elected officials and Latino community leaders include:

- Co-sponsored legislation – Sense of the Council Arizona Divestment Resolution of 2010 – to declare that the District government should do no business and invest no funds in Arizona state or municipal bonds, or use public funds to participate in conferences held in the state of Arizona, in response to the egregious and likely unconstitutional the state recently enacted that results in racial profiling and discrimination, particularly against the Latino community.
- Supported efforts by Councilmember Jim Graham to have the Metropolitan Police Department policy on immigrant identification be made by rulemaking with a public review and discussion, to make clear any actions taken in regard to immigration information and cooperation with Secure Communities efforts – that potentially lead to targeting and profiling.
- Supported legislation -- Office on Latino Affairs Grant-Making Authority Emergency Amendment Act of 2010 -- that allows the Director of the Office on Latino Affairs to issue grants to organizations serving Latino residents of the District of Columbia.
- Led efforts to support workers rights -- the majority of whom are Latino -- at Wings Enterprises who are striking due to poor working conditions, lack of adequate health and safety provisions, and low pay. I initiated a sign-on letter with a majority of my colleagues at Council to notify the company that we would seek to block any public funds from supporting their company if the work conditions continued.



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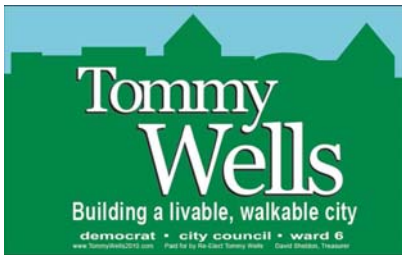
- Supported the application by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) – a premier Latino leadership development organization – for a tax exempt revenue bond to allow for improvements to enhance the structural integrity and appearance of their offices located in Ward 6.

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

At its best, Washington offers all residents an exciting environment, diverse community, and convenient lifestyle. Here we enjoy the possibility of "five-minute living," where most everything we need, as well as a rich variety of cultural amenities, is within a short walk or transit ride of our homes. My vision is to build a city that provides that experience for everyone--singles, families, children, and seniors, no matter their background or income.

Progress toward truly livable and walkable communities in Ward 6 and throughout the District continues--despite our economic challenges--precisely because our efforts are not taken alone. Rather, they are the outgrowth of our collective, comprehensive vision for our city that includes:

- **Transportation Innovation:** I am working to expand bicycle facilities, transit options, and safer pedestrian access for people of all ages--and build a new generation of streetcars that connects our neighborhoods to retail and restaurants, starting with the H Street NE corridor. These innovations are improving our quality of life while reducing our carbon footprint.
- **Neighborhood Amenities:** I am a champion of our ward's vigorous arts community as well as the new recreation center and library in Rosedale and retail expansion on H Street NE, along Massachusetts Avenue NW, in Southwest and around Nationals Park. Together, we are building a dynamic community that embraces and celebrates its unique character.
- **Diverse and Welcoming Community:** We celebrate the diversity that continually renews and energizes our city. I proudly supported our new Marriage Equality law and looks forward to our city honoring all committed relationships as the law takes effect.



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- **Educational Excellence:** All students must be able to attend a quality school in their own neighborhood, and every day we move closer to that goal. To expand on the unprecedented renaissance of our Ward 6 elementary schools, I am partnering to drive middle school improvements and reinvent Eastern High School--so it can once again live up to its motto, "the Pride of Capitol Hill".
- **Safe Neighborhoods:** While crime on the streets has decreased in recent years, no level of crime is acceptable. I have supported the city's rapid response when crime spikes and am also working to implement Juvenile Crime Task Force recommendations to reduce the number of days a youth can skip school and break down confidentiality barriers that block early intervention and community accountability for juvenile crime.

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

While the Metropolitan Police Department describes its role with the Secure Communities program as a passive role that merely provides information to the federal authorities, I share the belief of many of my colleagues on Council that any policy on immigrant identification be made by rulemaking so that the public has an opportunity to review, and Council has a role to approve or disapprove, a proposal. There are legitimate concerns in the Latino community, and among others, that the District's cooperation with the Secure Communities effort will lead to racial and ethnic profiling and targeting.

I support comprehensive immigration reform that recognizes the long-standing relationship of immigrants to our country. The current approach of criminalization does not work and is not sustainable and only serves to marginalize individual rights. I believe that we must create a pathway to full and legal citizenship that respects individuals and families that already call our city and country home.