

**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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**Georgia Avenue Project Moves another Step Forward**

*Hearing focused on \$1.5 million grant for neighborhood project providing affordable housing*

Washington, (D.C.) – Today, At-Large Councilmember Kwame R. Brown, Chair of the Committee on Economic Development, held a hearing on B17-480 “Park East Assistance Amendment Act of 2007.” The bill authorizes the allocation of \$1.5 million to the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) for the purpose of issuing a grant to Georgia Avenue Investment Partners, LLC. The funding will be used to develop affordable housing and retail on the 6400 block of Georgia Avenue, NW.

“I am going to continue to concentrate on pushing projects forward to spur development of neighborhoods outside of downtown,” said Brown. “But it’s critical that we protect affordable housing so that people can afford to live where they work and to also provide opportunities for local retail businesses to prosper.”

Geoffrey Griffis, a principal of Georgia Avenue Investment Partners, LLC, testified before the Committee about the project’s history and future plans. According to Griffis, the partners have been involved on the project since December of 2005. The partners plan to create “workforce condos,” which are “priced and targeted at working families with incomes of around \$90,000 or less.” According to the partners, the design of Park East has “evolved into a five-story, 39-unit residential building with on site parking. Of the 39 units, 12 units will be set aside for affordable home ownership opportunities.” Griffis urged Councilmembers to support the legislation.

D. Kamili Anderson, President of the Brightwood Community Association and Derrick Woody of DMPED both testified in favor of the Park East legislation. “I just cannot seem to pass up an opportunity to voice my membership’s support for the project being discussed today,” said Anderson. An official statement submitted by Woody on behalf of Deputy Mayor Neil Albert stated, “The authorization of the funds for this Great Streets expenditure was originally approved by the DC Council as part of the ‘Fiscal Year 2007 Budget Support Emergency Act of 2006.’” DMPED also stated that the total development cost is estimated by the developer to be \$14 million and that the project will likely break ground in the summer of 2008.

“I’m looking forward to having a ground breaking at this site,” said Brown. “Georgia Avenue is a key business and residential corridor in the city and we should do everything possible to move these projects forward in a timely manner.”

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