

The DC Black Church Initiative

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DCBCI Calls for the Resignation of Councilmen Jim Graham, Kwame Brown and Harry Thomas

Major Ethical Lapses Undermine DC Statehood

Washington DC – The District of Columbia Black Church Initiative (DCBCI), a coalition of 800 churches committed to eradicating racial disparities, calls on Jim Graham, Kwame Brown and Harry Thomas to resign. Each councilmember has shown serious ethical and legal lapses which disgrace the District and undermine the DC council's authority.

Ward 5 Democratic DC Councilmember Harry Thomas was accused of steering hundreds of thousands of dollars from DC earmarks to non-profits in a massive kickback scheme, in which he personally and politically benefitted. As a result, the DC Attorney General investigated Mr. Thomas and filed a civil charge against Mr. Thomas for \$1 million dollars.

Additionally, the US Attorney and the FBI have confirmed they are investigating Mr. Thomas – these pending investigations and \$1 million dollar fine point to the insanity of Mr. Thomas' continued presence on the DC City Council. His leadership abilities are clearly impugned and his reputation ruined. DCBCI calls for a thorough criminal investigation on Mr. Thomas' behavior conducted within the next 90 days – his unethical behavior can no longer go unchecked.

D.C. Council Chairman Kwame R. Brown has engaged in several questionable activities, forefront being his requests for a Navigator rental car, 'fully loaded', mere days after his election. His extravagant requests could cost DC taxpayers over \$30,000 and have forever tarnished his reputation as a serious politician. Additionally, Mr. Brown has undergone scrutiny over his campaign finances – the Office of Campaign Finance has just released its final audit of Brown's 2008 campaign records and there are several discrepancies that do not bode well for Mr. Brown. The most explosive finding from the report: \$240,000 of Brown's campaign funds (about 30 percent of all the money spent by the campaign) went to a firm owned by his

brother, Che Brown, and there aren't adequate records to back up those expenses.

DCBCI calls for a federal investigation of Mr. Brown's campaign finances. DCBCI warned DC voters during the election – how can we trust a councilmember to balance a huge budget when he cannot even manage his personal finances successfully?

Ward 1 Councilmember Jim Graham has exhibited a blatant disregard for the law based on recent findings that his former chief of staff Ted Loza, who has pleaded guilty to corruption charges, remained in Mr. Graham's employ unreported to the authorities. Graham rejected \$2,600 Loza tried to give him on behalf of Abdul Kamus, who was lobbyist for a group of Ethiopian cabbies who federal prosecutors say in court records tried to pay more than \$20,000 in bribes in order to "secure advantages in the taxicab industry." City personnel rules indicate very clearly that Graham should have reported Loza immediately and this was not done. Additionally, Graham *did* introduce the legislation that the taxicab industry tried to bribe him to introduce, revealing the possibility that Graham accepts bribes in return for political favors.

Rev. Anthony Evans, President of NBCI, "This is another example of unchecked power run amok among the DC Council members. Many will not accept this theological interpretation but the root of their problems does not lie in their unethical behavior but lies in their disobedience to the Word of God. Mr. Graham, Mr. Brown and Mr. Thomas all voted for same-sex marriage and now, God is chastising them. There is much more to come so long as they continue to defy God's Will. They will not renounce their choice; therefore, God will not release them from this cloud of punishment."

About DCBCI

The DC Black Church Initiative (DCBCI) is a coalition of 800 African American and Latino churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. DCBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, churches and the public. The DC Black Church Initiative's methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science. The DC Black Church Initiative's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. DCBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. DCBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. DCBCI is a subsidiary of the National Black Church Initiative – visit our website at www.naltblackchurch.com.