



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

February 18, 2011

Mr. John Sullivan, President  
Washington Hospital Center  
110 Irving Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20010

Dear Mr. Sullivan:

We are deeply concerned that the dispute between the Washington Hospital Center and National Nurses United continues without resolution. As the largest hospital in the District of Columbia, Washington Hospital Center is a vital part of our health care system and no one is more vital in the provision of that care than the dedicated nurses that you employ.

The nurses have apprised us that the central issues in the dispute, from their perspective, are: a safe staffing plan, thus allowing them to adequately care of and advocate for their patients; the lack of respect shown by managerial staff to the nurses; and an attempt to rescind hard-won economic gains from the nurses. These issues of course have an impact on the hospital's ability to attract and retain qualified and experienced nurses. It was disturbing to hear that the turnover rate of nurses at the hospital has exceeded 13% annually for the past six years.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of the staff of the Washington Hospital Center and remain hopeful that you and your team will be able to successfully resolve these concerns to the mutual satisfaction of all concerned. Most certainly the quality of life of the residents of the District of Columbia, whom we mutually serve, will be impacted by the outcome.

Thank you for all you do for the citizenry of the District of Columbia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tommy Thomas, Jr.".

Harry "Tommy" Thomas, Jr.  
Councilmember – Ward 5

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Brown".

Michael A. Brown  
At-Large Councilmember

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sekou Biddle".

Sekou Biddle  
At-Large Councilmember

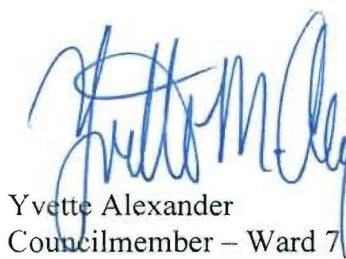
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The John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
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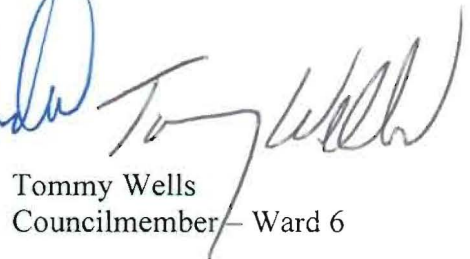
Correspondence: Mr. John Sullivan, President  
Washington Hospital Center  
February 18, 2011



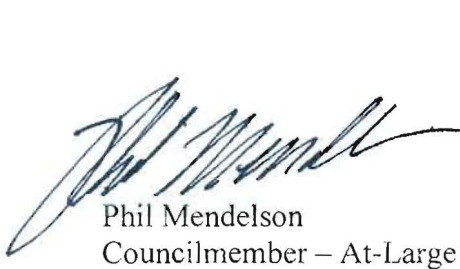
Marion Barry  
Councilmember – Ward 8



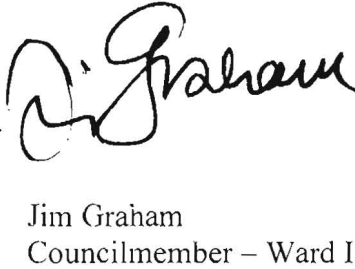
Yvette Alexander  
Councilmember – Ward 7



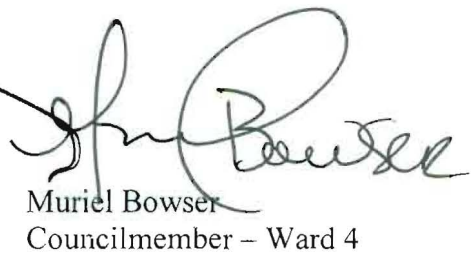
Tommy Wells  
Councilmember – Ward 6



Phil Mendelson  
Councilmember – At-Large



Jim Graham  
Councilmember – Ward I



Muriel Bowser  
Councilmember – Ward 4



Kwame R. Brown  
Chairman  
Council of the District of Columbia