

# Ward 7 Leadership Council

Upon being elected to the District of Columbia City Council, Councilmember Vincent C. Gray initiated a strategic planning process aimed at building grassroots planning capacity. Ward 7 is one of the District's historically African-American wards, located east of the Anacostia River.

To help accomplish this objective, Councilman Gray established the Ward 7 Leadership Council to provide an opportunity for residents to participate in agenda setting and priorities for Ward 7. Its goal is also to promote inclusion and unity.

A ward-wide transition meeting held shortly after the councilmember's swearing-in elaborated an initial community "to do list" linked to six campaign themes: public education, health care, affordable housing, economic development, public safety and constituent services. To build on the success of that meeting, Councilmember Gray began in Spring 2005 a series of bi-monthly meetings of the Ward 7 Leadership Council. JSA designed, facilitated and documented the initial meetings of the Council to help ensure the best possible start for this model information sharing and consensus building process.

The composition of the Leadership Council (Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, civic association and public housing resident council presidents, Board of Education representatives and members of the Comprehensive Plan Revision Task Force) reflects Mr. Gray's commitment to transparency and accountability. Through the efforts of the Leadership Council, Ward 7 is poised to become one of the District's wards to watch.

As a result of the Councilman's attention to process, Ward 7 residents now bear a high level of engagement and Ward-level focus on the priority tasks they believe will "Make Ward 7 One."



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<b>Location</b>	Washington, DC
<b>Client</b>	Hon. Vincent C. Gray Councilmember, Ward 7
<b>Contract amount</b>	\$0
<b>Project duration</b>	May- September 2005

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