



*“SPECIAL THANKS TO THE RESIDENTS  
 AND COMMISSIONERS OF  
 ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 5C”  
 RONNIE EDWARDS*



Thanks also to outgoing Chairperson, Anita Bonds who was instrumental in helping to rebuild and re-energize ANC 5C. Her support during the recent election contributed significantly to a seamless transition. On January 18, 2011 I was elected as the Chairman of ANC 5C, by the 12-member Commission which covers 12 Single-Member Districts within Ward 5. Our job is to represent the “grassroots” interest of the residents within the 5C area and “advise the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor, executive agencies, independent agencies, and boards and commissions of the District of Columbia on proposed matters of District Governmental policy, including decisions regarding planning, street, recreation, social programs, education, health, safety, and sanitation that affect the Commission area”.

We take these responsibilities seriously. This is a critically important time for Ward 5 and indeed the District of Columbia. As of January 2011, the District of Columbia unemployment rate was approximately 9.2%, down from approximately 12% one year ago. Ward 5 is one of the three (3) wards with the highest unemployment rate in the District. Ward 8 averaging about 26.5% and Ward 5 approximately 14.3%. Also, the District of Columbia has one of the worst records regarding equal access to quality health care for its residents. *An Urban Institute study found that hospitals serving both District and suburban Virginia and Maryland residents compete in an environment marked by both rich health resources and a high rate of uninsured citizens. The District keeps more hospital beds, physicians, and registered nurses relative to its population than does the nation as a whole. Yet, nearly one out of five District residents is uninsured. Many uninsured residents wind up in emergency rooms for treatment, further stretching District hospitals already hit by strong market pressures. As a result, economically depressed sections of the city are now underserved.*

In order to overcome these trends we must be actively involved in the struggle to produce measurable results. **The good news**, our Councilmember, the Honorable Harry Thomas, Jr., was recently appointed as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the Council of the District of Columbia and has committed to working with the residents of the 5C area to coordinate our economic development initiatives, identify training programs, etc. Additionally, The Washington Hospital Center has agreed to work with us to develop a comprehensive **Community Based Medical Support Program**. The Chief Medical Officer will be at our March 15, 2011 meeting. We invite all residents of ANC 5C to join with us, attend our meetings, and volunteer to serve on committees. Visit our website: [www.anc5c.org](http://www.anc5c.org) - share your ideas and help us as we continue our efforts to move ANC 5C forward in a positive, progressive and productive manner.

*Ronnie Edwards,  
 Chairman, ANC 5C*

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**ANC5C meets on 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Tuesday of the month.**

**Next Meeting:**  
**March 15, 2011**  
**7:00 PM**  
 St Georges Episcopal  
 Church  
 160 U Street NW

**Executive Meeting**  
 April 5, 2011

**Monthly Meeting**  
 April 19, 2011