

**Remarks of**  
**Anthony J. “Tony” Motley**  
**Announcement for**  
**2010 City Council At-Large**  
**Saturday, June 27, 2009**  
**Tony Bell’s Boxing Gy**  
**Washington, D.C.**

Good morning, everyone. Thank you very much for being here. First of all I want to ask you to please join me in extending condolences to the families of the people who were killed in Monday’s horrible Metro rail crash. (Pause for a moment of silence). My prayers are with their loved ones, as well as the people and their loved ones who were injured. Let us also recognize the spirit and compassion of the passengers on those ill-fated trains, as well as the giving, caring people in the Fort Totten community who asked for nothing and rushed to aid the victims.

This horrific accident is yet another reminder that our days are not guaranteed and that each day is a precious gift. I thank God for giving me love, courage, strength and another day to serve.

For over 25 years, I have tried to serve the many communities in our beloved city. And, in serving, I have seen and felt the pain of the youngsters trapped in the vicious cycle of street violence. Seniors without the health care and support they need. And, people from all walks of life grappling with HIV/AIDS. Today is also National HIV/AIDS Testing Day. I encourage everyone if you haven’t been tested to do so. You know of this pain. If you haven’t lived it, you know someone who has. Despite this pain that saps our spirit and drains our will, I see hope. I see solutions, and I am running for the D.C. City Council because of this hope.

I am a candidate for an At-Large position because I believe together we can make a difference. It will be my goal to take bold new action towards creating a city in which fairness, compassion, and personal responsibility go hand in hand with hard work and opportunity. Working with business and labor, students and teachers, the poor, middle class and

the rich, ministers and government, I will work to bring lasting results to the many challenges we face as a community, as a neighborhood, as a City.

Yes, as you see, we're in a boxing ring. I am announcing my candidacy in this boxing ring to acknowledge that the people in our great city want their elected officials to fight for them; to fight for hope; to fight for solutions.

All of you here today, and the people outside of this gym want the same thing. A voice in what goes on in our government. I will be your voice. I will be your fighter. I will fight for solutions. I will fight to bring transparency, decency and common sense to our government.

As your At-Large City Council member, we will work together. We will not wring our hands and complain we will build solutions.

It is my goal in this campaign to bring people together, not keep them apart, to foster a spirit of cooperation and collaboration throughout our city and our government, and to thoughtfully search for ways in which we can become a safe and clean city which exhibits unity, concern for one another and true and lasting progress for all. I promise to bring the people another seat at the table. I will remind you that responsibility starts at home, and I won't let you forget that you are entitled to have a councilman who thinks about the priorities of the people first rather than the priorities of himself.

I am solution oriented. As a Social Engineer/Entrepreneur I seek to address issues and solve problems.

**Issue:** When young men were dying on our streets in increasing numbers.

**Solution:** I co-founded with the Chief of Police the East of the River Clergy, Police, Community Partnership 7 Point Initiative which was born and in one year helped to bring the homicide rate amongst juveniles from 13 the previous year to 2.

**Issue:** When homelessness was abounding. People were living on grates, in doorways and anywhere they could find a place to lay their head.

**Solution:** As President of the Coalition for the Homeless I worked to put 7 Community Residential Facilities in communities throughout our city, to include one dedicated to veterans. In the beginning, those communities where we placed the homes, did not want them there. I attended every ANC and Community Civic Association associated with placing those homes. In the end we placed 7 homes throughout the District.

**Issue:** The D.C. Government operations, is not something we will ignore. For example, our government wants to privatize a lot of services. If privatization works and is more efficient and provides significant cost savings, I have no problem with it.

**Solution:** Now, I don't see why those whom we have employed over the years to provide those services in the government can't continue to be employed, even if it is with a private contractor.

**Issue:** There is the lack of a Comprehensive Workforce Development Policy in Washington, D.C. a city hailed as being recession proof. Yet, we have a 10.7 percent unemployment rate, and in some parts of City the rate is above 20%. How can we address this problem?

**Solution:** I will create a Progressive Labor Policy which guarantees training, retooling, and volunteer involvement, along with a competitive wage which works for both the employers and the employees in fostering a climate of cooperation, respect and mutual benefit.

**Issue:** Back in 2001, the construction boom began in the District. A number of construction companies had begun their work on the new convention center and numerous other projects. With all these projects, unemployment among African American men in the city was still high. They were on the outside of this construction boom, looking in.

**Solution:** Thanks to the support of John McMahon, President of the Miller and Long Concrete Construction Company, and the hard work of a number of other folks, we were able to create the JOBS Coalition, of which I am the Founding President, a partnership of community groups, construction companies and the clergy. Thanks to the JOBS Coalition, we built the first Re-Entry Center for Formerly Incarcerated Persons in collaboration with CSOSA, teaching them computers and offering GED and Literacy classes; DC students are now receiving training in the construction trades at the Academy for Construction and Design at Cardozo Senior High School, and are able to get jobs related to the opportunities available in the city. This is how I will fight for you. I will fight for all our citizens. I will fight for solutions.

And, as I fight for you, I will build on the compassion, the understanding and the spirit of cooperation we have all seen in recent days and weeks. You know of the caring demonstrated during the disastrous Metro rail crash. People on the scene reached out to help the injured and dying, even though they were strangers. In fact, many of us read the story of one woman who, as she lay dying, comforting another injured woman

and handing her a cell phone so she could call her mom. And, several weeks ago, after a young man was shot and killed by the United States Park Police, the community was in a posture to retaliate. This was a situation that could have gotten out of hand. Yet, despite these very strong feelings, I was able, along with others, to lead the people in the Trinidad community in prayer. As a result they were willing to listen to reason and embrace the investigative process in order to get answers to what actually happened and obtain justice for Trey Alexander Joyner, his family and the fine residents of Trinidad.

Ours is a wonderful loving city. Many here are filled with a sense of hope and pride in our city. I am running to build on that love, that hope and that pride and to find solutions.

I want to give a very warm thanks to members of the faith community. You have stood by me for many years and share with me a love for the citizens of the District of Columbia. I want to especially thank my Pastor, Raymond C. Bell for his prayers and support. Let me thank all of the civic leaders who are here today. Without your commitment and your willingness to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves this city would lack a heart and soul.

Let me thank all of my family members who are here – my loving mother; my wonderful children, my precious grandchildren and great granddaughter, my brother and sister who are not with us today, my other relatives here today as well, my fiancée LaToshia, and finally, let me thank the many supporters who have chosen to take time out of their busy lives to be with us today. Thank you so very much for your love and support.

In closing, I believe we can make our City a better place to live, learn, work and worship, but if we want others to believe this, we must first believe in ourselves and then join together, from Ward 8 to Ward 3, from Ward 1 to Ward 7, from Ward 2 to Ward 6, from Ward 4 to Ward 5, working together for unity and lasting change. Now, it's time to put on the gloves and get in the middle of the ring, and fight for the people of the District of Columbia.

**“Let’s Make It Happen”!!!**

**Please allow me to introduce our team:**