



## Solomon Keene Testifies at Hearing on Universal Paid Leave:



Last week, the District Council held a hearing on the "Universal Paid Leave Act of 2015." As you are aware, this bill would allow any employee in the District, or any District resident employed outside of the city, to take up to 16 weeks of paid leave for a qualifying event. The employee would be paid from a government-run fund to be subsidized by a tax imposed on District employers.

Solomon Keene, President, HAWDC, presented testimony on behalf of the Association and expressed concerns with the bill. Mr. Keene's testimony discussed several issues, including:

- Imposing a 1% tax on the total wages an employer pays would cause a financial burden on District employers;
- The bill would negatively impact an employer's ability to innovate, hire and retain employees;
- The bill does not take into consideration how 16 weeks of government mandated leave would work in conjunction with existing employer leave and benefit policies; and
- The bill would place the District at a competitive disadvantage for not only attracting new business, but also retaining businesses that are already here.

HAWDC will continue to meet with Councilmembers to discuss its concerns and urge them not to support this bill. As is customary, HAWDC will continue to update Members as this bill works its way through the legislative process.

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## DOES to Host Webinar on Transportation Benefits Program:

As you are aware, beginning January 1, 2016, District employers

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must provide at least 1 of 3 transportation benefit programs to its employees. The District's Department of Employment Services ("DOES") Office of Wage-Hour will be hosting four webinar sessions to provide clarification of the new law and answer any questions employers may have.

The webinars will consist of a moderated presentation that runs approximately 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A period. During the presentation, you will be able to submit questions and/or comments. The webinar sessions are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, December 8, 2015 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Tuesday, December 8, 2015 from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Wednesday, December 16, 2015 from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

To RSVP for a session, click [here](#). Please contact [OWH.ASK@dc.gov](mailto:OWH.ASK@dc.gov) or 202-671-1880 should you have any questions.

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### 2016 Commercial Loading Zone Permits:

The District government requires all commercial vehicles to pay to use commercial loading zones. In order to park in a commercial loading zone, a commercial vehicle operator must display a permit (annual or day) in their vehicle or pay-as-you-go using a pay-by-cell option immediately after parking.

2016 District Commercial Vehicle Annual Loading Zone permits are currently available for purchase by clicking [here](#). All permits purchased prior to January 1, 2016 will be valid through December 31, 2016. For more information on commercial loading zones in the District or the permit program please visit [www.godcgo.com/freight](http://www.godcgo.com/freight).

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### Henley Park Hotel Hosts December CHAMPS Luncheon:



Last week, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Officers and Chief Kathy Lanier gathered at the Fairfax Embassy Row for the December CHAMPS Awards Luncheon to honor their outstanding service to our community. Officers discussed their cases, technology updates and new training opportunities for 2016 before receiving a certificate of commendation for their service. HAWDC thanks Sue Kinley and her team at the Henley Park Hotel for helping us to honor those who keep our city safe.

*\*Pictured above: Chief Lanier with CHAMPS Award recipients.*

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## Allied Member Highlight:

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