

**\*\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\*\***

**For Immediate Release**

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**H.O.T.E.L. PAC Endorses Mayor Vincent Gray for a Second Term  
for the 2014 Primary Election**

*(Washington, DC)* Today, the Hotel Association's Political Action Committee, H.O.T.E.L. (Hotel Organization to Elect Leaders), has announced its endorsement of Mayor Vincent C. Gray for a second term as Mayor of Washington, D.C., for the April 1, 2014 Democratic Primary Election.

After meeting with several candidates, the H.O.T.E.L. PAC recognizes that Mayor Gray's support of the hotel and travel industry in the District of Columbia has had a positive impact on attracting travelers to our Nation's Capital. Mayor Gray's economic plan for the city, commitment to education, and workforce development were also significant factors in the H.O.T.E.L. PAC endorsement. "Mayor Gray's level of engagement with our industry over the past several years has been nothing short of remarkable. He clearly understands our commitment to our member hotels, employees, guests, and industry – and we clearly understand his commitment to our city." says Thomas Penny, General Manager of the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center and H.O.T.E.L. PAC Chairman.

H.O.T.E.L. also endorsed the following candidates for the 2014 Democratic Primary Election:

- Chairman Phil Mendelson (D), Council Chairman
- Councilmember Anita Bonds (D), At-Large
- Councilmember Jim Graham (D), Ward 1
- Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie (D), Ward 5

Hotels in the District account for \$220 million in tax collections to the District each year, with \$1.9 billion spent on lodging annually in Washington D.C. H.O.T.E.L. represents the interests of the hotel industry in the District of Columbia to elected officials. H.O.T.E.L. held its candidate interviews last week to determine which candidates best acknowledge the contributions of the hotel industry to the city. These candidates recognize the necessity of a collaborative relationship where the District government and the hotel industry come together to create viable compromises to best serve the citizens and businesses of the District, especially in the areas of economic development, and educational and career training issues.

"Washington, D.C.'s hotel industry makes substantial contributions to the District's economy and tax base. After intense deliberation, our PAC has determined that these candidates value the policies that recognize our industry's economic contributions, as well as support initiatives that bring additional travelers to Washington, D.C." says Solomon Keene, President, Hotel Association of Washington, D.C. (HAWDC).