



2016 HAWDC Annual Holiday Party:



The Hotel Association of Washington, D.C. held its annual Holiday Party at the JW Marriott Hotel on Thursday, December 8, 2016. Members and guests gathered to celebrate the end of another successful year as well as the holiday season.

HAWDC would like to thank Satinder Palta and his team at the JW Marriott for hosting this wonderful event. We would also like to thank our members for a wonderful year of service to the District and our industry!

Pictured above (left to right): Councilmember Elissa Silverman; Councilmember LaRuby May; Solomon Keene, President & CEO, Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.; Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie; Councilmember Brandon Todd; Satinder Palta, Board Chairman, Hotel Association of Washington, D.C., and General Manager, JW Marriott; Councilmember Brianne Nadeau.



Pictured above (Left): Solomon Keene, President & CEO, Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.; Chairman Phil Mendelson.

Pictured above (Right): Solomon Keene, President & CEO, Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.; Councilmember Robert White.

ISHAE Appoints Solomon Keene as Board Chairman:

HAWDC is proud to announce that its President & CEO, Solomon Keene, was recently appointed as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the International Society of Hotel Association Executives (ISHAE). ISHAE provides professional development and networking opportunities for lodging association executives, and serves as the unified voice for all state lodging associations.



"It's an honor and a privilege to be asked

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Upcoming Events

Thursday, January 5, 2017

HAWDC Board of Directors Meeting will be held at the office of the Hotel Association of Washington, D.C. 1225 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 250, conference room from 10:30 am -12:00pm. Please contact [Renauda Bennett](#) to RSVP.

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by your peers to serve in a leadership capacity. I look forward to representing the interests of ISHAE in the coming year." says Solomon.

For the past 4 years, Solomon has been an instrumental part of ISHAE's Board of Directors and looks forward to continuing to work in collaboration with national industry partners and state lodging associations on matters that affect our industry.

HAWDC would like to congratulate Solomon on his recent appointment and we continue to support his involvement with organizations that are key to the hospitality industry.

MPD Youth Advisory Council Christmas Celebration:

On Monday, December 12, 2016, HAWDC was proud to sponsor the Metropolitan Police Department, Youth Advisory Council (YAC) Christmas Celebration at The Beacon Hotel. This event gave MPD the opportunity to celebrate the participants of the YAC program for the fall term. The YAC is a mentoring program which encourages high school students in the District to develop and maintain a positive relationship with the MPD. Keynote speaker, Steve Fitzhugh, Founder and Executive Director of Power Moves, encouraged the students, through his personal testimony, to believe in their dreams despite adversity and spoke about the importance of making good decisions.



HAWDC would like to thank Hector Torres, General Manager, and his team at the Beacon Hotel for hosting the event.

Pictured above: Sargeant Sonya Flipping, Metropolitan Police Department and YAC students.

Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2016:

After several meetings with ABRA, as well as testifying on the bill, HAWDC is happy to announce that last week, the District Council held its final vote on the "Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Amendment Act of 2016." As we previously informed you, this bill amends Title 25 of the District of Columbia Code to clarify the conflict of interest law to allow a hotel that currently holds an ABC on-premise retail license to also obtain an off-premise retail license. The bill would allow hotels to sell closed containers of beer or wine to its guests from a hotel-run market pantry so long as the store does not have direct public access to the street or the outside of the hotel's building.

Once the bill is signed by the Mayor and passes a 30-day Congressional review period, the new law would allow District hotels to have a dual license to accommodate guests' requests to purchase closed containers of beer or wine to take back to their rooms to consume at their leisure. If interested in obtaining this license, hotels will then have to apply for a new license with the District's Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration.

Universal Paid Leave Amendment Act of 2016:

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On Tuesday, December 6th, the District Council held its first vote on the "Universal Paid Leave Amendment Act of 2016." As we previously informed you, this bill would establish a government-run fund, supported by a payroll tax on all District private employers, to pay employees for leave to take care of themselves, a child or other family member.

The Council is scheduled to have its second and final vote on the bill on Tuesday, December 20th. HAWDC will continue to express our concerns for the bill to Councilmembers and the Mayor. We will keep Members updated as the bill works its way through the legislative process.

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