

## The District Supports a Regional Tax to Help Fund Metro:

As you are aware, Metro has been suffering from years of under funding which has plagued the system with safety and reliability issues. Regional leaders from the District, Maryland and Virginia have agreed to support a dedicated tax for the additional funding. However, there is disagreement as to how the tax should be applied.

The District supports a regional, uniform, tax that each jurisdiction would charge - estimated to be a 3/4¢ increase in the sales tax that is paid by every resident, business, and visitor in the region. This uniform tax would be borne equally by everybody.

However, opponents of the regional tax feel that District residents and businesses should pay approximately three times more than residents and businesses in Virginia; Maryland residents and businesses would pay double of those in Virginia. They argue that the tax should be applied according to the current funding formula (the District pays 37.2%, Maryland pays 34.8%, and Northern Virginia jurisdictions pay 28 %). This proposal would drastically increase the District's sales tax and would be unfair to the District and place it at a competitive disadvantage with its regional partners.

HAWDC attended a meeting with Chairman Phil Mendelson, the key proponent arguing in support of the regional tax on the District's behalf, to discuss the regional tax. Chairman Mendelson continues to express to the regional partners the competitive burden that a non-regional tax places on District businesses and residents. Negotiations are still going forward and HAWDC will update Members when the jurisdictions come to a consensus.

## DC Chamber of Commerce Hosts Hospitality and Tourism Forum:



Yesterday, the DC Chamber of Commerce hosted its "Hospitality and Tourism Forum: How to Succeed in 2018", to discuss emerging trends in the District's hospitality community and strategies to target specific growth sectors. Solomon Keene, President & CEO, Hotel Association of Washington, D.C., sat on a panel,

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## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, September 20:

The HAWDC Board Meeting will be held at the 1225 New York Ave, NW, Suite 250 at 11:00 a.m. Please contact [Renauda Bennett](#) to RSVP.

### Tuesday, September 26:

The HAWDC Annual Allied Member Luncheon will be held at 1201 New York Ave, NW, 11th Floor Conference Room from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please contact [Renauda Bennett](#) to RSVP.

### Thursday, September 28:

The HR Director's Meeting will be held at 1201 New York Ave, NW, 11th Floor Conference Room from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 am. Breakfast will be provided. Please contact [Vanessa Peters](#) for more details or

along with other distinguished guests from the District's hospitality industry, and discussed various issues including marketing the District to attract more visitors, workforce development and training, TSA Pre-Check, and how the hospitality community impacts the District's economy. Thank you to the DC Chamber for hosting a wonderful event!

*Pictured above from left to right: James Enright, President, Skal International Washington, D.C.; Dr. Ernest Brown, Founder, Doctors To You; Elliott Ferguson, President, Destination DC; Kathy Hollinger, President & CEO, Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington; Solomon Keene, Jr, President & CEO, Hotel Association of Washington, D.C.; David Lim, Executive Marketing Officer, Transportation Security Administration- U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Melanie Winfield, Deputy Director, DC Department of Employment Services*

### Allied Member Spotlight:



As a leading provider of radio frequency identification (RFID) and real-time locating system (RTLS) safety and security solutions, RFT has developed cutting edge solutions that keep people safe in the healthcare, hospitality and education verticals throughout the United States.

### HELP ALERT... Help Within Reach

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For more information, please contact Marina Willis at [mwillis@rft.com](mailto:mwillis@rft.com) or visit [rft.com](http://rft.com)

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