



## HAWDC e-HEADLINES

Volume 20, Issue 27 | October 11, 2017

### **HAWDC Testifies at Council Hearing on Paid Family Leave:**

Yesterday, the District Council held a hearing on several bills that seek to amend how the District's Paid Leave Program is currently administered and funded. Current law requires all District employers to pay a .62% payroll tax on all employees into a fund for the District government to administer the leave. The tax will be collected starting July 1, 2019, and employees can start taking leave (8 weeks of maternity/paternity leave; 6 weeks of family leave; 2 weeks of leave for self-care) after July 1, 2020. The fact that five bills were introduced, within four months of the legislation becoming effective, is a clear sign from the Council's leadership that the current law is not perfect and must be improved. This underscores HAWDC's initial concerns when the original bill was first introduced and what we have emphasized to Councilmembers in our meetings with them.

HAWDC testified at yesterday's hearing and urged the Council to amend the law to lower the payroll tax rate and allow employers the flexibility to self-administer their own leave programs and not force them into a government-run bureaucracy. "Although our members are frustrated that they will still have to pay a tax to help fund those businesses that opt to remain in the government-run system, with a lower tax, this amendment will afford them the ability to be able to continue to offer the same amount of benefits they already generously offer," said Solomon Keene, President & CEO, HAWDC. Mr. Keene further stated that "employees would also appreciate the benefit of being able to work with their employer to schedule leave as opposed to attempting to navigate a new government-run bureaucracy to schedule leave, determine eligibility and arrange for payment." As customary, HAWDC will monitor these bills as they work their way through the legislative process and update members accordingly.

### **HAWDC to Host Member Lunch with Councilmember Robert White:**



Please join us on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> for lunch with our special guest speaker, Councilmember Robert White! Councilmember White currently sits on the Committee on Finance and Revenue; Committee on

Labor and Workforce Development; Committee on Education; Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization; and the Committee on Human Services. A graduate of the American University Washington College of Law, prior to joining the District Council, Councilmember White served as Legislative Counsel to Congresswoman

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### **Upcoming Events**

#### **Wednesday, October 18:**

The HAWDC Member Luncheon featuring Robert White will be held at 1225 New York Ave, NW, Suite 250, from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Please contact [Renauda Bennett](#) to RSVP.

### **Staff Directory**

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Eleanor Holmes Norton. In 2014, Councilmember White was tapped by Attorney General Karl A. Racine to serve as the first Director of Community Outreach for the D.C. Office of the Attorney General, where he worked on community engagement, focusing on improving services and support for the city's most vulnerable residents.

From his time with Congresswoman Norton through the present, HAWDC has always had a collaborative relationship with Councilmember White as he works to balance the needs of District residents with the interests of District businesses. We invite Members to have an up close and personal conversation with Councilmember White as he discusses issues regarding the hospitality industry.

Space is limited and rsvp's will be on a first come, first serve basis. Please click [HERE](#) to rsvp. See Upcoming Events for more details.

**Renauda Bennett**  
Membership & Program  
Coordinator  
(202) 289-0584  
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### Thanksgiving Baskets for Shaw Community:

Each year, HAWDC eagerly supports the Turkey Basket Program to sponsor Thanksgiving Dinners for the residents of the Shaw Community. The baskets will be filled with all of the materials necessary to make



Thanksgiving dinner for approximately 1,000 families! You can sponsor baskets for \$55.00 each or indicate your specific donation level. If you would like to donate, please contact [Renauda Bennett](#) or call 202-289-0584.

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### Allied Member Spotlight:



Ecolab is the global leader in water, hygiene and energy technologies and services. Every day, they help make the world cleaner, safer and healthier - protecting people and vital resources. They promote guest satisfaction and achieve sustainability goals with programs that keep their clients' property clean and sanitized and ensure fresh indoor air quality, comfortable room temperatures and crystal clear water features.

Backed by industry recognized certifications, Ecolab Service Representatives provide regularly scheduled service, sales and support as well as onsite employee training and inspections. They help customers reduce utility consumption, optimize labor and improve the life and efficiency of their entire operation.

For more information contact Katherine Hunt at [katherine.hunt@ecolab.com](mailto:katherine.hunt@ecolab.com).

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