



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**W. Curtis  
Thomas**

181ST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

301 Irvis Office Building • P.O. Box 202181 • Harrisburg, PA 17120-2181 • (717) 787-9471

530 W. Girard Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19123 • (215) 560-3261

## The 2010 State Representative Awards

This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rep. W. Curtis Thomas State Representative Awards. Every spring for the last 20 years, Rep. Thomas has given this award to graduating students in the 181<sup>st</sup> Legislative District who achieve excellence and set themselves apart from the rest. This year, 33 outstanding middle and high school students from across the district were honored with a savings bond and laptop computers. The awards ceremony was held at Temple University's Ritter Hall.

In addition to students, Rep. Thomas also presented special achievement awards to seven local teachers who exemplify what it means to be an educator in the 181<sup>st</sup> Legislative District. **Mr. Clarence Hamilton of Dunbar School, Ms. Margaret Bush of Kearney School, Ms. Arlene Goldsmith of Moffet Elementary School, Mr. Dewayne Rawlings of William Penn High School, Ms. Maureen Carey of Philadelphia Military Academy, Ms. Carol Daurebach of Little Flower High School, and Ms. Julie Easley of Walter D. Palmer Charter School** each received this year's teacher's award.



# 2010-2011 Budget Briefing

Staff and board members from more than 40 community organizations were present at Rep. Thomas' 2010-2011 Budget Briefing. The goal of this event was to provide information on grants, service contracts and other economic opportunities outlined in the 2010-11 Pennsylvania state budget.

Community-based organizations, community development corporations, social service agencies and small businesses are able to submit applications to various state agencies for funding consideration. The briefing was attended by representatives from the following agencies: **PA Department of Community & Economic Development; PA Department of Labor & Industry; PA Department of Public Welfare; PA Commission on Crime & Delinquency; PA Council on the Arts; and the School District of Philadelphia.**



Rep. Thomas testifies at a House Appropriations Committee hearing about his priorities for the 2010-11 Pennsylvania state budget.

## Legislative Report

### Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act



Rep. Thomas discusses solutions for blighted properties at a summit in Pittsburgh.

This summer, Rep. Thomas, chairman of the House Urban Affairs Committee, established a working group to review and make recommendations on Act 90 of 2010. This law, known as the Neighborhood Blight Reclamation and Revitalization Act, will provide new tools to aid municipalities in dealing with blighted properties. The House and Senate approved the changes proposed by Rep. Thomas in a comprehensive amendment to the law before it was signed by the governor.

## Redevelopment Assistance Grants Authorized and Approved for 181st Legislative District

Rep. Thomas successfully included funding requests for Hunting Park United and Bridge of Hope CDC in the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program for 2010-2011.

- Rep. Thomas teamed up with state Rep. Tony Payton, D-Phila., to secure a \$1.5 million capital grant for Hunting Park United. This grant will be used for the restoration of the football/soccer field at Hunting Park.
- The Bridge of Hope CDC has been authorized to receive up to \$6 million in capital grant funding. This award will be used to build Temple University housing units on the former site of the John Wanamaker Junior High School.

Thomas has had overwhelming success with the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program in the 181<sup>st</sup> Legislative District during Gov. Ed Rendell's two terms in office. The following is a list of other capital projects which Rep. Thomas secured funding for:

- Fresh Grocer Supermarket - \$1.5 million
- Lutheran Settlement - \$2 million
- Norris Square Civic Association - \$2.5 million

## Continuing Legislation

Over the last year, Rep. Thomas has continued his tradition of putting the people's interests first. There are a number of legislative issues which Rep. Thomas plans to address because they remain of critical importance to the safety and growth of the 181<sup>st</sup> Legislative District and the state.

**The following are bills Rep. Thomas introduced in the previous session and will continue to push for:**

**H.B. 98 – (Utility Shutoffs)** Would prohibit a utility company from shutting off service within 60 days of a customer receiving approval for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. It would also require that the company enter into a payment agreement with the customer.

**H.B. 1045 – (Assault Weapons)** Would make the possession, use, control, sale, transfer, manufacture or purchase of an assault weapon in Pennsylvania a third-degree felony. The bill would include both factory-made weapons and any combination of parts designed to convert an existing firearm into an assault weapon.

**H.B. 1215 – (Liquor License Denial)** Would allow the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board to deny transfers of liquor licenses to new locations if the new location is within 300 feet of any church, hospital, charitable institution, school, or public playground.

**H.B. 1795 – (Work force Development)** Would establish a youth advisory council within each county work force investment board in Pennsylvania. The youth advisory council will participate in developing work force strategies for young people.

**H.B. 2302 – (Tax Assessor Certification)** Would amend PA Assessor Certification Act to bring tax assessors in Philadelphia in line with the provisions of the act regarding background training, state assessment exam, and annual continuing education requirements. Tax assessors in Philadelphia are exempt from these provisions.

## Private Sector Job Fair

There was a huge turnout at the private sector job fair hosted by Rep. Thomas on Oct. 26 at Beloved St. John Baptist Church. More than 1,000 job seekers had an opportunity to meet with recruiters from over 25 companies including AMTRAK, UPS, Affordable Health Insurance and the Urban League.

A resume writing class was held to provide attendees with the proper instructions in constructing a resume. A "Dress to Impress" session was also held for attendees. In the weeks after this event, Rep. Thomas' staff reviewed and sorted over 800 resumes. These resumes were then forwarded to individual recruiters, Philadelphia Career Link, and casinos located in the Philadelphia area.



## Fighting for Local Charter School

Rep. Thomas has been an active and vocal supporter of the Walter D. Palmer Leadership Learning Partners Charter School in its recent funding dispute with the School Reform Commission. Walter D. Palmer School is located in the heart of the 181st Legislative District and has shown, year after year, improvement in state test scores, high attendance rates, a commitment to student safety and a healthy learning environment.

Recently, the SRC has moved to eliminate funding for Walter D. Palmer. Rep. Thomas has been outspoken in his criticism of this decision and has testified before the SRC to request that funding be restored to the school. He continues to be a supporter of Walter D. Palmer and looks forward to reaching an eventual agreement with the SRC that will fully fund the school.





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lpo.jc.1110



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*[www.pahouse.com/thomas](http://www.pahouse.com/thomas)*

## Red Carpet Senior Expo

Rep. Thomas hosted more than 100 neighborhood seniors at his "Red Carpet Senior Expo" on Oct. 7 at the William H. Gray Youth Center at Bright Hope Baptist Church. Residents from the 12 senior living developments and centers located in the 181st Legislative District attended the event.

More than a dozen vendors were on hand to provide

information on health-care initiatives, prescriptions, wills, estate planning, senior housing, rent rebates and property taxes. As a special treat, Rep. Thomas arranged for individual photos to be taken of each senior on the red carpet to commemorate the occasion. The day was filled with fun activities, helpful information and a delicious lunch buffet.

