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SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION

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SEIU STATE COUNCIL ENDORSES DC COUNCIL MEMBER KWAME BROWN

Brown Given Plaque in Honor of Bill That Raised Wages for Thousands of Security Officers

Washington, DC – Members of the Service Employees International (SEIU) Maryland/DC State Council today announced their endorsement of D.C. Council member Kwame Brown’s reelection bid. Private security officers recognized Brown’s work to pass the Enhanced Professional Security Amendment Act in January and for participating in Local 32BJ’s challenge to walk a day in an officer’s shoes last November.

“Council member Brown’s bill provides significant wage gains for the men and women who protect District buildings,” said Jaime Contreras, State Council President and Local 32BJ Capital Area Director. “Raising standards in the security industry also translates into safer tenants and a safer city.”

Brown co-introduced the bill which sets the wage and benefit level for more than 1,500 security officers protecting private commercial office buildings at \$11.51 per hour plus \$3.16 for benefits. Over five years, the bill will provide more than \$55 million in wages and benefits to help security officers better support local business and communities.

“I made a promise to District residents that I would fight for a living wage and together we kept that promise,” said Council member Brown. “A living wage is an important step towards alleviating poverty and I look forward to working with SEIU on continuing to improve the quality of life for working families.”

The Council represents 25,000 members of SEIU Locals 32BJ, 500, 722, 400 and 1199 who work in the health care and property services industries, in public services, and for non-profit organizations throughout the Washington-MD area.

Brown was also praised for supporting workers at the Ingleside at Rock Creek nursing home in their hard-fought, successful drive to gain union rights. “From day one, Kwame Brown has been with us,” said Calvin Lucas, a floor tech at United Medical Center. “He has always been supportive of this hospital, health care in our community and the people who work here.”

With more than 100,000 members in six states, including more than 10,000 in the Washington, D.C.-Maryland area, Local 32BJ is the largest property services union in the country.

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