

PRESS RELEASE

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CATANIA ENCOURAGED BY SELECTION OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR

HEALTH COMMITTEE CHAIR LOOKS FORWARD TO THOROUGH CONFIRMATION HEARING

Washington, D.C. – Councilmember David Catania (At-Large) commended Mayor Adrian Fenty for his selection of a new Director for the District’s Department of Health today. At a press conference this morning, the Mayor introduced Dr. Pierre N. Vigilance, M.D. to the public as his choice to head the department. Catania and Vigilance met privately yesterday to discuss the position, as well as the challenges faced by the Health Department.

“Dr. Vigilance will be taking on an enormous responsibility,” said Catania. “However, he will be fortunate to assume the directorship at a time when the Department is dramatically improving. I believe that Dr. Vigilance is capable of building on these successes.”

Vigilance previously served as the Director of the Baltimore County Department of Health. His appointment will require Council approval within 180 days. Yesterday, Catania promised to hold a thorough confirmation hearing soon after the legislation is transmitted to the Council.

“The Mayor and his team deserve a lot of credit for the manner in which they conducted this search,” said Catania. “The process was deliberate but quick, which was necessary given the importance of the position to the city’s healthcare system.”

The Department of Health is responsible for administering the District’s publicly funded health programs and for promoting and protecting the health and welfare of District residents. It contains 1,160 employees, 7 administrations, and has a budget of nearly \$2 billion. The Director is appointed by the Mayor, confirmed by the Council, and serves as a member of the Mayor’s Cabinet.

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