

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Executive Office of the Mayor

Office of Communications



PRESS RELEASE

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Mayor Vincent C. Gray Thanks President Obama for Disaster Declaration Following June 29 Severe Thunderstorm Event

Declaration Enables District to Recoup Costs Associated with Response and Recovery

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Mayor Vincent C. Gray and the D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) received word from the White House today that President Obama had granted the Mayor’s request for a federal disaster declaration in the wake of the June 29 *derecho* event, when a complex of severe thunderstorms containing strong straight-line winds downed trees, caused structural damage and knocked out power across the District and the region.

“My thanks to President Obama for granting our request for a disaster declaration, thus making the District eligible for federal aid,” Mayor Gray said. ***“This assistance will help us recoup some of the millions of dollars of expenses the city incurred in ensuring that our streets were safe and our residents had food, water and shelter after the storms.”***

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