



# Charles C. Yancey

*Boston City Councillor*

## PRESS RELEASE

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### STIMULUS SUMMIT ATTRACTS COMMUNITY WATCHDOGS

Boston City Hall (July 9, 2009) – Boston City Councillors Charles C. Yancey and Chuck Turner’s Stimulus Summit, held on July 7, 2009 in Dorchester, drew community watchdogs concerned with the \$39 million of federal funds allocated to the city of Boston.

Councillor Yancey, in introducing the Summit’s panel of Massachusetts officials, said he hoped the summit would remove some of the mysteries surrounding the federal economic stimulus package.

Panelist Ronald Marlow, assistant secretary for Access and Opportunity at the Office for Administration and Finance, said the Patrick Administration’s mission of disseminating stimulus funds is similar to its on-going mission of providing inclusion and transparency in everyday operations.

The administration’s goal, Marlow said, is to open up opportunity for participation. “We believe that we’ve crafted mechanisms that should lead to employment,” he said.

Panelist Jeffrey A. Simon, director of the Office of Infrastructure Investment, outlined in a PowerPoint presentation the \$790 billion American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the allocation and oversight process of its \$13.2 billion share in Massachusetts, and the allocation of its \$39 million share in Boston.

Summit participants raised concerns about funding for the homeless, disabled, incarcerated, as well as for unemployed African American males. Others asked about funding for weatherization programs, the paving of city streets, and apprenticeship programs for non-union workers and those with CORI’s.

Roxbury resident, Marsha Scott, asked if any stimulus funds would be allocated specifically to support apprenticeship programs for non-union workers. In response, Simon said all companies, union and non-union, are encouraged to participate. “We want to spread contracts out demographically, in every way,” he said.

Nancy Shippen, executive director of Our Prison Neighbors, which recruits volunteers to work in Massachusetts prisons, inquired if any stimulus funding is assigned for those who are incarcerated. “Inmates are in desperate need of training programs,” she said. The panelists, unaware of any such funding, promised to investigate her request.



*Boston City Councillors Charles C. Yancey and Chuck Turner pose with panel members, following their Stimulus Summit on July 7, 2009 in Dorchester. The Mass. officials include (l-r) Jeffrey A. Simon, Clinton Bench, Rachel Bain, Ronald Marlow, Michael Vance, Dr. Saeyun Lee, and Nadine Boayke.*

Michael Vance, vice president of field operations for ABCD, said his organization hoped to weatherize about 1,400 units with stimulus funding.

Carol Mallory Causey, president of the Political African-American Coalition, Inc., urged officials to allocate increased funding to create jobs and training programs for unemployed African American men in Boston. "I'm tired of seeing other people working in my community while my people are starving," she said.

But Marlow said it's difficult to target specific groups with funding because Massachusetts is required by law to work within the perimeters of rulings set by the Supreme Court. "It's the best that we can do at this time. But it's better than previous administrations," he said.

Councillor Turner, who has spent five decades fighting to end discrimination against African Americans, agreed that Marlow's comments on Supreme Court rulings were true. But he said it's absurd from a human standpoint. "For us to go into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, accepting this same kind of treatment, I think it's absurd. They're creating an illusion that we can end violence in our community, without any jobs," he said.

Councillor Yancey said he felt it was appropriate to hold the summit in a community of color. "After all, communities of color are suffering from the highest rates of unemployment," he said.

Marlow urged participants to visit the Massachusetts Recovery Website, <http://www.mass.gov/recovery>, which provides information on the commonwealth's plans and objectives, funding and contracts, and opportunities for residents, communities, and businesses.

Other panelists were Dr. Saeyun Lee, a policy analyst for the Executive Office of Education; Nadine Boayke, assistant program manager of the Massachusetts Office of Small Business and Entrepreneurship; and Rachele Bain and Clinton Bench, both of the Executive Office of Transportation.

Councillor Yancey praised the panelists for their participation, and he congratulated summit participants for helping to resolve some of the mysteries in the federal stimulus package.

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which was signed into law by President Barack Obama on February 17, 2009, includes federal tax relief, expansion of unemployment benefits and other social welfare provisions, and domestic spending in education, health care, and infrastructure, including the energy sector.

The next Stimulus Summit will be held on **Tuesday, July 14, 2009, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M. at the Jeremiah E. Burke High School (Auditorium) 60 Washington Street in Dorchester**. The Summit will feature reports from city of Boston departments that are receiving federal stimulus funds. For further information, please call Councillor Yancey's office at (617) 635-3131 or Councillor Turner's office at (617) 635-3510.

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