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2012 Chamber's Choice Awards Draws Big Crowd to Celebrate Best of DC's Business & Non-Profit Community

Washington, DC – The annual Chamber's Choice Awards Gala solidified the DC Chamber of Commerce's reputation for putting on DC's premiere business event. An unqualified success, this year's celebration took place Saturday, October 27th, spotlighting the Washington business community's best and brightest, chosen for their exceptional leadership, extraordinary standards of professional excellence, and commitment to the community.

Capping off the evening was a rousing performance by noted R&B sensation **Morris Day and the Time**.

"In addition to recognizing the best of the best in the District's business community, the Chamber's annual gala celebrates the dedication, passion and influence of small, medium and large businesses that call our nation's capital home," said DC Chamber President and CEO **Barbara B. Lang**. "It's our way of showing our gratitude to our honorees and all our members for everything they do for the business community, and the city as a whole."

More than 1,300 of the Washington region's most prominent leaders and decision-makers were in attendance in the Marriott Wardman Park's Grand Ballroom, including **Mayor Vincent Gray**, and nearly every city councilmember. Addressing the crowd, the Mayor expressed his gratitude to the Chamber and President Barbara Lang, and extolled the District's business community: "As you've heard tonight, DC is open for business! We're the number one city in America for producing and attracting company founders, the most educated city in the country, and the Wall Street Journal Marketwatch's 'Best City for Business' in 2010 and 2011."

This year's honorees truly represented the best of DC, from non-profit **DC Central Kitchen** to Lifetime Legacy Awardee, **Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis**. All seven awardees were recognized for their contributions towards making the District a better place to live, play, and do business.

Videos vignettes were produced for each award winner by Foundation Digital Media (www.foundationdigitalmedia.com). Links to each video are below. Photos from the event are also available at the following URL: <http://imaginephotography4704.zenfolio.com/p580819810> -- use password 12345; please credit Imagine Photography.

Short profiles of each honoree follow. For more details, please contact Max Farrow, Director of Communications. For more information on the event itself, visit www.chamberschoiceawards.org.

Business of the Year – Thompson Hospitality

Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/bnt8ggrmpkx98hd/%2AThompson%20Master.m4v>

Thompson Hospitality Corporation was founded in 1992 and was recently named number eight among *Food Management* magazine's Top 50 Food Management Companies. THC is also the nation's largest minority-owned food

service management company with earnings of more than \$350 million in revenue annually and over 4,000 employees nationwide.

Thompson Hospitality holds food-service contracts with a wide range of business entities including public school districts, universities, healthcare institutions, Austin Grill, Marvelous Market, Ashburn Car Wash, and the American Tap Room. Under Warren Thompson's leadership, THC is able to remain focused on customer and employee appreciation while providing meals to 46 states and serving 100,000 plus customers a day.

Business Leader of the Year Award – Kristina Bouweiri, Reston Limousine

Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/r0g4gohqz4ppss5/%2AReston%20Master.m4v>

Kristina Bouweiri, president and CEO of Reston Limousine, DC's largest limousine service and one of the top 10 largest shuttle bus fleets in the country. Reston Limousine is known for its high quality transportation and its impeccable safety record. Under Bouweiri's leadership, the company reported revenues of \$17.5 million in 2011.

Economic Impact Award – Boston Properties

Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/4r7tn9tov5s13x8/%2ABoston%20Master.m4v>

Developed by Boston Properties, The Avenue is recognized as one of the most significant architectural statements and influential developments in the District in decades. The mixed-use development spans a 2.5 acre city lot and has rejuvenated the area, making it a vibrant work, live, and play destination that has something to offer to everyone.

Over its three year development period, The Avenue employed over 450 workers-- the majority of whom were DC residents --and incorporated the input from the surrounding Foggy Bottom community. Its economic impact also includes a projected increase in the District's property tax roll by over \$10M year. Since its opening in the summer of 2011, it has generated millions in revenue, employed over 1,000 people, and created homes for a diverse population of about 450 residents. The completed project boasts 335 luxury residential units, a 440,000 square foot trophy-quality office building, 72,000 square feet of retail space including six restaurants, and a greatly needed Whole Foods.

Boston Properties transformed an under-used 850,000 square foot vacant lot in the heart of Foggy Bottom into a thriving, influential center of economic growth. The impact of The Avenue has exceeded expectations.

Community Impact Award – DC Central Kitchen

Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/8625idw5iwpzkvo/%2ADCCK%20Master.m4v>

DC Central Kitchen was founded in 1989 and has served over 25 million meals to low-income residents in Washington, DC. The kitchen provides 5,000 meals per day to shelters, nonprofit organizations and transitional homes. DC Central Kitchen's community impact extends far beyond serving meals to low-income families. They offer culinary training to at-risk individuals, operate a food recycling program which helps turn tons of leftover food into well-balanced meals, and provide meals in the mornings to the homeless in Wards 7 and 8 through its First Helping program. DC Central Kitchen's outreach also extends to DC area school children with over 4,200 healthy meals delivered to 2,000 low-income children per day.

Chamber's Choice Award – A Scott Bolden, Reed Smith LLP

Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/zwefq7jxcjcd294/%2ABolden%20Master.m4v>

A. Scott Bolden serves as Managing Partner at Reed Smith's Washington, DC office. The *Washington Post*, recently declared A. Scott Bolden "Washington's "newest "super lawyer" and the "go to lawyer" for individuals and corporations with issues against and before the federal and local governments." His practice is mainly focused civil and criminal defense litigation. Bolden has conducted internal investigations for corporations, defended corporate

clients and individuals in state and federal courts and advised clients on white collar criminal issues. He most recently defended former Washington Redskins defensive tackle, Albert Haynesworth, and also serves as a legal commentator for radio and television on general legal issues, most recently on the Lululemon trial and the plea deal for former Prince George's County executive, Jack Johnson.

Lifetime Legacy Award – Dr. Charlene Drew-Jarvis

Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/so1jo4uxfv2ifvt/%2AJarvis%20Master.m4v>

Charlene Drew Jarvis has had a lifetime of professional endeavors and public service, and is one of DC's most prominent women. Upon earning her Ph.D. in neuropsychology from the University of Maryland, Dr. Jarvis started a career at the National Institute of Mental Health. Following seven years there, she opted to carve out a new path for herself, and was elected to the DC City Council, where she would serve the citizens of Ward 4, and make it her mission to pull the area out of its downward spiral. She was the firm hand the city needed, becoming chair of the Committee on Economic Development in 1981, and establishing the Economic Development Finance Corporation. With an ambitious list of goals and improvements for her city and its residents, Dr. Jarvis continued to serve on City Council for a total of six terms, cleaning up the streets of Ward 4 and combatting drug usage through multiple projects.

In 1994 while serving on the local Red Cross board, Dr. Jarvis joined a campaign called "African-Americans United for Life" in hopes of increasing the number of registered African Americans blood donors. By 1996, she was again on another career path, becoming president of Southeastern University and faced with the task of combatting its dwindling enrollment and saving the institution from losing its accreditation. Within one year, enrollment had doubled, new faculty was brought in, and Dr. Jarvis opened the school's resources to the public library so schoolchildren could use them. She served as president for 13 years, and remains enthusiastically involved in the enriching of the District and its residents.

Chairman's Choice Award – John Hill

Video: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/my2ih9q24j3bs8x/%2AHill%20Master.m4v>

John Hill was born in Washington, DC and has remained in the DMV area for his entire life. Being the first in his family to graduate from college, Mr. Hill studied Accounting at the University of Maryland and was among the first 100 certified public accountants in the state of Maryland. This career enabled him to travel the world as head of the group within Price Waterhouse LLP responsible for auditing Bethesda-based Marriott International Inc.'s hotel division. With more than 28 years of experience in federal, state, local, and private sectors, Mr. Hill's financial review of DC in the 1980's led to the creation of the DC control board in 1995 and other laudable projects. After serving as Executive Director of the control board, he became the Chief Executive Office of the Federal City Council in 2004, and has been working with public officials to solve key challenges facing the District for the last nine years. Mr. Hill formerly served on the boards of the DC Children and Youth Trust and the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Commission to Revitalize the DC Public Library, and is currently President of the DC Public Library Board of Trustees, Treasurer of the Shakespeare Theatre Company Board of Trustees, and Chair of the National Minority Aids Council.

The DC Chamber is the largest and #1 rated Chamber in the Washington region. For nearly 75 years, we have been the champion of local business—large and small—providing passionate advocacy, valuable networking opportunities, and enlightening educational programs. www.dccchamber.org

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