

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Office of Councilmember David A. Catania**

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 110, Washington, D.C. 20004

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**Contact:** Jennifer Jenkins  
(202) 724-7772  
jjenkins@dccouncil.us  
<http://www.davidcatania.com>

## **COUNCIL PASSES SPAM DETERRENCE ACT**

### **SPAMMERS CAN FACE PENALTIES FOR UNSOLICITED EMAILS AND INVASION OF COMPUTER PRIVACY**

**Washington, DC** – Today, the Council of the District of Columbia unanimously voted to approve the Spam Deterrence Act of 2008 authored by Councilmember David Catania (At-Large). The Act gives prosecutors and individuals wronged by spammers the right to pursue action against them in cases where the District of Columbia has jurisdiction.

“The problem of junk and unwanted emails is more than a mere annoyance. They can transmit viruses, destroy IT equipment, and damage networks,” said Catania. “This bill will give consumers the right to fight back if a perpetrator of spam is found to reside in the District of Columbia.”

The Spam Deterrence Act of 2008 was originally introduced on January 9, 2007 by Catania. It was referred to the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. The Committee held a public hearing on the bill on March 11, 2008 and a mark-up on May 21, 2008. The bill received its first reading before the full Council on June 3, 2008.

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