



## D.C. Voting Rights Goes Hollywood

By Martin Austermuhle, DCist, September 16, 2011

Admit it -- that's a look that says, "I want you to support the District's efforts in achieving voting rights, self-determination and statehood."

Actress Hayden Panettiere will be in town this evening for a fundraiser for the D.C. Statehood Fund, continuing her support for the local voting rights movement that started in 2008 when she taped a PSA for the cause. (That same year she also attended a luncheon for the delegation at the Democratic National Convention in Denver.) Her activism in support of the District is even getting her a high-five from Mayor Vince Gray at 2 p.m. today, when he issues a proclamation recognizing her work for the cause.

The fund goes to pay for expenses for the District's unpaid Statehood Delegation, which is made up of Shadow Representative Mike Panetta and Shadow Senators Paul Strauss and **Michael D. Brown**. The fund also takes in money from residents filing their D.C. taxes, but e-filing has led to a steep drop in donations.

If you're a supporter of statehood or simply really love Panettiere, the fundraiser runs from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Cities, located at 919 19th Street NW. A \$51 minimum donation is suggested, natch.