

Councilmember Muriel Bowser hosted a special meeting concerning crime issues on October 28, 2009 at “The Roc,” located at 801 Shepherd Street NW. She was joined by Police Chief Cathy Lanier, Assistant Chief Diane Groomes, MPD 4D Commander Linda Brown and Police Service Areas lieutenants. The meeting was convened to address the violent crimes that occurred in Petworth last month.

### **Report from Police Chief Cathy Lanier**

- October 20, 8:15 p.m.: Shooting at the Safeway at Randolph Street and Georgia Avenue NW. 15-year-old victim in very critical condition. The victim is a Petworth resident. He does not attend a neighborhood school. The suspect came out from behind the Safeway and specifically fired one shot at the victim and fled. Investigation active. No arrests to date.
- October 23, 10:30 pm.: Fatal Shooting in the 1200 Block of Crittenden St. NW. A 44-year-old man was targeted. He was chased from one location and shot on the porch of an uninvolved house. The victim was a resident of Simms Place NE, but had friendship ties to the neighborhood. Investigation active. No arrests to date.
- October 24, 10:15 a.m.: A fatal shooting involving an officer. An armed suspect died of his injuries. The police were responding to a call for a car break-in. Decedent’s gun collected on the scene. Decedent is a neighborhood resident. Two other suspects arrested in relation to the attempted car break-in and a second gun recovered.

### Responses to Specific Concerns:

#### Increased Reports of Sounds of Gun Fire in the Area

- The police respond to all reports of gunfire regardless of whether or not there were any injuries to people or property, because they need to see if there is any connection between the acts.
- There is an ongoing coordinated effort with MPD 3D and MPD 4D undercover officers to address criminal activity. The police chief was not at liberty to disclose more details.
- The Council has provided the police with help to deal with gangs even though the major legislation on gangs did not pass. Additionally, the police have developed an internal strategy and there has been a dramatic decrease in gang activity. The Chief emphasized the need for residents to come forward and provide information.
- Community assistance is needed to close cases.
- In addition to calling 911, residents may provide tips and anonymous information by calling 1-888-919-CRIME or texting 40511. But the Chief emphasized this should not be a substitute for calling 911.
- There are also occasions when rewards are given for the arrest and conviction of suspects. In these instances, you should call the Command Center at 727-9099 with information.
- Call 922-2121, if you see a crime at a Metro station

#### Metro Transit Police

- Captain Pavlik (202-722-8090) discussed Metro transit operations in Petworth. He advised that Petworth ranked 34<sup>th</sup> out of 82 stations in terms of reported crime.
- Captain Pavlik and MPD addressed concerns about loitering around the Metro station.
- Residents expressed concerned about the under use and misuse of the bike locker.
- Metro will investigate the current demand and possible relocation of the bike locker.

#### **Agreed Upon Action Items (not exhaustive)**

- MPD will implement **compliance safety checks** in Petworth. These are traffic stops in high traffic areas. All vehicles are stopped. Residents are reminded to use seatbelts and carry necessary identification. Increases police presence and helps with traffic issues as well.
- MPD will adjust foot beat patrols to extend beyond 8 p.m. and extend into non-commercial areas
- MPD will focus vice and specialized unit activity in Petworth to address specific drug, gun and gang activity.
- MPD will implement joint MPD – 3D and 4D patrols. 3D and 4D command staff were in attendance at meeting. Joint patrols have been successful along 14/Spring border area and MPD will extend to the area east of Georgia Avenue as well.
- MPD agreed to after incident canvassing to promote citizen participation in investigation process.
- Chief Lanier agreed to review current deployment for crime cameras and the needs of Petworth. She agreed to redeploy cameras, if necessary, to achieve best results for the district.
- Increased Use of Drug Free/No Loitering Zone in Petworth. Drug Free No Loitering Zones permit.

#### Bowser will:

- Facilitate discussion with 3D/4D and Interested community members on uniform Court Watch operations between the Districts
- Manage a list of Nuisance Properties/Hot List and agency coordination to address problems, including MPD OAG, DCRA and Tax and Revenue.
- Bowser will work with interested community members and invite 2D CAC Chairman to conduct a block captains' training session. Bowser will recruit 10 interested community members to get started.
- Bowser will work with ANCs to share neighborhood watch information.
- Check gaps in law for carrying a pistol without a license as a misdemeanor and address.

THE FOLLOW-UP MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3.