



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser organizes graffiti clean up blitz along 14th Street, NW

(Washington, DC) – On Friday, March 28, at 11AM (beginning at 14th and Aspen Streets, NW) Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser will be joined by the Department of Public Works, the Mayor's Office of the Clean City, the Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services, the Department of Parks and Recreation, DC Public Schools and WMATA to clean up graffiti along the 14th Street corridor.

Graffiti has appeared on walls, fences, mailboxes, delivery trucks, stop signs, garage doors, electrical boxes, and garbage containers in recent weeks. Councilmember Bowser spoke with News Channel ABC 7 and said, "Graffiti affects how you feel about your neighborhood and we don't like people defacing it." She added that she believes most of the vandalism is work of mischievous young people, not gangs.

The DC Department of Public Works also has a FREE graffiti removal voucher program for District residents and business owners whose property has been defaced by graffiti. Residents may call the Mayor's Citywide Call Center at 311 to obtain a voucher to be redeemed at McCormick Paints located at 15th and P Streets, NW and Duron Paints located at 14th and Clifton Streets, NW.

The voucher program is part of an aggressive graffiti abatement plan, announced in June 2007, which will allow the city to remove graffiti on private property more quickly and help property owners remove graffiti themselves. There is also pending legislation that will establish a new process for graffiti abatement that certain actions by a property owner will be deemed to provide consent to the city to abate graffiti, and will increase the reward for providing information leading to the conviction of someone for a graffiti-related offense.

The following locations, among others, will be addressed during Friday's graffiti blitz:

14th and Somerset Place Place, NW
5807 14th Street, NW (Military Road and 14th Street)
5900 14th Street, NW
5503 14th Street, NW
6400 block of 14th Street, NW (14th and Tuckerman)
6300 block of 14th Street, NW (14th and Sheridan)
1359 Jefferson Street, NW

Garages in the alley behind 14th and Kennedy Street, NW
WMATA bus turn-around at 14th and Colorado Avenue, NW
3916 14th Street, NW
West Elementary School (14th and Farragut Street, NW)
Upshur Recreation Center playground – 14th and Arkansas/Upshur Street, NW

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