



## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Statement: Councilmember Bowser offers praise to Fourth District team**

*Bowser also expresses sadness at death of Holocaust Museum security officer Stephen T. Johns*

The job of a police officer is often a thankless one. But I want to take this opportunity to thank members of the Fourth District. On Monday, June 8, members from this unit apprehended suspects wanted in connection with recent taxicab driver robberies. I am incredibly proud of these officers. They were indefatigable in their resolve to make the arrests.

Commander Linda Brown said “I am extremely pleased with the efforts of the patrol officers, officials and the members of the Fourth District Detective Unit that resulted in two arrests of suspects wanted in the recent string of cab driver robberies. The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) takes these crimes very seriously and our patrol officers were highly motivated to apprehend the suspects. The Detective Unit worked tirelessly, reviewing critical evidentiary items and conducting countless interviews in order to successfully capture these suspects.”

On Friday, June 6, I had the opportunity to take part in a ride-along with Commander Melvin Scott, Executive Officer of the Patrol Services and School Security Bureau of the Fourth District. It was quite an experience to see so up-close the commitment MPD has to our citizens. To serve and protect is more than a slogan. It is truly a way of life for our police officers. The sacrifices these officers make day in and day out should be heralded. Not just when there are successful apprehensions or when reflecting in the wake of a tragedy. To this end we must put forth efforts to ensure that our police officers are equipped with the tools necessary to promote safety in our communities. Tomorrow the Council will consider on an emergency basis the “Summer of 2009 Crime Prevention Emergency Amendment Act of 2009” to do just that. The measure would include a gang civil injunction that would help us regain control of our neighborhoods while ensuring that civil liberties are protected. The legislation would also create stiffer penalties for using a stolen car in the commission of violent crimes.

While hailing the success of the Fourth District team, I think it more than appropriate to address the recent shooting death of Holocaust Museum security officer Stephen T. Johns, who died so heroically in the line of duty.

When something so tragic like the shooting at the Holocaust Museum occurs it makes us all take a step back and realize that our safety cannot be taken for granted. There are thousands of private

security officers in our nation's capital. Yet many times we give them a hurried hello or grumble when asked to remove our shoes when going through a metal detector. But Johns' death made it even more real for me the valiance of the men and women who guard not just the Wilson Building but stand at the doors and patrol the halls of buildings all across our city.

There are hardly enough words to articulate how important a role MPD officers and private security officers play in protecting the District. So I'll end the way I began. And that's with extreme gratitude.

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*A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs and is also a member of the Committee on Economic Development, Committee on Human Services, Committee on Public Works and Transportation and the Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit [www.murielbowser.com](http://www.murielbowser.com) for more information on Councilmember Bowser.*

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