



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



FOCUS ON

January 28, 2009

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Voting Rights and CVS Update!**
- DPW Delays Trash Pick up- Today, January 28 Around the Ward!**
- Program Targets At-Risk Youth**
- Small Business Opportunity- January 30, 2009**
- Removing Blight: Vacant Property Tax Increase- February 2009**
- AARP Driver Safety Course- February 14**
- Councilmember Bowser hires Committee Clerk**

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Dear Neighbors,

I am very excited that the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties moved H.R 157, the District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009 at yesterday's hearing which was submitted by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton earlier this month. This is a major step in our fight for full voting representation for the residents of the District of Columbia. I am hopeful that the Voting Rights Bill will pass after yesterday's hearing on Capital Hill it must be seen as a high-water mark for our struggle. I will continue to keep fighting for DC Voting Rights and appreciate all the hard work everyone has contributed to this effort. We're not done fighting!

I have received many inquires regarding the CVS store located on Kennedy Street NW. I have been in contact with the regional Vice President for CVS and he has confirmed that this store will not close on February 7, 2009. My office will continue to work with CVS to ensure that the store is maintained at this location. The city has recently approved a plan for major public and private investment in the corridor and it is very important to us that CVS is part of this revitalization. We are scheduled to meet with them next week.

As we brave this winter weather, please remember to clear your sidewalks, help elderly or disabled neighbors remove snow from their steps and sidewalks, and remain aware of road conditions, particularly black ice is deceptive in its appearance and tends to give drivers a false sense of security on the road.

Please be careful during inclement weather to ensure your safety as well as the safety of others.

Muriel

DPW Delays Trash Pick up- Today, January 28

Due to the snow and ice storm, trash pick up on Wednesday, January 28th will be delayed and will resume Thursday January 29th. As a result Wednesday's pick up will occur on Thursday and Thursday's pick up on Friday and Friday's pick up on Saturday. For additional information please visit www.dpw.dc.gov or call 311.

Around the Ward!

Last Sunday Councilmember Bowser attended the Shepherd Park Citizens Association's 5th annual potluck with Over 150 neighbors gathered for fun and food. The highlight of the evening for Councilmember Bowser was the opportunity to recognize Jourdinia and Roger Brown's many years of service to our neighborhoods and the District of Columbia. Last December Councilmember Bowser was honored to present Commissioner Brown with a Ceremonial Resolution from the Council of the District of Columbia.

Program Targets At-Risk Youth

The DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation (CYITC) will award grants to three organizations, the Latin American Youth Center (LAYC), Reaching Out to Provide Enlightenment (ROPE, Inc.) and Peaceoholics, Inc. to provide outreach services to youth in the District through the At-Risk Youth Assistance Program. The At-Risk Youth Assistance Program will be active in five Focus Improvement Areas (FIA) and Police Service Areas (PSA) as well as the DC Public Schools within and surrounding them.

We are pleased that youth in PSAs 403 and 404 will benefit and receive intervention services such as: conflict mediation, crisis intervention, counseling, mentoring, health care and education resources and job placement. Grants awarded will give each organization the capacity to connect with more young people in the District. The program targets at-risk youth who live in neighborhoods where criminal activity is prevalent.

Small Business Opportunity- January 30, 2009

If you are a small local business or non-profit this is your opportunity to showcase your environmental excellence. The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) is encouraging local businesses to apply for the first annual Mayor's Environmental Excellence Awards. The awards will recognize outstanding businesses and organizations for their environmental stewardship, innovative and best practices, pollution prevention and resource conservation.

The District will recognize innovation in the following categories: construction/development, hotel, and innovation in green products or services and restaurant/food service retail. Additionally, businesses may also choose to apply under a general category: small business (100 or fewer employees) or large business (more than 100 employees). For more information and an application form, please visit the DDOE website at ddoe.dc.gov or contact Mary Lynn Wilhere at (202) 535-1939 or marylynn.wilhere@dc.gov. Please note the deadline to apply is January 30, 2009.

Removing Blight: Vacant Property Tax Increase- February 2009

Beginning in February 2009 vacant properties will see a 5% increase on their taxes. The Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008 increased the vacant property tax rate to \$10.00 per \$100 of assessed property value.

This legislation is helpful because vacant properties attract criminal activities, contribute to blight, and in some instances pose serious threats to the public's health safety and welfare. Certainly we in Ward 4 know that vacant properties are an eyesore, a nuisance and hurt the neighborhoods in which they are located. The purpose of this legislation is to serve as an incentive for vacant property owners to return properties to productive use.

A vacant property is defined as one that has not been occupied continuously and therefore must be registered within 30 days after it becomes vacant. To report vacant properties call DCRA directly at (202) 442-4332 or e-mail dcra@dc.gov.

AARP Driver Safety Course- February 14, 2009

Join AARP for its Driver Safety Course for drivers ages 50 and older. This Driver Safety course is the nation's first and largest refresher course for drivers age 50 and older which has helped millions of drivers remain safe on today's roads. This course is designed to help you tune up your driving skills and update your knowledge of the rules of the road, learn about normal age-related physical changes and how to adjust your driving to allow for these changes, reduce crashes and drive more safely.

The next class is Saturday, February 14, 2009 from 9:00 am- 3:00 pm at the Lamond Recreation Center, 20 Tuckerman Street NE. The cost is \$12.00 for AARP members and \$14.00 for non-members, Call Mr. Ed Robbins now to reserve your seat at 202-726-8095.
[Back to top](#)

Councilmember Bowser hires Committee Clerk

We are pleased to welcome Spencer Maguire to our committee staff as Legislative Director. Spencer joins us with a wealth of legislative experience and eagerness to implement our ambitious agenda to improve our government in the areas of consumer affairs, insurance, banking and public utility regulation.

Spencer comes to us with both local and federal legislative experience. He has a law degree from Roger Williams University and an MPA in City Management from the University of Kansas. We are pleased to have him on board to help push our active legislative agenda.