



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

A couple weeks ago, the District's Chief Financial Officer predicted a \$131 million shortfall in revenue, following the tumult in the economic markets these past two weeks. Given the enormous progress the District has achieved in recent years, it would be a devastating blow to backslide. Mayor Adrian Fenty this week presented proposed budget cuts for city agencies to close the budget shortfall. The biggest proposed cuts include \$4 million from the police department, nearly \$3 million from the health department and \$2.6 million from the transportation department. The City Council will hold public hearings on the Mayor's proposals later this Fall and look forward to community input on these plans.

Here is a highlight from the DC Council legislative meeting last Tuesday, October 7 and a list of some of the upcoming DC Council hearings:

★ Ward 4 Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) Boundary Expansion Amendment Act of 2008 had a first reading which passed and will expand the boundaries of the existing Brightwood NIF. I introduced this important measure in June to help support community-building projects throughout Ward 4 corridors. The new boundaries include areas in Takoma, Manor Park, Kennedy Street and 14th Street. The specific boundaries will be: Fern Street on the north over to Blair Road on the east down to North Capitol and then over on Kennedy Street to 13th Street and down 13th to Arkansas to 16th Street on the west and up to Alaska over to Fern Street again. The Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) is an annual non-lapsing, revolving fund to finance economic development and neighborhood revitalization efforts in 12 target neighborhoods. The fund is intended to support a diverse range of projects that will make investments in community facilities, affordable housing, job training, and education. Non-profit organizations may apply for these creative partnerships between District agencies and the non-profit sector. The grant applications are typically released in December/January each year. See www.dcbiz.dc.gov for more information.

Upcoming hearings:

Thursday, October 9

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Jim Graham, Chairperson Agenda items include: 1) Public Space Hazardous Tree Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0937. To amend Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002 to give responsibility for hazardous trees in the public parking area to the District of Columbia government and 2) Urban Forest Preservation Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0938 to amend the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002 to require that the Mayor provide notice and document before removing large hazardous trees that do not pose an imminent danger.

Friday, October 10

10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, Agenda item: The Facilities Plan for District of Columbia Public Schools.

2:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Jim Graham, Chairperson, Agenda Item: Water and Sewer Authority Equitable Ratemaking Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0935. To amend the District of Columbia Public Works Act of 1954 to broaden the bases for the determination of sanitary sewer service charges; to authorize the General Manager of the Water and Sewer Authority to restrict combined sewer flow into the District from Maryland; and to restrict rate increases for low-income ratepayers.

Saturday, October 11

11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, agenda item: Youth Issues.

Please visit the DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Muriel

US Attorney's Office reports on successful convictions

Here is a summary of recent court cases that the US Attorney's Office has tried:

Stanley Grayson, a 50 year-old District of Columbia man, has been sentenced to 20 years in prison for committing a series of burglaries in Northwest, Washington, DC during the Fall of 2007.

Raymond McCoy, a 29 year old District of Columbia man, has been sentenced to 420 months (35 years) in prison for the 2004 slaying of 23 year old Imtiaz Mohammed on Rittenhouse Street, N.W.

Thanks to the good work of the US Attorney's Office to keep our neighborhoods safe. To learn more about their work please contact Jelahn Stewart, the Community Prosecutor at 202-730-0617 or Dawn Hopkins, the Community Outreach Specialist at 202-715-7514.

Two New Traffic Signals on 14th Street, NW

We are pleased to report that there are two new traffic signals on 14th Street at Shepherd Street and at Taylor Street, NW. Both lights were turned to flash operation Tuesday October 7th, and will be turned on full color operation on Tuesday October 14, 2008.

Once in operation next week, both signals will be timed to create a coordinated pattern for traffic on 14th Street, NW. DDOT plans to maintain a green band on 14th Street through Upshur Street, Taylor Street and Shepherd Street. Adjustments can and will be made, as needed, to ensure the optimal operation on 14th Street to minimize forcing 14th Street traffic to stop and go. DDOT encourages and welcomes community

suggestions, and will be making field observations after both signals are operational to adjust offset relationships, as needed.

For detailed information about the operation of these lights, please contact: William McGuirk, Supervisory General Engineer at DDOT at 202-741-5335 or william.mcguirk@dc.gov.

Please join us for the John A. Wilson Building Centennial Celebration – October 15

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser and her Council colleagues for the Centennial Celebration of the John A. Wilson Building at 10:00 AM on Wednesday, October 15, 2008, in the atrium of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20004. Also, we will be hosting an open house in our offices, Suite 406, from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM. I hope you will join us and other residents of Ward 4. This will be a wonderful opportunity to talk informally and see our offices here at the John A. Wilson Building. We will have light refreshments. Additionally, there will be exhibits and events throughout the day, throughout the building to celebrate this occasion. For more information please call our offices 202-724-8052.

DC homebuyer and small business tax credits renewed

Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton announced that the renewal of the D.C. \$5,000 first-time-homebuyer and small business tax credits were included in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, which was passed by the Congress on Friday and was signed by President Bush the same day.

The unique \$5,000 first-time-homebuyer tax credit helps encourage people to buy in DC because the homebuyer credit is available nowhere else. The small business tax credits are retroactive to Dec. 31, 2007 and will be good through Dec. 31, 2009. Individuals and families buying a home in the District for the first time are eligible even if they have owned elsewhere but not in DC. The \$5,000 homebuyer incentive has been credited with stabilizing the District's population and encouraging renters to buy here instead of elsewhere in the region.

Have you received your economic stimulus check?

On October 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Library at 901 G Street, NW, the DC Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign will host a free tax assistance session for residents who need help filing for the Economic Stimulus Payment (ESP) (these are the \$300-\$600 checks for the 2007 tax year) have questions about the payment, want to help a relative or friend file, or need help filing a normal tax return for 2007 or before.

Given the economic environment and the upcoming October 15 deadline to file for the Economic Stimulus Payment, it is crucial that the 15,000 eligible DC residents who have not yet filed take advantage of this program. There is approximately \$4.5 million that has not been claimed. Community members who are elderly and/or disabled and/or receive Veterans' Benefits should be sure to apply.

Please contact Meg Newman, DC EITC Campaign Coordinator, at 202-419-1442 or mnewman@caab.org for additional information.

Get paid to discuss women's health issues – October 22 and 25

Women age 50 and older who live in Ward 4 are invited to participate in a 90-minute focus group discussion on women's health issues. You only need to be age 50+ and live in Ward 4. There will be an English speaking group on Wednesday, October 22 from 10:00-11:30 am in lower lounge Nativity Church at 6000 Georgia Avenue, NW and a Spanish speaking group on Saturday, October 25 from 12:00 noon-1:30 pm also in lower lounge. For more information please contact: Elaine Ellis, Community Health Partnership, Nativity Church, 6000 Georgia Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20011, (240) 535-4100, or by email: HA2010@verizon.net. Each participant will be paid \$50.00 in cash at end of this session for participating.