



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*November 19, 2008*

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### *Muriel Bowser*

Councilmember, Ward 4

Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 406

Washington DC 20004

202-724-8052-voice

202-741-0908

[mbowser@dccouncil.us](mailto:mbowser@dccouncil.us)

### Dear Neighbors:

On Saturday, November 15, I held an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (ANC) and civic association presidents' meeting. During the meeting participants heard from the Office of Latino Affairs, Director, Mercedes Lemp, Council of the District of Columbia Budget Director, Eric Goulet, and MPD Fourth District Commander, Linda Brown. Each presenter provided our community leaders with a variety of information pertaining to city services and amenities available to their constituents.

In addition, we discussed Ward 4 priorities such as responding to crime, investing in and protecting our neighborhoods, infrastructure investments, and school reform. If you would like additional information about this meeting contact Lisa Adams on my staff at 202-724-8052 or [ladams@dccouncil.us](mailto:ladams@dccouncil.us).

Here are some highlights from yesterday's Council session:

- ★ At yesterday's Council of the District of Columbia's 36th legislative meeting, I had the honor to present two ceremonial resolutions. One to The North Washington Neighbor, Inc. also known as "Neighbors Inc." an organization founded in 1958 to foster and maintain integrated neighborhoods in North Washington DC east of Rock Creek - Brightwood, Manor Park, Takoma and Shepherd Park, in honor of 50 years of serving the Ward 4 community, and the other to Commissioner Jourdinia S. Brown for her 14 years of service to the residents of ANC 4A02. Please join me in congratulating both the North Washington Neighbor, Inc. and Commissioner Jourdinia S. Brown for their hard work and dedication to the residents of Ward 4.

Measures passed by the Council:

- ★ The "Housing Production Trust Fund Stabilization Amendment Act of 2008", B17-943, is to amend the Housing Production Trust Fund Act of 1988 to stabilize the annual level of revenue deposited into the Housing Production Trust Fund.
- ★ The "Targeted Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium and Neighborhood Grocery Retailer Act of 2008", B17-941, would prohibit the sales of single containers of beer, malt liquor, or ale, by off premises retailers located in a targeted area of Ward 4.

Upcoming DC Council hearings:

### Thursday, November 20

9:00 AM, ROOM 500, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, agenda item: The Chancellors' Five-Year Action Plan for the District of Columbia Public Schools.

Please visit the new DC Council website for more details at: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us).

*Muriel*

### **Visitor Parking Pass Pilot back by popular demand**

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is continuing the Ward 4 Visitor Parking Pass Pilot for another year. A recently completed random sample survey of Ward 4 residents indicated that the majority of residents consider the program a success and support its continuation.

The new visitor pass will be mailed to eligible Ward 4 households and should arrive early next week. Residents may begin using the new visitor pass on Monday, December 1. DDOT asks that residents please review the rules printed on the back of the pass and always remind guests to return the visitor pass at the end of each visit. One neighbor provided a helpful hint; she purchased an inexpensive picture frame for her VPP which is less likely to be forgotten by visitors.

Residents should remember that the visitor parking pass does not provide an exemption to the Registration of Out-of-State Automobiles (ROSA) requirement that vehicles must be registered in the District within 30 days of residency. A regular visitor during the evening hours may need to obtain a ROSA parking exemption from the Department of Motor Vehicles. For more information regarding ROSA, visit the Department of Motor Vehicles website at [dmv.dc.gov](http://dmv.dc.gov) or call 311.

If you have questions or concerns about the DDOT Ward 4 Visitor Parking Pass Pilot, please call 202-671-2333 or email: [fran.harris@dc.gov](mailto:fran.harris@dc.gov).

### **Register for DPR winter camps**

The DC Department Parks and Recreation (DPR) will host Winter Break Camps this December, starting Monday, December 22, through Friday, December 26 at 10 DPR centers across the District. Camps will operate daily from 9 am to 5 pm. Parents are invited to register their children, ages 6 to 13 for these exciting camps.

Registration for the week of winter fun must occur in person at any of the Ward 4 Winter Break Camp sites listed below. Fee for participation is \$25 for the four days and participants will need to bring a bag lunch. There will be no camp on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25. Ward 4 camp sites include Lamond Recreation Center, 20 Tuckerman Street, NE, and Riggs-LaSalle Community Center, 501 Riggs Road, NE. For additional information, contact DPR Camp Central Office at (202) 671-0295 or at [DPRcamps@dc.gov](mailto:DPRcamps@dc.gov).

### **DC files suit against Bank of America**

On October 31 Mayor Adrian Fenty and Attorney General Peter Nickles announced that the District filed suit in DC Superior Court against Bank of America, NA, seeking damages in the amount of \$105 million. Bank of America was the primary bank used by Harriette Walters, a former tax office manager who pled guilty to stealing \$48 million over 20 years from the D.C. Office of Tax and Revenue. Former Bank of America manager Walter Jones was a critical and willing participant in the scheme to defraud the District.

Acting within the scope of his employment, Jones assisted and facilitated the negotiation of fraudulently issued tax refund checks into various accounts held at the Bank of America, including accounts held by Walters and co-conspirators Jayrece Turnbull and Jones. Considering the size of the loss to the District, the integral role Bank of America supervisor Jones played in the scheme, and the failure of the Bank to properly train and supervise its employees in order to mitigate against such a massive fraudulent scheme perpetuated by one of its own managers, Attorney General Nickles is committed to holding the Bank fully accountable for its share of the loss.

### **Conversion to digital television**

If you own a television and still use an antenna you will be required to use a digital converter by February 17, 2009. You may purchase these from retail stores such as Best Buy and Radio Shack. The cost is \$59.99. You may get \$40 discount coupons by calling 1-888-388-2009 or go on-line to [www.dtv2009.com](http://www.dtv2009.com). You can get up to two coupons per household.

Just think of the converter as your new “rabbit ears”; you will still only receive the same stations you receive now. If you are a Comcast Cable customer you don’t need to do anything at this time since Comcast will continue broadcasting in analog for those who receive the Basic Tier. RCN is phasing out its analog service and you will have to rent a converter box from RCN. The first box will be free and additional boxes will cost \$2.50. Satellite Customers (Dish TV, Direct TV) already have access to digital television through their converter boxes and will not have to make any changes.