



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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IN THIS ISSUE ...

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sales tax exemption! - November 28 – December 7

First vote on FiOS

NIF Target Area Grant funding available

Save the date for the Ward 4 Holiday Party- December 13

New DCRA hotline

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Dear Neighbors:

Yesterday, I had the privilege of sharing the spirit of the holiday season with 100 Ward 4 families. I gave away Safeway gift cards, along with my "Muriel Cares" Constituent Service committee members including, Ellie Anderson, Donna Ellis, Joan Thomas, Tina Thompson, and Terry Goings, to deserving Ward 4 families this holiday season. I would like to thank the "Muriel Cares" committee as well as the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center which is located at 324, Kennedy Street NW, for allowing us to host 100 Ward 4 families to pick up their Thanksgiving gift cards.

Tomorrow morning I will join Food and Friends in preparing Thanksgiving meals for DC metropolitan area residents, facing HIV/AIDS, cancer and other life-challenging illnesses. Food & Friends will deliver more than 7,800 pounds of turkey, as well as the traditional fixings, to their clients so that they may host their friends and loved ones for a traditional holiday dinner. This effort is supported by more than 800 volunteers in the DC metropolitan area.

Upcoming DC Council hearings:

Tuesday, December 2

10:00 AM, Council Chamber, Room 500, 37th Legislative Meeting, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman,

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

Muriel

Sales tax exemption! - November 28 – December 7

This holiday season, the District of Columbia will offer shoppers an exemption from the 5.75 percent sales tax for clothing, shoes and accessory items costing \$100 or less. The week-long tax holiday will begin Friday, Nov. 28 thru Sunday, Dec. 7.

The sales tax exemption applies to each eligible item regardless of how many items are sold on the same bill to a customer. It also applies to layaway sales, if the retailer and customer enter into a layaway agreement or the customer makes the final payment on the layaway order during the exemption period.

For more information about the Sales Tax holiday, the public and businesses should call the Customer Service Center at (202) 727-4TAX (4829) or visit OTR's Web site at www.taxpayerservicecenter.com under "Sales Tax Holiday."

First vote on FiOS

Councilmember Bowser has heard from residents across Ward 4; they want choice and they want FiOS. She looks forward to voting to bring choice to DC residents. On December 2, 2008 the Council of the District of Columbia will be taking its first vote to bring FiOS TV to all residents of the District of Columbia. FiOS TV is the latest in entertainment and has an extensive channel lineup with more than 400 digital channels and 100 local and national HDTV channels (at launch), as well as exciting features such as a dual-tuner Digital Video Recorder (DVR) and close to 11,000 video-on-demand titles at any given time. The legislation will grant a 15-year, non-exclusive cable television franchise to Verizon to provide cable television service to all citizens in the District within nine years.

Verizon FiOS TV entry into the market will bring more choice, innovation, and competition to District residents. The second and final vote on the Verizon FiOS franchise will take place on December 16th. Should the Council approve Verizon's FiOS agreement the company will begin to build this brand new fiber network in mid-2009 with the goal of providing FiOS TV service to its first District customers by the end of 2009. For additional information visit: www.tvchoicedc.com.

NIF Target Area Grant funding available

The District's Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED) invites the submission of applications for the Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) Target Area Project Grant authorized under resolution 17-433 "Neighborhood Investment Act Spending Plan for Fiscal year 2009 Emergency Approval Resolution of 2008". There is \$ 3.9 Million dollars available for this round of funding. The purpose of the NIF Target Area Project Grant (TAPG) is to provide not for profit organizations with grants up to a maximum of \$200,000 to complete major projects in the 12 target areas. The goal of the TAPG is to fund initiatives that will revitalize target areas by strengthening economic opportunities and improving quality of life.

The request for applications will be released on Friday, November 28, 2008 and the deadline for submission is Monday, January 12, 2009 at 4:00 pm. DMPED will hold two informational sessions at their office: 2025 M Street, NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036 on Monday, December 8, 2008 at 10:00 am and Thursday, December 11, 2008 at 1:00 pm. If you would like additional information you may call 202-724-8111.

Save the date for the Ward 4 Holiday Party - December 13

Save the date for the annual Ward 4 holiday party. Saturday, December 13, 2008, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm, Kingsbury Day School. For additional information, contact Brandon Todd btodd@dccouncil.us.

New DCRA hotline

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) unveiled a new public hotline for District residents, business owners and government employees to report suspected fraud and abuse by DCRA employees and customers.

The DCRA Office of Service Integrity (OSI), which has been in operation since December 2007, will operate the hotline and conduct investigations based on reports from District employees and the public. As always, you can report suspicious activity by calling the Mayor's Call Center at 311. Those who wish to speak directly to the DCRA Office of Service Integrity and those who wish to remain anonymous can call the new hotline at 202-442-8955.

DCRA urges all customers to use the new hotline to report suspicious activity, questionable performance and other activities by employees, contractors or customers. Residents should continue to call 202-442-4400 or visit: dcra.dc.gov to submit normal comments or concerns, request services and for other communications.

For more information, please visit: dcra.dc.gov under "Office of Service Integrity."