



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*February 18, 2009*

*Muriel Bowser*

Councilmember, Ward 4  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 110  
Washington DC 20004  
202-724-8052-voice  
202-741-0908  
mbowser@dccouncil.us

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**Dear Neighbors,**

As part of my initiative to address economic development in Ward 4, I co-hosted with SMD 4B07 Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner James Sydnor a community meeting on Wednesday, February 11th at the Fourth District Police Station. This follows a community meeting co-hosted with then Commissioner Malik Mendenhall-Johnson last year.

Representatives from the developer, Foulger-Pratt, presented the project details and addressed concerns from residents about the project and its specifications. Additionally, the District of Columbia Office of Planning, Ward 4 Planner, Malaika Abernathy and Steven Mordfin, Development Review Staff also shared information about this proposal and listened to concerns from the community.

This in-town residential community will provide much needed retail and housing along Georgia Avenue. The site to be developed is 3.5 acres at the northeast corner of Georgia and Missouri Avenues which was the home of Curtis Chevrolet for over 50 years. Preliminary plans for this site include approximately 400 multi-family units and 20,000 square feet of retail. The development will serve as a centerpiece in the revitalization of Georgia Avenue. Construction could commence in 2010 and be completed by 2012.

Many residents raised questions about this new project which included affordability, growth of new businesses, infrastructure, and water pressure among other issues. I assure you that I will continue to work with the developer to ensure your concerns are being heard and taken into consideration when planning this project.

*Muriel*

## Legislative Corner

At yesterday's DC Council legislative session, twelve of the thirteen members of the DC Council co-introduced the "Anacostia River Cleanup and Protection Act of 2009". This act will impose a 5-cent fee on all free carryout bags, paper or plastic, from food and liquor stores. Stores keep 1 cent or 2 if they offer (as Giant does) a 5-cent rebate to customers who bring their own bags. The rest goes into a fund to clean up the river and provide free bags to elderly and low-income residents. Councilmember Bowser was a co-sponsor for this measure. "I am happy to support the clean-up and maintenance of the Anacostia River," said Councilmember Bowser.

Also, The DC Council will consider "Hot Spot" Anti-Loitering legislation. This legislation would prevent two or more people from gathering in "hot spots," areas known for criminal activity. This Bill was sponsored by Councilmember Jim Graham and co-sponsored by Councilmember Bowser along with Yvette M. Alexander, Kwame Brown, David Catania, and Jack Evans, served as co-sponsors for this measure.

Last week, the United States Senate, Homeland Security and the Government Affairs Committee began consideration of the "District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009" (S.160). A vote to end debate will be taken on Tuesday, February 24. If the vote passes then the Senate will proceed to consider the bill. "We are making great strides towards voting representation," said Councilmember Bowser. "We are getting closer to making the District of Columbia a voting member of Congress."

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved today, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's (WAMATA) stimulus funding. Approximately \$230 million in funding will be used to create jobs, build a stronger regional transit system, improved customer service and safety and security improvements.

Upcoming Council Hearings:

### Thursday, February 19

11:00 AM, Room 123, Public Roundtable, Committee of the Whole, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman, agenda items: PR 18-78, the "Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue Area Development Plan Approval Resolution of 2009". This plan would approve the strategic framework for the revitalization of six currently underutilized areas immediately surrounding the Fort Totten Metro Station and the intersection of Riggs Road NE and South Dakota Ave NE.

### Monday, February 23

10:00 AM, Room 120, Public Hearing, Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, Muriel Bowser, Chair, agenda items: PR18-122, "Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia Betty Ann Kane Confirmation Resolution of 2009" and B18-133, the "The Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act of 2009".

The purpose of this public hearing is to address two matters that are of immediate concern. First, Betty Ann Kane to be elevated to Chairperson of the Public Service Commission, which has been operating without a Chairperson since December 30, 2008.

Second, the Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act is the permanent version of emergency legislation that is currently District law. The bill will bring the district into compliance with Title V of the federal Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA), which was enacted by Congress on July 30th, 2008.

### Monday, March 2

10:00 am, Room 123, Public Roundtable, Committee on Public Works and Transportation, Jim Graham, Chairperson, agenda item: PR18-0079, "Director of the District Department of Transportation Gabe Klein Confirmation Resolution of 2009."

Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs 2009 Oversight Hearing schedule, Chairperson, Muriel Bowser

**Wednesday, March 11**

10:00 am – 12:00 pm, Office of Tenant Advocacy

1:00 pm- 5:00 pm, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

**Friday, March 13**

10:00 am- 11:00 am, Office of the People's Counsel

11:00 am- 1:00 pm, Public Service Commission

2:00 pm- 4:00 pm, Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking

4:00 pm- 7:00 pm, Boards and Commissions

Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs 2009 Budget Hearing schedule, Chairperson, Muriel Bowser

**Wednesday, April 1**

10:00 am- 12:00 pm, Office of the Tenant Advocate

1:00 pm- 5:00 pm, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs

**Wednesday, April 22**

10:00 am- 11:30 am, Office of the People's Counsel

11:30 am- 2:00 pm, Public Service Commission

3:00 pm- 5:30 pm, Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking

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

**Thanks Metropolitan Police Department**

Councilmember Bowser would like to acknowledge the hard work performed by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). On Monday, February 16 at approximately 4:30 pm a 23 year old citizen was the victim of an assault on a path near Fort Totten Metro. A Fourth District officer responded and found the suspect hiding in the rear of the 5100 block of North. Capitol Street NE. The suspect was apprehended and charged. The citizen received minor abrasions. "Thank you MPD for your hard work, and continued diligence in our community," said Councilmember Bowser.

Last Thursday a neighbor noticed some "workmen" at the side door of his neighbor's home, which seemed suspicious. He immediately called 911 to report suspicious behavior. The Fourth District MPD responded to the scene and the two men were apprehended inside of the home. Thanks to the quick action of the neighbor and MPD's quick response to the call a burglary was foiled. Remember if you notice anything out of the ordinary in your neighborhood call 911 right away.

### **Nominate your Principal for Principal of the Year**

The MetLife/NASSP National Association of Secondary School Principals annually recognizes outstanding school leaders who have succeeded in providing high-quality learning opportunities for students.

The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) would like to ensure that school leaders in the District of Columbia Schools have an opportunity to be acknowledged by their peers for their exceptional contributions they have made to the profession. The deadline to submit your application for Principal of the Year is March 4, 2009. Please submit applications to: Attention: Victorie Thomas or Marcus Moore, OSSE, Division of Education Excellence at 51 N Street, NE 7th Floor, Washington, DC 20002. If you have any questions about the award or the award process, contact Victorie Thomas at (202) 535-1894 or [victorie.thomas@dc.gov](mailto:victorie.thomas@dc.gov) and Marcus Moore at (202) 654-6104 or [marcus.moore@dc.gov](mailto:marcus.moore@dc.gov).

### **Get information on available Grants**

Visit the Grants Information Resource Center (GIRC) if you would like information about available grants and resources that are available to District residents. The center provides services such as technical assistance and information about resources that improve community services in the District of Columbia. The primary focus of GIRC is to assist customers who either lack computer access or the knowledge to best use their existing computer technology to strengthen your organization. GIRC is located in the John A. Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 324. To schedule an appointment contact Eric McIntyre at 202-727-7983 or [eric.mcintyre@dc.gov](mailto:eric.mcintyre@dc.gov).

### **Is your PEPCO bill unusually high**

Our office has received numerous telephone calls and e-mails concerning unusually high utility bills over the last couple of weeks. The Office of the People's Counsel (OPC) is reaching out to the residents of the District of Columbia to find out if high PEPCO bills are a city-wide problem. If you feel that your PEPCO bill is unusually high you can contact OPC at [ccceo@opc-dc.gov](mailto:ccceo@opc-dc.gov) or 202-727-3071.

### **Save the Date- Rescheduled Digital TV Conversion Workshop- 3-17**

Join Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the Office of the Peoples Counsel (OPC) for a Digital TV Conversion workshop. Tuesday, March 17, 2009, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Shepherd Park Elementary School, 7800 14th Street, NW (Auditorium).

District of Columbia Government agencies will present information on the digital conversion and how residents can prepare by way of the existing federal process. Other speakers will address questions and concerns regarding their services. Invited speakers include: Verizon, Comcast, RCN, The Digital Dynamo, Dish Network, Federal Communication Commission and the Office of Cable Television. The date for digital conversion to take effect is June 12, 2009. For more information about the consumer workshop, please, contact OPC at 202-727-3071.