



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



# FOCUS ON

*February 25, 2009*

*Muriel Bowser*

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**Dear Neighbors,**

On Monday, February 23rd I was pleased to chair my first Public Hearing of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs.

The Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs is responsible for matters related to consumer and regulatory affairs, public utilities, the regulation of banks and banking activities, and securities and insurance. The Committee has oversight of the following agencies and commissions: Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Board of Consumer Claims and Arbitration for the District of Columbia, Office of the People’s Counsel, Public Service Commission, Office of the Tenant Advocate, Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking, and the following Licensing Boards: Architecture and Interior Designers, Accountancy, Barber and Cosmetology, professional Engineering, Funeral Directors, Industrial Trades, Real Estate, and Real Estate Appraisers.

On Tuesday, February 24th the United States Senate took a critical step to give the residents of the District of Columbia our long awaited voting rights. On a 62-34 vote, the Senate voted to prevent a filibuster. This is the first time since the 1970’s that the District of Columbia’s right to representation has gotten this far in the Senate!

While our voting rights are still not assured, with bi-partisan support in both houses and a president who supports us I am very hopeful we will finally get full voting rights in the United States House. I still believe we are entitled to full representation, which means we need and deserve a vote in the United States Senate, but this is a clear first step.

I would also like to congratulate the Chevy Chase Citizens Association on 100 years of service in our community. We look forward to continuing to work with them as they enter their second centennial.

*Muriel*

## Legislative Corner

Upcoming Council Hearings:

### Friday, February 27

10:00 am, Room 120, Public Hearing, Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, Muriel Bowser, Chair, agenda item: B18-133, the “The Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act of 2009”. The Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act is the permanent version of emergency legislation that is currently District law. This 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 30, 2008.

### Monday, March 2

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

### Tuesday, March 3

Council Legislative meeting at 10:00 am.

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

## DDOE Funds Solar Energy Projects

The District Department of the Environment (DDOE) is now accepting applications from District residents, businesses, nonprofits and private schools. Residents and organizations may now apply for up to \$33,000 in assistance to install renewable energy systems on their buildings. The Green Energy DC Renewable Energy Incentive Program is the first of a series of new initiatives to support clean energy technology.

DDOE expects to be able to offer incentives for solar thermal, geothermal, biomass and methane recovery systems within next several months. For more information and a downloadable packet of application materials, visit the Green Energy DC website or email [greenenergy@dc.gov](mailto:greenenergy@dc.gov).

## Free Tax Filing

The DC Earned Income Tax Credit Campaign (DC EITC) is offering free tax filing for individuals earning less than \$22,000 or families with a combined income less than \$42,000. If you are interested, or to find a location and hours of operation of the free tax site near you call 1-877-SAVE-515, or visit [www.dcsaves.org](http://www.dcsaves.org).

## Scholarship opportunity

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation (HHF) has announced their 12th Annual Hispanic Heritage Regional Youth Awards program. HHF and its sponsors will provide more than half a million dollars in educational grants to over 200 Latino high school seniors.

In 1998, the Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards was founded to identify and promote the next generation of Hispanic leaders and role models by celebrating their accomplishments in the classroom and in the community. For over 20 years, HHF has recognized leadership, creativity and vision among Latino youth in an effort to encourage other young people to use education as a vehicle for success.

The application deadline is March 6, 2009. For additional information please visit [www.hispanicheritage.org](http://www.hispanicheritage.org) to view and/or complete the application or you may call (202) 861-9797.

### **Register Now for Spring Break Camp**

March 23 - 27, 2009 is the Spring Break recess for District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). The DC Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will introduce Spring Break and Spring Break Sports Camps for children and youth ages 6 to 13 years old at 22 DPR centers. All Spring Break Camps will operate from 9 am - 5 pm each day. Ward 4 camp sites are: Emery Recreation Center, Fort Stevens Recreation Center, Lamond Community Center, Riggs-LaSalle Recreation Center and Takoma Community Center.

Registration can be completed on DPR's website, [www.dpr.dc.gov](http://www.dpr.dc.gov), or in person at any of the Spring Break camp sites. There is a \$25 registration fee per participant for DC residents and \$35 fee for non-residents. For more information, contact DPR Camp Central at 202-671-0295 or e-mail [DPRcamps@dc.gov](mailto:DPRcamps@dc.gov).

### **Small Business Expo- February 28th**

Join the Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. for their Small Business Expo on Saturday, February 28th from 10:00 am-4:00 pm at 1640 Rhode Island Avenue NW, the Human Rights Campaign Building in the equality room.

The Small Business Expo is free of charge and attendees will have an opportunity to meet and interact with small businesses from around the Washington Metropolitan area. For more information you may contact Adrienne Birdine at [vicepres2@iota-gammadc.org](mailto:vicepres2@iota-gammadc.org) or at (240) 277-8340. You can also Visit: <http://www.iota-gammadc.org/bhmexpo2009.html>.

### **Disaster Preparedness Workshop- March 4**

The District of Columbia's Homeland Security Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA) will host a workshop on March 4, 2009 at 5:30 pm at the Juanita E. Thornton/Shepherd Park Neighborhood Library, 7420 Georgia Avenue, NW.

This workshop is an answer to our Ward 4 residents concerns for preparation, should a natural disaster occur. You will receive information from district agencies, along with free items to be used during a disaster and the opportunity to participate in a simulation of a potential disaster.

For more information or to register visit [www.dccommunitypreparedness.org](http://www.dccommunitypreparedness.org) or call 202-338-7153 ext. 212.

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

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, the 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.