



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors,

As you know the Council of the District of Columbia is currently conducting oversight hearings for various District agencies. Yesterday, at the oversight hearing for the DC Department of Public Works I raised a number of concerns. I discussed with the Department of Public Works (DPW) Director Bill Howland the issues that Ward 4 residents have had with the new trash pick-up schedule. Director Howland assured me that DPW would review the schedule to determine how staff is deployed and he will continue to monitor the issues. If you have a missed trash pick-up you should report it immediately to 311 or you can call my office.

In addition, many signs that you see on poles and or boxes are on public space and are illegal. If you notice these signs report them to 311 with any pertinent information. I also emphasized the need for continued funding in FY 2009 and 2010 for the anti-graffiti mural campaign. The anti-graffiti mural campaign is very important in Ward 4. This program assists in decreasing graffiti and replaces it with beautiful murals that truly enhance our corridors and neighborhoods.

At the Oversight Hearing on the Washington Areas Metro Transit Authority (WMATA) – also known as Metro – I raised the issue of the Northern Bus Garage on 14th Street. Metro has no plans to leave the area and I expressed the community’s concerns regarding the facility. Metro stated that they would make improvements to the existing facility. I look forward to providing you with updates throughout the oversight process.

Muriel

Legislative Corner

Here are the upcoming 2009 oversight hearings for the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, Chairperson, Muriel Bowser

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

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

Ward 4 Office Hours- March 14th Just for Us!

Councilmember Muriel Bowser will host Office Hours in Ward 4! Join us this Saturday, March 14, 2009 from 10:00 am -12:00 pm at 801 Shepherd Street NW Patrol Services Bureau (The ROC).

Take the opportunity to have a brief one-on-one with Councilmember Bowser. Officials from the Office of Tax and Revenue, Real Property Assessment Division and the Metropolitan Police Department will be in attendance to answer your questions. We will host Office Hours throughout Ward 4. Details to follow.

Help Keep Ward 4 Seniors Connected

The DC Office on Aging (DCOA) is seeking volunteers for their Digital TV Keeping Seniors Connected Campaign. DCOA is putting together a Ward 4 team of volunteers to assist with this effort. Volunteers would be trained to install digital converter boxes in the homes of Ward 4 Seniors who are shut-in and or need assistance with this matter. If you are interested in volunteering for this worthy cause contact: Donna Ellis at 202-724-5626 or edjells@aol.com.

DDOT Announces "Potholepalooza"

"Potholepalooza" (Pot-hole-pa-loo-za) is a month long campaign to encourage residents and commuters to call or e-mail requests for pothole repairs. Starting March 11th through April 11th, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), the agency responsible for the repair of potholes for the District, will work to repair identified potholes within 48 hours.

District residents and Commuters can notify DDOT about these hazards in a variety of ways: call the Mayor's Call Center at 311; use the On-line Service Request Center at www.dc.gov ; or send an e-mail to Potholepalooza@dc.gov. Callers must identify the location including the correct quadrant (northwest, northeast, and southeast, southwest) in the city with as much detail as possible, including the approximate size and depth of the pothole.

Beyond Black History Month Concert- March 14th

Join the Takoma DC Neighborhood Association (TDCNA), Takoma Theatre Conservancy and the Third Community Development Corporation for the Beyond Black History Month Concert; Saturday, March 14th from 1:00-3:00 pm at Trinity Episcopal Church at 7005 Piney Branch Road, NW.

The Third Annual Beyond Black History Month Concert will feature the Community Band of Takoma Park, Maryland as well as a dramatic reading of Carolivia Herron's Opera Libretto, Let Freedom Sing: The Story of Marion Anderson. If you would like additional information about this event contact Carolivia Herron at Carolivia@tdcna.org or 202-829-2427.

Join us for a 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.

DC State Board of Education holds Public Meeting

The DC State Board of Education (DCSBOE) will hold a public meeting to vote on the proposed Residency Verification regulations. The most notable proposed change is with regards to the date at which local education agencies can begin their residency verification process. The date is being moved from July 1st to April 1st. In addition, representatives from the DC Public Libraries (DCPL) will also provide the State Board members with a presentation of the DCPL children's programming and their work with the District's youngest students. This public meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2009 at 5:30 pm at 441 4th Street, NW, in the District of Columbia State Board of Education Chambers located on the lobby level.

Residents that would like to comment at the public meeting should notify the State Board of Education in advance by contacting Beverley Wheeler, by phone at (202) 741-0884 or by e-mail at Beverley.Wheeler@dc.gov before the close of business Monday, March 16, 2009. Please provide one electronic copy and bring fifteen copies to the hearing.