



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

The next legislative session for DC Council is Tuesday, July 1, 2008. Here are some highlights of the legislative issues to be considered:

There will be a final reading and final vote on the following proposed bill:

- ★ **Priority Employment for Economically Disadvantaged Youth in the Youth Employment Program Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-048**, which ensures that 30 % of jobs in the DC government's youth employment program go to economically disadvantaged young people.

The following bills will have a first reading:

- ★ **Injured Fire Fighter Relief Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0676**, which will require that members of the FEMS Department with severe performance-of-duty injuries shall have an extension of the allowable work days in a less-than-full-duty status from 64 days to 170 days; and to require the Department to employ those members in non-firefighting duties.
- ★ **District of Columbia Youth Council Establishment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0582**, which will establish the District of Columbia Youth Council to provide an organized youth perspective on various issues to the Council of the District of Columbia.
- ★ **Animal Protection Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0089**, which will amend the penalty for animal cruelty, abandonment, and fighting and to allow courts to order counseling, treatment, community service, or forfeiture of the right to possess animals for those convicted of animal cruelty, abandonment, or neglect.
- ★ **Kennedy Street Revitalization Plan Approval Resolution of 2008, PR 17-0781**, and the Upper Georgia Avenue Great Streets Redevelopment Plan PR17-0792 each plan will lay out a strategic land use plan that will help guide development and growth in these areas over the next 5-10 years. These plans suggest a vision for these commercial corridors that will make them destination places that are pedestrian friendly and provide for the density where businesses can thrive. Many residents and ANC Commissioners testified at the June 10th hearing for these plans.

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

Muriel

Councilmember Bowser's Second Small Business Roundtable – June 26

More than 50 business owners attended Thursday's Second Small Business Roundtable at Emory United Methodist Church. As part of Councilmember Bowser's initiatives to address the tough economy's impact on Ward 4 business, she has brought small and local business owners together with a number of DC Government agencies including: the Office of Small and Local Business Development (SLBD), Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR) and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

The SLBD mentioned \$1million in micro loans that was recently made available to support small business growth and/or their ability to handle an emergency at low interest rates. The Office of SLBD is fine tuning the criteria for these loans and will provide additional information soon. Also discussed was recently passed commercial property tax relief and how to become a certified business enterprise. The Office of Contracting and Procurement reviewed the solicitation process to make sure our small and local businesses knew how to apply for DC government funds. DCRA outlined the business licensing process and the Office of Tax Revenue answered many business tax questions.

Councilmember Bowser outlined 10 challenges to DC Government agencies to be sure businesses are able to thrive in Ward 4. Those are: 1) Ensure adequate deployment of government services, especially public safety and public works resources; 2) Constantly examine ways that DC Council can make it easier to do business in the District of Columbia; 3) Secure resources to implement revitalization plans; i.e. lower and upper Georgia Avenue and Kennedy Street revitalization plans; 4) Market our corridors to restaurateurs, retailers, developers and investors; 5) Design and work with agencies to implement the Business Improvement District Demonstration Project; 6) Meet regularly with existing business associations to review joint goals and implementation of government-funded programs; 7) Encourage the creation and development of strong business associations on Kennedy Street and 14th Street Heights; 8) Develop marketing materials for Ward 4 corridors to attract retail, dining and other private investment in the corridor; 9) Develop and implement a comprehensive commercial vacant property reduction strategy, and transportation management strategy, which includes parking; and 10) Create meaningful ongoing dialogue with business community to help shape business agenda.

If you missed this important discussion and would like more information, please contact Brandon Todd at 202-724-8052 or btodd@dccouncil.us.

Traffic Advisory for DC Caribbean Carnival and Parade – June 28 and 29

On Saturday, June 28, 2008 and Sunday, June 29, 2008, the District of Columbia will host the 16th Annual DC Caribbean Carnival. The parade kicks off the Carnival on Saturday June 28th at 11 AM beginning at Georgia and Missouri Avenues, NW. Street closures within the first block east and west of Georgia Avenue may last until 4 PM. The parade will run the length of Georgia Avenue between Missouri Avenue, NW, and Barry Place, NW. During the parade no traffic will be permitted on Georgia Avenue, NW, along the parade route.

There will be no parking on Georgia Avenue, NW, between Missouri Avenue and V Street, NW, from 6 am until 8 pm. Metro Buses which normally operate on Georgia Avenue (northbound and southbound) will be re-routed to 13th Street, NW.

The festival will be held at Banneker Field on Saturday and Sunday from noon until approximately 7 pm. There will be no parking on Saturday, June 28, 2008, from 6am until 6 pm and on Sunday, June 29, 2008, at the following locations: Barry Place, NW, (both sides of the street) between Georgia Avenue and Sherman Avenue, NW; 9th Street, NW, between Barry Place and Euclid Street, NW; Sherman Avenue, NW, between Barry Place and Euclid Street, NW; and V Street, NW, between Georgia Avenue and 9th Street, NW.

Motorists traveling in the area of these events may experience delays and should consider alternative routes if possible. Motorists are also reminded to be mindful of heavy pedestrian traffic that may be associated with special events. For more information about the DC Caribbean Carnival please visit: www.dccaribbeancarnival.com

National HIV Testing Day- Today - June 27

This year, the Food and Drug Administration is joining with other agencies of the Department of Health and Human Services in promoting National HIV Testing Day, June 27.

The CDC estimates that there are some one million people living with HIV today in the United States. Of these, approximately 25 percent are unaware of their HIV infection, putting them at increased risk for infecting others. Improved treatment and care has allowed our citizens to live longer productive lives.

The purpose of National HIV Testing Day is to increase awareness of the importance of HIV testing to help improve the health of those at risk for getting HIV, and to prevent future infections.

An HIV test is quick and simple. On the web, the CDC can help you find an HIV testing site by zip code, near where you work or live, at www.HIVtest.org. Mobile phone users can send a text message with their zip code to "KNOWIT" (566948). Within seconds, they will receive a text message identifying an HIV testing site near them.

A few of the Ward 4 locations include: Andromeda Transcultural Health Center Incorporated, 1400 Decatur St NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20011, phone 202-291-4707 and Us Helping Us People Into Living Incorporated, 3636 Georgia Ave NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20010 phone 202-446-1100.

MPD's Summer of Safety (SOS) information – Save August 5 for National Night Out – All Hands on Deck this weekend

During the summer months, it is important for parents and guardians to keep their children involved in supervised activities. Through various partnerships around the city, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will provide opportunities to families of school-aged youth to make 2008 the safest summer yet. There are summer jobs, overnight camps and day camps, block parties, free summer concerts, supervised field trips, etc...MPD has set up a hotline (202) I'm-Bored or 202-462-6733 to keep families updated on summer events and activities, as well as available camps each day. More information can also be found by visiting: www.summeryouthprogram.dc.gov.

Please save the evening of August 5th from 5 PM to 9 PM for the National Night Out. This annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, is designed to: heighten crime and drug prevention awareness; generate support for, and participation in, local anticrime programs; strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. There will be one location in each police district this year. The Fourth District will host the National Night Out at Barnard Elementary School. Councilmember Bowser's office is actively participating in National Night Out by rallying the community to join with police in their PSA's to be a part of this annual event. Please stay tuned for more information.

All Hands on Deck is an MPD initiative that requires all sworn personnel to be on patrol this weekend. The All Hands on Deck emphasizes community policing, focused law enforcement and community outreach. This will include among others, increased foot beats and recruits passing out specific crime related information. The All Hands on Deck initiative is part of the Metropolitan Police Department's larger effort to improve public safety by encouraging greater communication with residents.