



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*July 25, 2008*

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### *Muriel Bowser*

Councilmember, Ward 4

Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 406

Washington DC 20004

202-724-8052-voice

202-741-0908

[mbowser@dccouncil.us](mailto:mbowser@dccouncil.us)

## **Dear Neighbors:**

On Wednesday evening, July 23, at the MPD 4th District Headquarters on Georgia Avenue, NW, about 35 residents joined me and 4th District Commander Linda Brown, Assistant Chief Diane Groomes and many other officers, to learn more about investigations into recent crimes, review the schedule to install crime cameras and shot-spotter technology and also hear about the US Attorney's Office collaboration with MPD, the Attorney General and the Nuisance Property Task Force to eliminate problem properties.

Commander Brown began with a review of crime statistics by PSA for this calendar year. Overall crime for the whole 4th District is down 7% compared to the same period last year. There has been a rise in burglaries the last 3 months. PSA 404 is the only area that has had a decrease in burglaries this year. Despite having had an increase in burglaries in PSA 401 and 402, the police have made a number of arrests which should bring those numbers back down. Commander Brown and her officers have put into place a new plan for burglaries in PSA 403 which they are presenting to command staff this week. She also told us that they are working closely with CSOSA (Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency) to put tracking devices on people they believe are involved in some of these crimes.

Commander Brown told us that they have closed a number of cases with arrests. Those include the shooting at Missouri/Kansas and Third Street last weekend as well as the shooting in the 800 block of Ingraham Street, NW last week. The police have identified the victim found in Emery Park Sunday morning and that investigation is continuing.

The 4th District is receiving new CCTV (crime cameras) along with shot-spotter technology. Contractors were working this week and getting permission from business owners to install these and all should be up before the Summer is over.

Albert Herring, from the US Attorney's Office, told us about the Nuisance Property Task Force and their efforts to rid neighborhoods of problem houses. The Nuisance Property Task Force is comprised of the MPD, Office of the Attorney General, the Mayor's Office and the US Attorney's Office. The Task Force collaborates on cases where real estate is being used to commit drug and prostitution crimes. Commander Brian Jordan is in charge of the Task Force. Mr. Herring also described the process the US Attorney's Office follows to prosecute people who are involved in drug and prostitution crimes. They give property owners notice that the property could be forfeited or the owner arrested if the activities are not stopped. They encourage eviction of tenants if there is cause, improved lighting, changing the locks, etc to eliminate the crime. The forfeiture of the property is the last action taken.

Mr. Herring passed out a list of resources which I've included here:

Jelahn Stewart, Assistant US Attorney, Community Prosecutor for the 4th District, [jelahn.stewart2@usdoj.gov](mailto:jelahn.stewart2@usdoj.gov) or (202) 730-0617.

Dawn Hopkins, Community Outreach Specialist for the 4th District, US Attorney's Office, [dawn.hopkins@usdoj.gov](mailto:dawn.hopkins@usdoj.gov) or 202-725-7415.

Albert Herring, Executive Assistant US Attorney for External Affairs, US Attorney's Office, [albert.herring@usdoj.gov](mailto:albert.herring@usdoj.gov) or 202-514-6930.

Janean Bentley, Supervisory Community Outreach Specialist, US Attorney's Office, [janean.bentley@usdoj.gov](mailto:janean.bentley@usdoj.gov) or 202-514-7448.

Jeannette Manning, Chief, Neighborhood and Victim Services, Office of the Attorney General, Public Safety Division, [jeannette.manning@dc.gov](mailto:jeannette.manning@dc.gov) or 202-727-3500.

To request a judge attend a community meeting, please contact Leah Gurowitz, Director of Legislative, Intergovernmental and Public Affairs, DC Superior Court at 202-879-1700.

There was some discussion about youth involvement in crime. Commander Brown said that juveniles are not a high percent of victims nor are they suspects. In addition to the many recreation programs for young people, here are a couple of resources mentioned during the meeting:

Yvonne Smith, Director of Community Services and Youth Outreach Division, Office of the Chief of Police, MPD, [Yvonne.smith@dc.gov](mailto:Yvonne.smith@dc.gov) or 202-727-8809.

DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Corporation is 501(c)(3) organization formed in June 1999 to link public and private resources, creativity and commitment to address strategically, the long term needs of children, youth and families in the District of Columbia. They can be reached at: 1400 16th Street, NW, Suite 500, Washington, DC 20036, phone: 202-347-4441, Fax: 202-347-3256 and e-mail: [mail@cyitc.org](mailto:mail@cyitc.org).

*Muriel*

### **Congratulations to Ward 4 schools - leading the city in performance!**

The results of the DCPS Comprehensive Assessment System (DCCAS), an annual assessment that determines whether schools met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act, was released earlier this month and growth in Ward 4 led the city. Students in Ward 4 grew 11% in Reading and 13% Math, leading the growth in other wards.

Here below are the unofficial CAS Results (percent proficient) for Ward 4 schools. While we are pleased with the progress, there is still more work to do.

#### **Ward 4 Elementary Schools:**

- ★ Barnard: 66.37% reading, 55.75% math (has a very successful principal, Shirley Hopkinson who's efforts were highlighted by the Examiner newspaper earlier this year)
- ★ Brightwood 49.10% reading, 28.14% math (has a new building and new parent resource center)
- ★ Lafayette: 88.89% reading, 88.53% math (a Blue Ribbon School with the best elementary principal for school year 2007-8 as named by the Washington Post)
- ★ LaSalle: 39.68% reading, 32.54% math (will become a pre-K through 8 model school this year)
- ★ Powell: 34.04% reading, 48.94% math (receiving major facility overhaul this summer)
- ★ Shepherd: 73.91% reading, 63.77% math (receiving additional pre-K and kindergarten classes this year)
- ★ Takoma: 70.83% reading, 67.26% math (offering two new Head Start programs for 3 and 4 year olds this year)
- ★ Truesdell: 47.24% reading, 48.82% math (will become a pre-K through 8 model school this year)
- ★ West 56.04% reading, 38.46% math (will become a pre-K through 8 model school year)
- ★ Whittier: 51.37% reading, 45.90% math (becoming a high tech campus)

#### **Ward 4 Middle and High Schools**

- ★ MacFarland: 32.04% reading, 33.13% reading (receiving major facilities upgrade this summer including science labs)
- ★ Coolidge: 29.09% reading, 50.91% math (will become a high-tech high school to mirror McKinley Tech High School)

★ Roosevelt: 22.13% reading, 26.23% math (has excellent career and technical programs including the hospitality, tourism and cosmetology).

★ Sharpe Health School for medically fragile students had 90.48% reading and 92.86% math results. They are building a life skills lab through an outside partnership this summer.

Congratulations to all the teachers, administrators, parents and students! Enjoy the rest of the Summer and we look forward to even greater academic achievements this Fall!

### **School registration reminder!**

Attention Parents! If you have not yet registered your children for the 2008-2009 school year, you must register them ASAP!

You will need the following:

1) Enrollment forms. Bring the forms to the school your child currently attends. If child is not in a school or the school has closed, take the enrollment forms to the school your child will attend the 2008-2009 school year. There are five forms including (1) Enrollment, (2) Free and Reduced Meal, (3) FERPA, (4) Home Language Survey, and (5) Release of Student Directory Information. If you need forms please visit: <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/enrollmentforms.htm>

2) Residency Verification. You have until ten days after the start of school to bring documentation to the school. Proof of residency includes a valid D.C. driver's license, automobile registration, pay stub, utility bill, or lease of a residence.

3) Immunization verification. This is required to begin school. If a parent is not able to provide immunization proof, he/she will be referred to a medical professional and may have up to 10 days to provide proof. Submit forms to the school the child is attending for the 2008-2009 school year. The health and dental forms are available at: <http://www.k12.dc.us/schools/immunization.htm>  
Any questions should be referred to the Office of Student and School Support Services at (202) 442-5099.

### **Tax Free Shopping in DC - August 2-10**

Just in time for back-to-school shopping, the District of Columbia will offer consumers a holiday from the 5.75 percent sales tax for school supplies, clothing, shoes, and accessory costing \$100 or less. The sales tax holiday will begin Saturday, August 2 and last through midnight Sunday, August 10.

The sales tax exemption will apply to each eligible item regardless of how many items are sold on the same bill to a customer. It will also apply 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.

A second tax holiday will be in November, beginning the weekend following Thanksgiving. The estimated fiscal impact for fiscal year 2008 is \$1.19 million for both holidays. For more information about the sales tax holiday, visit OTR's website at [www.taxpayerservicecenter.com](http://www.taxpayerservicecenter.com) under "Sales Tax Holiday" or call the Customer Service Center at (202) 727-4TAX (4829).

### **Emory Beacon of Light Youth Retreat and Cookout – July 26**

The Emory Beacon of Light is hosting a Youth Retreat for all young people ages 12-16 in the Brightwood community from August 10-15, 2008 at the West River United Methodist Center at 5100 Chalk Point Road in West River, Maryland (north of Annapolis). The retreat is free but you must register in advance. There will be cook-out for interested young people to learn more about the retreat on Saturday July 26th from noon to 2 PM at the Emory United Methodist Church at 6100 Georgia Avenue, NW. At the cook-out you will be able to meet the retreat staff and talk to last year's attendees. For more information about the retreat please contact Uzo Nwokwu or Stephanie Black at 202-829-5732 or [uzo.nwokwu@emorybol.org](mailto:uzo.nwokwu@emorybol.org) or [Stephanie.black@emorybol.org](mailto:Stephanie.black@emorybol.org) or visit the website at: [www.emorybol.org](http://www.emorybol.org).