



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Highlights of DC Council session yesterday and upcoming hearings**
- Join Councilmember Muriel Bowser for Car Free DC Day activities – September 22**
- Free Child Safety Seat Inspections – September 20**
- DC Job Fair – September 23**
- 16th Street Bus Line Study – September 23**

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Dear Neighbors:

DC Council returned from recess yesterday with the first legislative meeting of the new session. Here are some highlights:

- ★ **Franklin School Shelter Emergency Act of 2008** introduced by Council Chair Vincent Gray passed and ensures that the Mayor will operate Franklin School as a 300 person low-barrier emergency shelter for men unless and until he develops and submits a plan which assesses the need for shelter for men in the downtown area for the current and upcoming fiscal years based on the determination of need.
- ★ **Firearms Control Temporary Amendment Act of 2008** introduced by Councilmember Phil Mendelson passed with the following changes to the previous emergency legislation: 1) the definition of a machine gun will now be consistent with the federal government and several other states' definition and will allow semi-automatic firearms while preserving a ban on all automatic weapons, 2) the current safe-storage law will be recommended instead of mandatory and the Child Access Provision will not allow District residents to store or keep any loaded firearm if they know a minor can gain access, and 3) will allow one pistol per month to be registered.
- ★ **Targeted Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium Emergency Act of 2008** was introduced by Councilmember Muriel Bowser, along with Councilmember Jim Graham as a co-introducer, in response to the Superior Court of the District of Columbia's ruling on Monday, which overturned the 2004 singles sales moratorium in Ward 4. The measure passed unanimously and takes effect immediately to continue the single sales ban in Ward 4. The Superior Court ruled that the City Council violated the Home Rule Charter's two reading requirement when passing the Ward 4 Singles Sales Moratorium as part of the Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004.

In March 2008, Councilmember Bowser introduced the Ward 4 Singles Sales Moratorium Extension Act of 2008. This bill removed the sunset date of the 2004 law—making the law permanent. A hearing was conducted and the Council approved the 2008 measure on first reading with a vote of 12-1 and further approved the measure on second reading with a vote of 12-1. The measure was signed by the Mayor and then was subject to the 30 day Congressional review period. "The emergency measure I introduced today is necessary to completely replace the 2004 measure and avoid any lapse in the moratorium", said Councilmember Bowser during the Tuesday session. Councilmember Bowser also introduced a permanent version of the emergency measure during yesterday's legislative session.

Upcoming Council Hearings of interest:

Thursday, September 18 at 10:00 AM, Council Chamber, Room 500, Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary: Inoperable Pistol Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0593

11:00 AM: Firearms Control Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0843

10:00 AM, Room 412, Committee on Workforce Development and Government Operations: 2008 Summer Youth Employment Program

Friday, September 19 at 10:00 AM, Council Chamber, Room 500, Committee on Human Services: Department of Human Services Housing First Plan for D.C.'s Homeless Population

Saturday, September 20 at 10:00 AM, Council Chamber, Room 500, Public Oversight Hearing, Committee of the Whole, Youth Issues.

Wednesday, September 24 at 11:00 AM, Room 412, Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary: Fireworks Neighborhood Safety Act of 2008, Bill 17-0325.

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

Muriel

Join Councilmember Muriel Bowser for Car Free DC Day activities – September 22

Car Free Day is an international event celebrated every September 22nd in which people are encouraged to travel around their community without their car. Car Free Day was first celebrated in Washington, DC last year with approximately 1,000 participants committing to be car free for the day. On September 22, 2008

Car Free Day is expanding to a regional event that encompasses the Washington Metropolitan Area. Car Free Day is an opportunity to see how your neighborhood might look and work with a lot fewer cars.

Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser encourages neighbors to participate in Car Free DC day in the many ways that are available. The Councilmember will be participating in Car Free DC in two ways: 1) To encourage people to use Metro Bus, she will be handing out **FREE** SmartTrip cards loaded with \$1.25 each for one bus ride to passengers riding the Metro Extra Bus Route 79 and also the Metro Bus 70 and 71 routes at Kennedy and Georgia Avenue, NW at 8:30 AM, and 2) To illustrate the treasures you can see when out walking, she is hosting a walking-tour of the new Brightwood Heritage Trail that was unveiled in August. We won't have time to walk the whole trail but please join us at 5:30 PM on the west side of Georgia Avenue in front of the Emery Recreation Center at 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW near one of the 18 poster-sized street signs that comprise the trail. We will have a guided tour of a few of the storyboards and will end up around 7 PM at the new Brightwood Bistro at 5832 Georgia Avenue, NW (corner of Georgia and Missouri) where they will offer drink and appetizer specials for participants. All participants of the walk will receive a **FREE** Car Free DC t-shirt.

Please visit www.carfreemetrodc.com for more information, to take the Car Free DC pledge and be eligible to win great prizes to reduce your carbon footprint.

Free Child Safety Seat Inspections – September 20

National Child Passenger Safety Week is September 21-27 and the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is urging all parents and caregivers to make sure their children's car seats and booster seats are installed properly. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that three out of four child safety seats nationwide are improperly installed in vehicles.

On September 20, DDOT and the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will have English and Spanish-speaking certified technicians available to provide free on-site child safety seat inspections for DC residents. The inspections will be conducted from 10am to 4pm at the DC Stadium-Armory, 2400 East Capital Street, NE. Parents with children 8 years old and younger are encouraged to attend. The children must be present for technicians to properly inspect the safety seats. In addition, a limited number of child safety seats will be provided free of charge to needy families, while supplies last.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimates 8,325 lives of children under age 5 have been saved by the proper use of child restraints during the past 30 years. Research also shows that child restraints provide the best protection for all children up to age 8; after age 8 seat belts provide the best protection.

For more information please contact: John Lisle, Public Information Officer, District Department of Transportation, 2000 14th Street, NW, Fifth Floor, Washington, DC 20009, 202-671-2004 or John.Lisle@dc.gov. Please also visit: www.ddot.dc.gov.

DC Job Fair – September 23

The DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR), in partnership with the DC Department of Employment Services (DOES), is hosting the Mayor's Fall 2008 Citywide Job Fair on Tuesday, September 23, 2008, from 10 am to 4 pm at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, Hall C, 801 Mount Vernon Place, NW, Washington, DC 20001

This recruiting event will showcase employment opportunities with many of the District's top employers. Recruiters and hiring managers from more than 125 District government, federal government, and private sector employers will be on hand at the job fair looking for qualified jobseekers. In addition, some hiring managers will be conducting onsite interviews and issuing tentative offers of employment. This means qualified applicants could potentially leave the fair with a job! The event is free and open to everyone. No pre-registration is required. For more information on the Mayor's Fall 2008 Citywide Job Fair please visit: www.dccjobfair.dc.gov or call (202) 442-9700.

16th Street Bus Line Study – September 23

On Tuesday, September 23, there will be the second of two public meetings to discuss the Metrobus 16th Street Line Study at St. Stephen and the Incarnation Episcopal Church, 16th & Newton Streets NW, Washington, DC 20016 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM. The project is sponsored by Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) in partnership with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT), and will identify and implement bus service improvements for Metrobus routes S1, S2, and S4.

At the June meeting, participants discussed their concerns about service on the 16th Street Line, and pointed out specific locations of recurring problems. Using the feedback received at that meeting, the study team conducted an analysis and developed a set of preliminary recommendations that could potentially be brought to the Metro Board of Directors for approval. The purpose of the upcoming meeting is to present the preliminary recommendations to meeting participants for their review and comment.

The meeting's program will consist of an open house from 6:30 pm to 7:00 pm and a presentation and group exercise from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The meeting is open to the public and the facility is wheelchair accessible. If you have any special needs to be accommodated, please call (703) 682-5060. WMATA and DDOT will be relying on feedback from meeting participants to guide the improvements to bus services for these routes. For further information, please visit www.metrobus-16th-dc.com or call the project hotline at (703) 682-5060.