



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Happy Holidays!

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Dear Neighbors:

"I listened to the Ward 4 community and demanded additional resources. I'm pleased my colleagues on the Council agreed with me on Tuesday and voted to support these initiatives to benefit all our neighborhoods. This is great news for Ward 4," said Councilmember Muriel Bowser.

On Tuesday December 18th, Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser delivered on her promise to focus on our neighborhoods, fix our schools and bring much needed economic development to Ward 4. She is pleased to announce the unanimous approval of the Fiscal Year 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2007, Bill 17-0445 that authorizes an increase of fiscal year 2008 spending in the amount of \$191.345 million.

Here are the items that Councilmember Bowser specifically requested for Ward 4:

- 1) **\$300,000 for the Riggs Park Air and Soil Quality Study:** The Riggs Park community was affected by a gasoline spill a number of years ago. The appropriation will include funds to complete two air and soil quality studies independent of the studies ordered by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- 2) **\$800,000 to the DC Children and Youth Investment Trust Fund:** Peacoholics and the Rebuilding the Village/Petworth will receive a grant of \$200,000 from this allocation.
- 3) **\$1.8 million for Community Policing/Crime Fighting Tools:** Additional resources aimed at reducing criminal activity all over the city were included including improvements for the District's Alert System. This allotment will fund expanded shot-spotter technology to detect gunfire using small, inexpensive and easy-to-deploy sensors in MPD's Third and Fourth Districts, along with \$150,000 for additional crime cameras in the Petworth and Brightwood communities.
- 4) **\$300,000 for a Business Improvement District (BID) Demonstration Project:** Funds will be allocated for a pilot business improvement project to provide enhanced DPW services as well as increase the sense of security. This is seed money that we hope will kick start this initiative.
- 5) **\$75,000 for Upshur Park Recreation Center renovations:** Funds were designated to the Department of Parks and Recreation to develop a comprehensive plan for the Upshur Recreation Center and Upshur Park.

6) **\$50,000 for the Neighborhood Development Marketing Tools:** To support long-awaited neighborhood development opportunities in Ward 4, the Office of Planning will develop easy-to-use marketing and outreach materials to address the following corridors: Georgia Avenue, Kennedy Street, 14th Street, Riggs Road, Upshur Street, 4th Street in Takoma and Third Street in Manor Park.

Also on Tuesday December 18th, the Council passed with a vote of 10-3 the **Public Education Personnel Reform Amendment Act of 2007**, Bill 17-450 on the first reading (Councilmember Bowser voted yes) and also the **Juvenile Speedy Trial Equity Emergency Declaration Resolution of 2007** passed unanimously.

Also the Council will hold a public oversight hearing on the closure of DC Public Schools on Monday January 14, 2008 at 10 AM in the Council Chambers on the 5th Floor in the John A. Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

I hope this is helpful information and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Our best holiday wishes to you, your family and all of our Ward 4 friends and neighbors. Much peace, happiness and prosperity in the new year. During the Council recess, our offices will be closed on December 24, 25 and 26th. We are always available via email and phone.

Muriel

Congratulations Barnard Elementary teachers!

Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Adrian Fenty and Chancellor Michelle Rhee to congratulate the first winners of the Together Everyone Achieves More (TEAM) award. Three District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS)—Barnard, Noyes, and Tyler Elementary schools—were given awards in recognition of their success in boosting student scores on district mathematics and reading tests by more than 20 percent during the 2006-07 school year. Barnard Elementary posted remarkable gains of 30.4 percentage points in reading and 33.9 percentage points in math on the DC Comprehensive Assessment System (DC CAS).

TEAM is a newly created awards program, designed to honor schools that post dramatic gains in student achievement, by providing financial rewards to school personnel in recognition of their accomplishments. The program is a key part of the district's effort to attract and retain high performers. It is also designed to encourage successful teachers and principals to share their best practices with educators throughout the district to improve the achievement of all DCPS students.

In order to win a TEAM award, a school must raise student scores on district assessments by at least 20 percent in both reading and math, with a minimum of 95 percent of students taking the tests, or they must reach 100% student proficiency in both subjects. All DCPS schools are eligible.

Teachers at Barnard, Noyes and Tyler during the 2006-07 year will receive TEAM awards of \$8,000, with assistant principals receiving \$9,000 awards and principals receiving \$10,000. All other instructional support personnel, including librarians, counselors and social service workers will receive awards of \$4,000 each. Paraprofessionals, support staff and custodians will each receive \$2,000 awards. For more information please contact Mafara Hobson at 202-744-4549 or at mafara.hobson@dc.gov.

Kudos to Metropolitan Police Department

Congratulations to the Metropolitan Police Department officers who on Thursday December 20th successfully apprehended four males (and recovered three guns) who are suspected of having robbed Delicias Market at 6212 3rd Street, NW and also the Variety Store at 1618 8th Street, NW. They were seen leaving another robbery in the 1500 block of Rhode Island Ave NE (Reliable Liquor) and were apprehended shortly thereafter. Pending investigation they could be charged with the multiple robberies. They will definitely be charged with the Reliable Liquor Store robbery and gun possession.

Great team work MPD and thanks for your professionalism!

MPD and the Takoma Park Police join forces to protect Ward 4

Following Councilmember Bowser's community walk and crime meeting in Takoma on November 15th, the Takoma Park Police and the District of Columbia Police Departments have agreed to patrol the borders of Takoma Park and the District of Columbia together to better serve the community and build a strong and cohesive partnership with our allied law enforcement community.

Effectively immediately, every Thursday and Friday, one officer from each agency will ride together and patrol the borders of each respective jurisdiction. The focus of the initiative is to combat crime along the borders, with the priority being to identify, apprehend and prosecute persons responsible for committing crimes and using the borders as their escape routes.

Recently, there has been an upsurge in street robberies in the areas near and around the Takoma Metro Station and the feeder streets including the Eastern Avenue corridor. Several arrests have been made and several of the suspects were linked back to the District and in one instance the suspects fled in a stolen vehicle and was observed going into the District. The initiative will also increase the flow of information across the borders and into the community such as suspect lookout information. The joint patrols will enhance Officers' chances of apprehending suspects in a more expeditious manner.

Thanks for this great initiative!

Grand Opening of Annie's Collection – December 22

The expanded Annie's Collection store at 7608/1710A Georgia Avenue, NW will have a grand opening on Saturday December 22, 2007 from 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM. The expanded store will feature fine art, home accessories, and gifts in addition to the fine couture fashions already offered. Saturday's grand opening will feature artist: Sani Bashir. For more information please call 202-291-3199 or 202-285-3141.