



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

On Tuesday, February 5, the DC Council will have its twentieth legislative session. On the agenda are a number of bills, among them are:

- “Accrued Sick & Safe Leave Act of 2007”, B17- 0197, will have a first reading on the proposed bill.
- “Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Act of 2007,” B17-0138, will have a first reading.
- “Evictions with Dignity Amendment Act of 2007,” B17-0061 will have a final reading and final vote.
- “Fire Hydrant Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance Amendment Act of 2008,” B17-0437, which I cosponsored, will have a first reading.

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

Muriel

Congratulations MPD for weapon recovery on 13th Street, NW

I’m pleased to report that on Sunday, January 27, 2008, the Gun Recovery Unit of the Metropolitan Police Department conducted a search warrant in the 3900 block of 13th Street, NW and recovered 10 rifles, four shot guns, four handguns, five pellet guns, three starter pistols, an assortment of ammunition and two body-armor vests. This is a tremendous recovery effort and will help keep our neighborhoods safer. I commend MPD for their swift action. So far this year, the Gun Recovery Unit has collected a total of 227 firearms. In 2007, they recovered almost 3,000 guns.

More good news for Georgia Avenue!

On Tuesday, I participated in two great announcements for development on Georgia Avenue. My colleagues and I on the DC Council approved the Great Streets Neighborhood Retail resolution in July 2007, and authorized up to \$95 million in bonds that will be used to support projects in six retail priority areas across the city. The Petworth area of Georgia Avenue (From Kansas Avenue to Kenyon Street, NW) is targeted to receive \$10 million. Bonds will be used to provide the initial funding for the projects and they will be repaid using a portion of the new property and

sales taxes generated by the projects. The funds will be available competitively through an application process. Developers are expected to apply for the resources and demonstrate true financial gaps in development projects containing no less than 10,000 square feet of retail. Funding requests are due to the District on April 18, 2008. The Notice of Funding Availability can be downloaded at www.dcbiz.dc.gov or by emailing derrick.woody@dc.gov.

Also announced is \$500,000 in grants for property owners in the Great Street Corridors which includes the 3600 block of Georgia Avenue, NW. These grants will be for improvements to the business' façade and streetscape. The improvements are expected to help make neighborhood shopping districts more appealing for existing and new customers. We anticipate providing reimbursable grants up to \$20,000 each until this pool of funds are exhausted. Property owners will be reimbursed by the District upon regular submission of invoices, receipts and cancelled checks. Applicants must submit a completed application to the District no later than Friday, February 29, 2008, no later than 3 pm. Applications are available for pick up at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 317, Washington, DC 20004. Inquiries should be directed in writing only to derrick.woody@dc.gov or fax number (202) 727-6703

School Consolidation Announcement and February 4 Ward 4 Education Compact meeting

Mayor Fenty and Chancellor Rhee announced the final plan this morning to direct school resources. The revised plan takes into account two months of public input, community meetings, and feedback from Councilmember Bowser and the Ward 4 Education Compact.

We insisted that:

- 1) Academic performance matters in evaluating the closing and receiving schools;
- 2) Safety is key when determining the ability of students to walk to school and the overall school environment;
- 3) Timelines for staffing and physical infrastructure improvements be strictly adhered to for opening day 2008.

Here is a summary of the revised plan:

- Clark and Rudolph Elementary schools are still on the closure list,
- Clark students will be received by Powell Elementary, Raymond Elementary Schools and MacFarland Middle School. There will be enhanced staffing models and a Pre-K through 8th grade configuration. All facilities will be enhanced to receive these students.
- Rudolph Elementary students will be received by Whittier and Truesdell Elementary Schools. Both schools will have an enhanced staffing model, Pre-K through 8th grade configuration and a facility blitz.
- There are no major changes to Barnard Elementary school nor will it become a receiving school.

Councilmember Bowser has also insisted on a detailed plan for our school system's most physically vulnerable school, Sharpe Health School, which is no longer slated for closure.

Backus Middle School students in Ward 5 will be received by LaSalle Elementary School. "While LaSalle Elementary school will have an enhanced staffing model, a Pre-K through 8th grade format and a facility blitz, the recommendation to move all of the nearby middle school students to LaSalle was not initially envisioned nor fully vetted with the community," said Councilmember Bowser. "I will be calling for a full briefing from the Chancellor and the Executive Director of Facilities Modernization," she added.

"Additionally, the Mayor and the Chancellor have assured me that the promised enhancements to the receiving schools will be completed before the students are relocated," said Councilmember Bowser. "I will carefully monitor this progress and insist on the best outcomes for our students. Their safety and ability to perform academically are my biggest priorities."

Muriel is hosting another Ward 4 Education Compact meeting on Monday February 4th at 6:30 PM in the Coolidge High School Parent Resource Room #134, at 6315 5th Street, NW. On hand will be Dr. Donna Cooper from DC Council's Office of Policy Analysis who will provide an overview of their recent Education Report. We will also discuss today's announcement by DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee. For more information, please contact Brandon Todd in my office at 202-724-8052.

Community update on Petworth development projects – February 5

On Tuesday, February 5, Councilmember Muriel Bowser will host a meeting at 7 PM at the Israel CME Church at 557 Randolph Street NW, to update the community on the status of a number of development projects in the Petworth neighborhood. Representatives from Safeway will be there to present and discuss their plans for construction of a new store at their Petworth location. Other updates will include the Park Place project above the Petworth Metro Station, the Residences at 3910 Georgia Avenue and others. There will be representatives available from all the development teams and DC government agencies. For more information please call Brandon Todd at 202-724-8052.

Reminder for the hearing on the Ward 4 Single Sales Ban - February 8

Reminder that on Friday, February 8, 2008, Councilmember Jim Graham, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Works and the Environment, will hold a public hearing on the two bills that would prohibit the sale of single containers of alcoholic beverages in Wards 7 and 8. The Committee is also hearing public testimony on the “the present need and appropriateness” of the Ward 4 moratorium. The law enacting the Ward 4 moratorium zone will sunset on September 30, 2008 (four years after the enactment).

The public hearing will be held beginning at 10 am in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony, which will be made a part of the official record. Those who wish to testify should contact Mrs. LaDorsa Willis at (202) 724-8195 before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 06, 2008. Witnesses should bring 16 copies of their testimony to the hearing. Individuals will be permitted 3 minutes for oral presentation; individuals representing organizations or groups, 5 minutes.

If you are unable to testify at the public hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to Mrs. LaDorsa Willis, Committee on Public Works and the Environment, Room 116, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20004, by close of business Friday, February 8, 2008.

Conversion to time and distance meters for taxis set for April 2008

District of Columbia taxi cabs will soon be switching to time and distance meters. The flag drop rate will be \$3 and the maximum fare will be \$18.90 for all trips that start and end in the District of Columbia. Passengers will now be charged an additional fee of 25% during snow emergencies instead of the current 200%. The implementation date for the switch from zones to time and distance meters will be April 6, 2008.