



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

On Tuesday, April 1, at 10AM, the DC Council will have another legislative session. Here are a few of the highlights of bills to be considered: The following bills will receive a final reading and final vote:

- ★ **Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0086**, will eliminate the duplicate roles of DCRA and the Office of Tax and Revenue when determining whether a property is vacant and speed up the process by which a property can be declared vacant. It also doubles the vacant property tax rate from \$5 per \$100 of assessed value to \$10 per \$100 of assessed value.
- ★ **Loretta Carter Hanes Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0493** will require pesticide applicators to provide information to prospective customers and residents concerning the type of pesticide to be used and provide safety information concerning that pesticide.

The following bills will receive a first reading:

- ★ **Pre-K for All DC Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0537**, which will establish a voluntary high quality pre-k program to provide 2,000 new Pre-Kindergarten classroom slots within 6 years and will ensure that all 3 and 4-year olds who reside in the District have an opportunity to participate in high quality Pre-Kindergarten settings.
- ★ **Street Sweeping Improvement Enforcement Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0396**, which will authorize use of an automated parking enforcement system and allow recorded images of parking violations to be submitted, and allow notices of infractions generated by an automated parking enforcement system to be served by mail.
- ★ **Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0528**, which will strengthen the ABC Board's enforcement authority to fine for ABC violations and take enforcement action for not cooperating with MPD officers and ABRA investigators; to clarify the quantity of alcohol that may be shipped into the District of Columbia; to require nightclubs to submit security plans with their license applications.
- ★ **Omnibus Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0135**, which will grant domestic partners standing as god parents and kinship caregivers in order to aid the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

On the non-consent agenda, the following bill will receive a first reading:

- ★ **Motor Vehicle Theft Protection Act of 2007, Sections 8 and 10(C) of Bill 17-0138**, which will establish the District of Columbia Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Commission and a Motor Vehicle Theft Prevention Fund to reduce motor vehicle theft in the District of Columbia.

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

Muriel

Summary of Councilmember Bowser's Brightwood Town Hall meeting

Councilmember Muriel Bowser hosted a town hall meeting for the Brightwood community on Monday evening March 24. More than 50 people gathered to hear about the activities happening in their neighborhood.

Residents heard from Malaika Abernathy, the Ward 4 Planner from the DC Office of Planning about the Upper Georgia Avenue Development Plan which is for the Georgia Avenue corridor from Decatur Street NW to Eastern Avenue NW. The plan will serve as a strategic framework to guide growth and development along Georgia Avenue to make it an attractive destination for residents, business owners and visitors. This plan is part of the Great Streets Initiative which combines public realm investment, strategic land use plans and economic development assistance to improve the physical, economic and safety condition of the District's major corridors.

We also heard from Sharlene Reed from the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) about the Brightwood Area Transportation Study currently in process. She mentioned that DDOT has completed their initial data collection and are now analyzing existing traffic, pedestrian and neighborhood conditions. The data collected included: vehicular speed and count data, crash data, peak hour turning movements from cars, trucks, pedestrian and bicycles. DDOT will prepare a report and a 'punch list' of short-term recommendations by April 23 and will host a community meeting for review of this report on or about May 7, 2008. Community comments will be due about a month after that meeting and the final report and recommendations should be ready by mid to late June 2008.

Hazel Broadnax, the President of the Emory Beacon of Light (EBOL) a faith based, non-profit, 501(c)(3) community development corporation, told the community about their support for local businesses including: storefront improvement projects, the Beacon Clean, Green, Safe Initiative and the Beacon Brightwood Business Alliance (BBBA). More than 60 local businesses have joined the BBBA that meets on the second Thursday of every month at the Emory United Methodist Church, at 6120 Georgia Avenue, NW, at 8 AM for breakfast.

Cameron Pratt of Foulger-Pratt Development, Josh Dworken and Dudley Dworken, of the Curtis Chevrolet property updated the community on their future plans for the site. The owners of Curtis Chevrolet announced that they have partnered with Foulger-Pratt Development to turn the former car dealership into new residences and retail shops. They also hope to attract a grocery store. There will be more details forthcoming as their plans are completed.

Summary of Councilmember Bowser's Summer Safety meeting

Councilmember Muriel Bowser hosted a Summer Safety Crime Briefing with the Fourth District Commander Linda Brown on Wednesday, March 26th. Commander Linda Brown began the meeting with news about the eminent arrest of a suspect in the death of Anthony Maddox. The suspect was charged with murder 1 while armed. Mr. Maddox was killed on March 12, 2008, on the playground of Truesdale Elementary School (800 block of Ingraham Street, NW). Councilmember Bowser said, "I am very appreciative of the focus from MPD on this case and the speed by which they got this case closed which will keep our streets safer."

Residents expressed concerns about any possible connections in the recent shootings. Commander Brown does not believe they are connected. Residents also asked for a description of the Mayor and Chief of Police's new Safe Homes Initiative, which is designed to encourage parents and guardians to voluntarily allow their neighborhood foot beat officers to enter their homes to search for weapons without risk of arrest. Commander Brown said that if adults want their home searched, they will sign an agreement to search the home in very specific areas. The searches would only be conducted by trained officers in hopes of confiscating illegal weapons. If illegal weapons are confiscated residents will be granted immunity from prosecution. This program will soon be piloted in the Seventh District of the MPD.

Commander Brown also mentioned that there is a new anonymous toll-free crime phone number, which will be staffed by detectives 24 hours a day. Anyone who has information concerning a homicide, gangs, guns, or other violent offenses can call 1-888-919-CRIME and a detective will report all information.

Finally, Commander Brown reminded residents to not leave anything of value in their vehicles. GPS Systems, cell phones, and IPODs are especially popular items to steal and residents should take all precaution to remove those items from their vehicles when exiting. Residents with GPS equipment should wipe down the rings on the windshield that indicate there may be a GPS system in the car.

We are very appreciative of the hard work done by MPD day in and day out. Keep up the good work!

20th Annual Potomac River Watershed Clean Up – Various Ward 4 sites– April 5

On April 5th, the Alice Ferguson Foundation is sponsoring its 20th Annual Potomac River Watershed clean up in various locations around the DC, MD, VA, West VA, and PA areas that fall within the Potomac River Watershed. This is an opportunity to join your neighbors and improve the condition of the Potomac River by collecting trash and recyclables. Last year, volunteers around the region collected 291 tons of trash and 18 tons of recyclable materials. For more information about the Alice Ferguson Foundation, please visit their website at:

www.hardbargainfarm.org.

Northern Corner/North Portal Estates will participate in the clean up from 9 AM to 12 PM (rain or shine). Please meet at the East Beach Drive, North Portal Dive and the Kalmia Road Bridge. Please call Clif Grandy at (202) 291-1152 or email clifathebeach@starpower.net for more information.

Also Chevy Chase is hosting a clean up also from 9 AM until 12 PM (rain or shine). Please meet at 36th Street and Nevada Avenue. They will supply gloves, trash bags, and coffee. Please email Andrew Love at ajlove7@gmail.com if you are interested in participating.

Ward 4 single sales legislation – Public Hearing on April 8th

On March 4th, Councilmember Bowser introduced a bill to amend Title 25 of the District of Columbia Official Code to eliminate the sunset date on the moratorium on the sale of individual containers of beer, malt liquor or ale in targeted areas of Ward 4, also know as the Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium. “I have heard from residents, ANC Commissioners and members of the Metropolitan Police Department all over Ward 4 about how effective the Ward 4 Single Sales Moratorium has been to eliminate litter, public drunkenness and other quality of life issues,” said Councilmember Bowser during the legislative session.

On Tuesday, April 8th at 2 PM in Room 120 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Councilmember Jim Graham, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Works and the Environment, will hold a public hearing on Councilmember Bowser’s proposed legislation. 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 Friday, April 4, 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, April 11, 2008.

School Reuse Meetings – April 9 and April 15

The Office of Planning is working with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education and the Office of Property Management to host a community meeting to discuss the reuse of the school buildings that are slated for closure at the end of this school year. The meeting in Ward 4 to discuss the possible reuses of Clark and Rudolph Elementary School will be on Wednesday, April 9 at Barnard Elementary School, at 430 Decatur Street, NW from 6 to 8 PM. The Office of Planning is conducting the meeting using their citywide planning expertise to further discuss the most promising re-uses and implementation issues. The Deputy Mayor for Education is overseeing the planning process and is responsible for setting policy and priorities. Some of the possible reuse ideas that have been presented by the community include: recreation centers, affordable healthcare facilities, child care facilities, job training programs, community arts programs and more senior citizen programs. For more information about this meeting please contact Claudia Lujan at Claudia.lujan@dc.gov or by phone at 202-727-0696.

Councilmember Muriel Bowser is hosting a follow up meeting to hear from the community on Tuesday, April 15th at the Emery Recreation Center at 5701 Georgia Ave., NW from 6 to 7:30 PM. We look forward to hearing all of your ideas about the uses for these school buildings. For more information about this meeting, please contact Joy Holland at our office at 202-724-8052 or jholland@dccouncil.us.

Ribbon Cutting for new One-Stop Employment Center – April 9

The DC Department of Employment Services has launched a One-Stop Career and Information Center in the Emery Recreation Center at 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW. This is the first One Stop Career and Information Center that is co-located in a recreation center and will be open 5 days a week. Each of the One Stop Centers provides career counseling, career planning, resume assistance, direct job placement, classroom and on-the-job training, access to America's Job Bank (both online and via phone), information about local and national labor markets, assistance with filing unemployment compensation and much more. There will be a ribbon cutting with Mayor Adrian Fenty and Councilmember Bowser on April 9th at 1 PM. We will post more details as they become available.

Save the Date - DPW's Hazardous Waste Collection at Carter Barron – April 26

On Saturday, April 26, 2008, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Carter Barron Amphitheatre parking lot at 16th & Kennedy NW, District residents may drop-off hazardous waste & electronics for proper disposal and recycling. For more information call 311 or go to www.dpw.dc.gov.