



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

On Tuesday, April 1, I introduced two new pieces of legislation:

- ★ **Health Care Non-licensed Personnel Criminal Background Check Amendment Act of 2008** which will require that non-licensed health care personnel who provide services to District residents and work for a facility that is not licensed by the District to register with the District; and also to require that non-licensed health care workers working outside of a health care facility undergo criminal background checks. This legislation will fill a gap in the law and make sure that the health care workers working with residents, such as nurse aides, orderlies, assistant technicians and home health aides are registered and pass criminal background checks.
- ★ **Juvenile Auto Theft Prevention Act of 2008** which will require progressive discipline against juveniles who commit acts of motor vehicle theft. After the first offense the juvenile would perform 500 hours of community service, after the second offense the juvenile would be ineligible to receive a driver's license until they are 20 years old and also be required to perform 500 hours of community service, after the third offense the juvenile would be subject to a \$1,000 fine and detained for up to one year. "Acts of motor vehicle theft by our young people, in too many instances leads to other crimes," said Councilmember Bowser. "I am introducing this legislation today because we need to send a strong message to our young people that stealing cars has consequences."

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

Muriel

Muriel applauds Attorney General's Suit Against Slum Landlords – 18 Ward 4 properties targeted

This morning, April 4, Councilmember Muriel Bowser joined Mayor Adrian Fenty, and Interim Attorney General Peter Nickles to announce that the District Government is suing 23 landlords whose residential rental properties have a history of serious housing code violations. There are approximately 18 properties in Ward 4 affected by this law suit. The suit asks the court to appoint receivers to manage the properties and assure repairs. The court appointed receiver would collect rent instead of the owner, and use it to repair the housing code violations. If the rent collected is not sufficient to make the repairs, the District will ask the court to order the owners to do so – under penalty of civil contempt or fines. This multi-building action today is unprecedented in District history and is a powerful tool against landlords in contempt. The properties in Ward 4 include: 4226 7th Street, NW, 220 Hamilton Street, NW, 3514 13th Street, NW, 415 Varnum Street, NW, 1407 Buchanan Street, NW, 2603 11th Street, NW, 1360 Taylor Street, NW, 925 Kennedy Street, NW, 306 Emerson Street, NW, 5006 5th Street, NW, 6034 Eastern Avenue, NE, 1732 Taylor Street, NW, 211 Ingraham Street, NW, 4507 Illinois Avenue, NW, 5127 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, 915 Sheridan Street, NW and 920 Delafield Place, NW. “I applaud the Mayor and Attorney General Nickles for taking this action to help the most vulnerable among us, said Councilmember Bowser. “It is critical that our residents have access to quality, affordable housing and this suit will bring these land lords into compliance with health and housing code violations and improve the conditions of these buildings. It is great news for our residents.”

Councilmember Bowser hosts Emergency Crime Meeting – April 1

Tuesday night at the 4th District Police Headquarters at 6001 Georgia Avenue, NW, more than 70 residents joined Councilmember Bowser and Assistant Chief Diane Groomes, Commander Linda Brown, Sargent Melvin Scott, and Detectives Parker and Wingate for an emergency crime meeting. Councilmember Bowser called the meeting after two fatal shootings in the Ward over the weekend to bring the community together to hear their concerns and also to develop a specific action plan.

Commander Brown began the meeting with an announcement that more than 19 robberies of take-out food drivers were closed with the arrest of an individual in Prince George's county. The last of these crimes to occur was on February 3, 2008 just prior to the arrest. She also mentioned that as of March 31, there is a 1% decrease in overall crime in the 4th District but robberies and burglaries are keeping the percentage low. Across the City, the 4th District and the 3rd District are the only ones showing a decrease in overall crime. Last year at this time, the 4th District had 5 homicides and this year there have been 4.

Commander Brown also mentioned the homicide of Anthony Maddox in the 800 block of Ingraham Street, NW on March 12 was closed with an arrest on Thursday March 27. The suspect was charged with Murder 1 while armed. Both homicides this weekend in the 1200 block of Kennedy Street, NW and in the 6900 block of Georgia Avenue, NW have not been closed as of yet. However we did learn, since Tuesday's meeting, that the female victim from the 6900 block of Georgia Avenue has been identified. The police need the community's assistance to close both of those cases. Anyone with information pertaining to either case is encouraged to call 202-727-9099.

Commander Brown also told folks gathered Tuesday evening about the new foot beats (Operation Full Stride) throughout the 4th District. Every PSA (Police Service Area) has at least 3 foot beats, with PSA 403 having 7 foot beats because of its relative size and commercial area. She will be adding 1 new foot beat to each PSA each month. She has also received 6 new officers in the last month and will be receiving 4 or 5 more with the graduating class on April 25th. There are a total of 293 patrol officers in the 4th District so with these additions there will be close to 300 officers serving our neighborhoods.

Commander Brown has instituted a border patrol along the DC and Maryland border on Thursday and Friday evenings and residents commented on what a difference that has made. She also has a truancy patrol at the Takoma Metro station who has been very successful finding young people who should be at school.

We spent most of the rest of the evening talking about an action plan Councilmember Bowser proposed and getting both the community's input and MPDs input so we know what resources they need. The action plan will include:

1) Increased visibility of MPD officers

Four or five more officers will join the MPD 4th District from the April 25th graduating class

More compliance checks throughout the 4th District – checking for driver's licenses, expired registrations, inspections, etc...

F O C U S O N

Additional foot beats – one foot beat will be added to each PSA each month.

Vice officers are working 7 days a week in known problem areas

Light Tower – will be moved around to different high impact areas. Commander Brown requested an additional light tower (only have one now). We will look for the resources to purchase that.

2)Closing cases

Assignment of 4th District Community Prosecutor – Dawn Hopkins the Community Outreach Specialist for the US Attorney’s office told us that the new Community Prosecutor, Julianne Stuart, will begin on April 15th. The US Attorney’s Office assists the focus mission unit and in the prosecution of nuisance properties. The US Attorney’s Office can be reached at 202-725-7415.

3)Human Services

Create Ward 4th Focused Improvement Area – Along with Commander Brown’s suggestion the High Impact Area in the 4th District will likely be between 7th and 9th Streets and Farragut and Hamilton Streets.

Focused DOES Outreach and Summer Jobs program in Ward 4 in conjunction with the DOES One-Stop Career Center at Emery Recreation Center

4)Resources

Two additional crime cameras (added to the 7 cameras already) will be installed along with shot spotter technology

Proposed Safe Homes Initiative/Gun Recovery proposal

Additional Gun Buy Back dates

Thanks to everyone who attended the meeting or have called and emailed with comments and suggestions. Councilmember Bowser appreciates hearing from all residents. Thanks also for your continued vigilance and engagement to prevent crime and help us look for common sense solutions. We’ll continue to update the community with additional details as they become available.

Congratulations Exceptional Ward 4 High School Seniors!

Today, April 4, DC Public Schools Chancellor Michelle Rhee and George Washington University President Steven Knapp announced the 2008 Full Scholarship Award Winners. The award provided nine talented DC high school seniors with full, four-year scholarships at George Washington University, which cover tuition, room and board, books and fees. “I’m proud that two of today’s scholarship winners are Ward 4 residents,” said Councilmember Bowser. “Veronica Torres from Theodore Roosevelt High School and Mariam Mohammed from Woodrow Wilson High School are among the nine students recognized today for their accomplishments.” These scholarships will enable these students to study a variety of fields including pre-med, biology, computer science and journalism. Congratulations students! For more information about the GW Trachtenberg Scholarship program, now in its 19th year, please contact Tracy Schario at 202-994-3566 or tschario@gwu.edu.

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 Wednesday, April 9th at 1 PM at the Emery Recreation Center. The ribbon cutting will be followed by an open house from 2 to 3 PM. Please join us! For more information call 202-671-2100.

New nutrition center at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center

On Monday March 31, the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW opened its nutrition center which will be serving lunch Monday through Friday. This service is provided by the Barney Neighborhood House Senior Program who also have a nutrition program at the Barney congregate site at 504 Kennedy Street, NW. For more information about these programs please call Willie Hall, Director of the Hattie Holmes Center at 202-291-6170 or Donna Ellis at the Barney Neighborhood House at 202-939-9031.

Save the Date – Ward 4 Age In Place Symposium – April 24

Please save Thursday, April 24 from 9:30 to 1:30 PM for a Ward 4 Age In Place Symposium at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. There will be representatives of Age In Place programs that offer senior citizens quality home repair and maintenance services that enhance the integrity of their home, promote senior independence and enable seniors to stay in their homes longer. For more information please contact Joy Holland at jholland@dccouncil.us or call 202-724-8052.