



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



May 16, 2008

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Dear Neighbors:

I listened to the Ward 4 community and demanded additional resources for projects that will improve our streets and alleys, increase public safety and make all our neighborhoods cleaner. My colleagues on the DC Council and I unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2009 Budget on Tuesday May 13th which includes \$5.7 billion in proposed local funds and \$8.7 billion in total funds, in one of the most fiscally conservative budgets DC Council has passed in recent years.

Here are some highlights, I demanded for Ward 4 in the FY2009 budget:

Safety First

Funding for the city-wide Smoke Alarm Verification and Utilization (SAVU) program. This funding will ensure the continuation of the program initiated by DC Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department (FEMS) earlier this year. The SAVU program tests and installs FREE smoke detectors in homes around the city. These smoke detectors also detect carbon monoxide, another toxic gas. I encourage all residents to call 727-1600 or visit www.fems.dc.gov to schedule the installation of a FREE smoke detector.

More than \$800,000 for the installation of crosswalk lighting in Ward 4 and a study of lighting improvements needed around the Metro Stations at Takoma, Petworth and Fort Totten. This funding will install light tripping technology and photo radar equipment for 16th Street, 14th Street, and Military Road, NW. There will also be study of a lighting improvements around our Metro Stations at Takoma, Petworth and Fort Totten. I've heard from a number of residents concerned about the safety in and around our Metro stations and have mentioned the inadequate lighting on these highly used pedestrian routes. These funds will go directly to install lighting that shines on the pedestrian walkways and improves safety.

Funding for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. In response to residents' concerns that people arrested for crimes are quickly returned to the street before adjudication, I secured funding for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to conduct a study of arrests and sentencing for violent crimes including juveniles.

Economic Development

\$1 million for Ward 4 Business Improvement District Demonstration project and support for capital improvement projects along Ward 4 commercial corridors. Since joining the Council, revitalization of the commercial corridors of Ward 4 has been one of my biggest priorities. Funds will be allocated to continue the pilot business improvement district which provides enhanced DPW services along Georgia Avenue and Kennedy Street, NW expected to kick-off this Summer. There will also be one-time grants to support capital improvement projects

along our commercial corridors, such as the Takoma Theater Conservancy. The small business micro loan fund will increase the categories of potential fund recipients and will allow eligible recipients to receive financial assistance, including grants and loans.

Commercial property tax relief My colleagues and I on the DC Council know that small businesses provide the majority of retail and support services throughout the District of Columbia. In response to small business' concerns about the rising property assessments and waning revenues, we voted to reduce the current tax rate on the first \$3 million of assessed value from \$1.85 to \$1.65 per \$100 of assessed value.

Schools and Recreation

Our schools are our greatest asset and I'm very pleased my colleagues and I approved the **funding necessary to expand pre-kindergarten and repair school facilities**. A total of \$9.5 million was approved to establish a voluntary pre-kindergarten program throughout DC Public Schools to ensure that all 3 and 4-year olds who reside in the District have an opportunity to participate in high quality pre-kindergarten settings. The Council approved fully-funding the school modernization and school maintenance plans for an additional \$18 million. The budget also includes adding music, art and physical education instructors at all public schools.

More than \$2 million for capital improvements to Ward 4 parks: Funds were designated to begin to rebuild and renovate Raymond Recreation Center and also for Fort Stevens, Upshur and Hamilton Recreation Centers.

Youth Employment. There will be a Youth Jobs Fund established to be sure that all District of Columbia young people who want enriching summer jobs, have the opportunity to have one. Additional money was allocated to provide assistance to Ward 4 young people looking for employment.

Infrastructure

Funding to rebuild Klingle Road. Councilmember Bowser has fought long and hard to reopen Klingle Road, a cross-park connector road. Unfortunately, the majority of DC Council members did not agree. The recommended \$2 million to begin to repair Klingle Road and reopen this road for motor vehicle traffic was not approved. Instead the \$2 million designated in the Mayor's budget will be used to fund alley repairs. The final vote on Klingle Road will be on June 3, 2008.

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

Muriel

DCPS Restructuring Plan Announced

Mayor Adrian Fenty, Chancellor Michelle Rhee and Deputy Mayor Victor Reinoso early this week announced their plans for the district's 27 school that are in restructuring status. The schools in Ward 4 that are undergoing restructuring include: Coolidge Senior High School, Roosevelt Senior High School, MacFarland Middle School and Truesdell Elementary School. These schools did not meet the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. With the restructuring plans now underway, the school system can now begin to take a critical step toward education reform by strengthening school leadership and improving teacher instruction and student learning. Administrative staff at MacFarland Middle School will need to reapply for their positions for the new school year. Coolidge High School will partner with an external organization with expertise and experience in turning around low-performing schools and will reconstitute instructional staff relevant to AYP failure. Roosevelt High School and Truesdell Elementary School will also restructure instructional staff. The implementation of these plans will begin with the 2008-2009 school year. For more information please contact Mafara Hobson at Mafara.hobson@dc.gov or 202-744-4549.

Park Place mixed use development project “Tops Out!”- May 22

Please join Mayor Adrian Fenty, Councilmember Muriel Bowser, S.E. Foster L.P., Donatelli Development and Canyon Johnson in celebrating the ‘topping out’ for the Park Place mixed-use development project on Thursday, May 22 at 10:30 at 3700 Georgia Avenue, NW. Lunch will be available at 11:30 AM. “Topping out” consists of finishing the concrete super structure of a building. Now the walls will be filled in and brick laid. The Park Place project is six floor building, which when finished will have 161 condominium units and 17,000 square feet of retail space. Twenty percent of the condo units will be sold at less than 60% of the area median income making them part of Councilmember Bowser’s efforts to bring affordable housing to Ward 4. This is a transit oriented project, built on top of the Petworth/Georgia Avenue Metro Station, and will enable more people to live close to work, transit and retail shopping. Also to be announced is more exciting news about the project at 3910 Georgia Avenue, NW.

Please come to the first floor of the building to celebrate the progress on Georgia Avenue and check out the view on top too! For more information please contact Michelle O’Brien at 703-527-7440 or by email: mobrien@paradigmcos.com.

Shepherd Park Garden Tour – May 18

The 4th Annual Shepherd Park Garden Tour will be held on Sunday May 18, 2008 from 1-4pm and will feature seven new gardens and two returning gardens. You will have an opportunity to see a sustainable garden where you can view/learn eco-friendly gardening techniques, an English-inspired garden, several water features, a patio garden and much more all within the neighborhoods of Shepherd Park, Colonial Village and North Portal Estates.

This is a self guided tour and tickets are available for purchase (\$15 or \$7 for Shepherd Park Citizens Association members) on line or on the day of the tour at Shepherd Elementary School at the corner of 14th and Kalmia Streets, NW. For more information and advanced ticket purchase please visit <http://www.shepherdpark.org/Garden2008/index.html>. Also please see the April 26th Washington Post article about the upcoming tour: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/04/25/AR2008042501629.html>.

The proceeds from the 2008 Garden Tour will go to the Friends of Marvin Caplan Park. The Friends have been working on plans to enhance the small park located in Shepherd Park that was dedicated to Marvin Caplan, a neighbor and civil rights activist.

The garden tour is sponsored by the Shepherd Park Citizens Association and Washington Gardener Magazine.

Health Issues Forum at Convention Center – May 20

The Community Health Partnership at the Church of the Nativity on 6000 Georgia Avenue, NW is pleased to invite the community to a health issues forum on Tuesday, May 20th from 8:30 AM to 2 PM at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW in Conference Room 103. The Convention Center is located at the Mt. Vernon Square Metro station on the Yellow Line. Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, community leaders, health care providers and all DC residents are welcome to attend. There will be a ward-by-ward discussion on the factors that may contribute to health disparities in the District of Columbia. The event is free but reservations are requested for the luncheon. Please RSVP to: ha2010@verizon.net or call 202-726-6262.

Mocha Hut on 14th Street is open again!

We are pleased to hear that the Mocha Hut at 4706 14th St NW is open for business again. Their phone number is (202) 829-6200 and their hours are seven days a week 7am to 3pm. Please stay tuned for more information about an upcoming “Hike the Height’s Day” which will feature the businesses along the 14th Street Heights commercial corridor from 4400 to the 4700 blocks of 14th Street, NW.