



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



May 9, 2008

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Muriel Bowser

Councilmember, Ward 4
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 406
Washington DC 20004
202-724-8052-voice
202-741-0908
mbowser@dccouncil.us

Dear Neighbors:

Here are some highlights from the legislative session on Tuesday May, 6, 2008

- ★ Vote on the **Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0086**, was tabled until the legislative session on June 3rd.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser voted to support the **Motor Vehicle Theft Protection Act of 2007, Bill 17-0138** which passed w/amendments.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser voted to support the **Street Sweeping Improvement Enforcement Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0396** which passed.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser voted to support the **Omnibus Domestic Partnership Equality Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0135**, which passed w/amendments.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser voted to support the **Pre-K for All DC Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0537** which passed.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser voted to support the **Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2007, Bill 17-0528**, which passed.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser co-introduced the **Wards 4, 7, and 8 Anti-Sale of Single Containers of Alcoholic Beverages Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0532**, which passed with a 12-1 voice vote on the first reading. The second reading will be on June 3rd.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser voted against the **Noise Control Protection Amendment Act of 2008, Bill 17-0177**, due to concerns about the possible infringement on amplified speech in commercially zoned areas. The legislation passed on a first reading and a second reading will occur during the legislative session scheduled for June 3rd.

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

Muriel

44th Annual Senior Citizens' Day at the DC Armory – May 14

The DC Office on Aging and the DC Senior Citizens Clearinghouse Committee is pleased to host the 44th Annual Senior Citizens' Day on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 from 10 am to 2 pm at the DC Armory, 2001 East Capitol Street, S.E. More than 3000 seniors are expected to attend this annual event that will feature aging and public service information exhibits, health and wellness demonstrations, an energy efficient home exhibit, live entertainment, music and a nutritious lunch. Take Metro to Stadium/Armory Station on the Blue and Orange Lines. For more information please call Courtney Williams (202) 727-8370 or email Courtney.williams@dc.gov.

Bike to Work Day – Join the Ward 4 Convoy – May 16

On Friday, May 16th, the District will host Bike to Work Day. This annual event, where hundreds of bicycle commuters gather at Freedom Plaza, promotes and celebrates this healthy mode of transportation. The event, which has been celebrated since 1977, has grown into a truly regional celebration with 17 pit stops in DC, Maryland and Virginia.

Councilmember Muriel Bowser will lead a convoy beginning at 7 AM on the front steps of Coolidge High School, 6315 5th Street, NW and will be joined by Mike Goodno, the Bicycle Program Specialist at DDOT and a group from Takoma Park, MD.

We will end up at Freedom Plaza (bordered by Pennsylvania Avenue, 13th and 14th, and E Streets, NW) by 8 a.m. to participate in the rally. The rally will include food, drawings for prizes, and other activities. There will be convoys of cyclists arriving at the plaza from all over the region.

Hope you can join us. Please let Kristen Barden know if are joining us by calling 202-724-8052 or by email: kbarden@dccouncil.us. Please spread the word to your friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Over the last several years, DC has worked hard to become a more bicycle-friendly city. The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) continues to build trails, add bike lanes and bike racks, and teach bicycle safety in the schools. In the next few weeks, DDOT will launch SmartbikeDC, an automated bike rental system that is the first of its kind in North America.

DC Main Streets 2008 Program Application Meeting – May 19

The DC Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD) is soliciting grant applications from eligible nonprofit organizations to operate a local DC Main Streets program in Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF) areas of Ward 4 (see boundaries below). There will be a community meeting on Monday, May 19, 2008 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Emery Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Ave., NW to provide an overview of the DC Main Streets program, how it may benefit your neighborhood commercial district and businesses, and discuss the application process.

Interested applicant organizations must attend the workshop. Residents, business owners and commercial property owners are encouraged to attend but, if you cannot and would like to support a DC Main Streets in Ward 4, contact DSLBD to determine which Ward 4 nonprofits are applying (202-739-3900 or restoredc@dc.gov).

The DC Main Streets program focuses on retaining neighborhood businesses and providing revitalization services for neighborhood commercial districts so that residents and visitors can access the goods and services that they need. Visit www.restoredc.dc.gov to read about DSLBD's DC Main Streets and download the application.

The Neighborhood Investment Fund areas eligible are: The Brightwood and Upper Georgia Avenue target area. This is defined as starting at the corner of Kennedy Street, N.W., and 16th Street, N.W., north along

16th Street, N.W., to Alaska Avenue, N.W., northeast along Alaska Avenue, N.W., to Fern Street, N.W., east along Fern Street, N.W., to Fern Place, N.W., east along Fern Place, N.W., to Blair Road, N.W., southeast along Blair Road, N.W., to 5th Street, N.W., south along 5th Street, N.W., to Kennedy Street, N.W., and west along Kennedy Street, N.W., to 16th Street, N.W.

Applications now available for Transportation Enhancement Funding

The updated application for Transportation Enhancement Funding has been posted on DDOT's website: www.ddot.dc.gov. These projects are funded through the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The goal is to strengthen the cultural, aesthetic, and environmental aspects of the Nation's Intermodal transportation system. These funds support non-traditional projects that are linked to the transportation system and must meet one or more of twelve criteria such as: bicycle and pedestrian facilities, safety and/or educational activities; acquisition of scenic or historic easements or sites; scenic or historic highway programs including tourist and welcome centers; landscaping and scenic beautification; historic preservation, rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures or facilities; preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use of the corridors for pedestrian or bicycle trails); inventory, control and removal of outdoor advertising; archaeological planning and research; environmental mitigation of runoff pollution and provision of wildlife connectivity; establishment of transportation museums.

Applications are being accepted through August 1. Applicants are required to present their project to an evaluation panel. This will help the panel get questions answered before final decisions are made, as well as determine the level of commitment of the applicant group. For more information, please contact Colleen Hawkinson, City-wide Transportation Planner, DDOT, at (202) 671-2228, fax (202) 671-0617 or at colleen.hawkinson@dc.gov.

Reminder to keep your lawn trim this Summer

The DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) will begin enforcing seasonal grass cutting rules beginning on May 1 and is encouraging all property owners to keep their lawn trimmed. The growing season runs from May 1 through October 31 every year. DCRA inspectors will be on the lookout for overgrown grass and weeds.

Grass and weeds that are more than 10 inches tall could lead to fines and other costs. During growing season, all property owners are required to maintain their premises in a healthy and sanitary manner free of trash and excessive vegetative growth. Grass pollen is a common trigger for asthma and allergies. Keeping grass cut is part of an overall preventative strategy to control respiratory illness. Excessive growth can harbor rats and other vermin leading to serious public health implications.

Failure to comply with a Notice of Violation during the growing season may result in DCRA cleaning the property and billing the owner for cost of the cleanup. Report suspected violations to DCRA at (202) 442-4400. Seasonal grass cutting rules are from Section 800.10 of the DCMR14.