

**COUNCILMEMBER BOWSER OPENED PARK PLACE**



Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, representatives of Donatelli Development, Inc. and community members on July 15 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the opening of Park Place, the largest mixed-use development along Georgia Avenue. Located atop the Georgia Avenue-Petworth Metro Station, this latest project is just one example of the revitalization necessary to keep the District competitive even in our economic downturn.



This \$28 million Neighborhood Development Project stands seven stories with six stories of residential housing, ground level retail, a green roof and one level of below grade parking and space saver car elevators.

**Ft. Totten**

With \$2.1 million in funding, DDOT will soon begin the reconfiguration of the Riggs Road and South Dakota intersection, which will make it safer for additional motorists and pedestrians. DDOT has been working with the development team to redesign the intersection and ease congestion. DDOT anticipates an October 2009 start date.

**Georgia Commons**

The District will work with Jair Lynch Development Partners and Affordable Housing Developers (AHD) to transform 3910-12 Georgia Avenue NW site into Georgia Commons, a new \$35 million mixed-use project that will include new residential units on top of a new health clinic in the Petworth neighborhood.

At 30,000 square feet, the site will accommodate approximately 130 units of new housing for District residents on the second floor, of which 119 will be dedicated to low-income families. Additionally, the Mary's Center for



**14th Street Corridor**

Efforts are now underway for a revitalization corridor along 14th Street. The corridor is a major thoroughfare and efforts need to be focused on making it safer, cleaner and more attractive. Councilmember Bowser, along with her colleague Councilmember Graham, will work with representatives from the residential and retail communities along the corridor and officials with the Office of Planning and other city agencies to discuss next steps.



Pictured here with attendees at the 2nd Annual State of the Ward 4 Senior Address at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center, Councilmember Bowser is a tireless advocate for the senior citizens of Ward 4. She introduced legislation that would provide senior homeowners with the money to make improvements to their homes.

Park Place

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On May 9, Councilmember Bowser attended the spring fair at Chevy Chase's Lafayette Elementary, hosted by its Home School Association.



On April 4, Councilmember Bowser joined 100 volunteers in the removal of 300 bags of litter and 500 pounds of debris from the parkland and streams of the Fenwick Tributary. The cleanup was part of the 21st Potomac River Watershed Cleanup Day. Councilmember Bowser re-introduced the Anacostia River Clean Up and Protection Act of 2007, a bill put forth to help clean up the Anacostia.

WARD 4  
**MURIEL BOWSER**  
COUNCILMEMBER

FROM THE DESK OF COUNCILMEMBER BOWSER

The first half of 2009 has provided many opportunities to advance our Ward 4 agenda. Where there once was a vacant lot now sits a new apartment complex. Walls that were once defaced with graffiti have been wiped clean. Long-stalled and often promised pedestrian safety improvements are now in motion. And this fall, we will welcome Yes! Organic Market to Georgia Avenue.

Even in tough budgetary times, I am pleased that we will continue to fund our green teams, improve our parks and recreation sites, and help prevent youth violence. We will also maintain our commitment to reform our public school system, and such a laser-sharp focus on education will continue to result in gains each and every year. There have been remarkable reductions in serious crime. This has allowed us to remain keenly focused on providing needed police resources to rid our neighborhoods of what are often considered non-serious crimes.

We've worked to approve the District's twelfth consecutive balanced budget. The recession forced us to open up the budget for a second look and to make difficult decisions on revenue and spending. Even with making our government leaner, we are confident that we will keep improving on service delivery to our neighborhoods.

Chairing the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs has allowed me to weigh in on many issues affecting the entire District of Columbia and enact much-needed changes to the law, especially in vending regulation, cleaner and greener energy infrastructure, and mortgage regulation. In our first session in September, we will continue to lead the fight against vacant and blighted property to ensure that scofflaw property owners do not benefit from tax rollbacks. Other bills referred to my committee, including the Chemotherapy Pill Coverage Act, Certified Capital Companies Improvements Act, and Tenant Advisory Council Clarification Act, will make their way through the legislative process along with nearly a dozen others.

Each spring we celebrate Ward 4's robust community of senior citizens with State of Ward 4 Seniors Address and Symposium. And, each budget year, we ensure that the District is living up to its promises to seniors, to families, and to young people. We need your help to make sure that government is working for everyone.

I look forward to continuing to advocate for the people of Ward 4 for better schools, safer neighborhoods, and a more effective government.

To sign up for Councilmember Bowser's e-newsletters please send an e-mail to Phallan Davis at pdavis@dccouncil.us.

**SAVE THE DATES!**

- September :**  
16th: Small Business Roundtable
- October**  
30th : Halloween Party for Children
- November**  
19th: Thanksgiving Activity
- December**  
12th: Ward 4 Holiday Party  
19th: Breakfast with Santa for Children



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Councilmember Bowser said "The addition of Park Place to the Georgia Avenue business corridor speaks volumes about the increased desirability of the area. Projects like Park Place are vital to the continued economic vitality of the Petworth community."

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

Councilmember Bowser serves as chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. Fellow committee members include Councilmembers Jim Graham, Mary Cheh, Harry Thomas Jr. and Michael A. Brown. This committee is responsible for matters related to consumer and regulatory affairs, public utilities, the regulation of banks and banking activities, and securities and insurance, including private health insurance matters.

The Committee held public hearings and roundtables on the following bills and topics:

**Elevator Maintenance Standards Act of 2009**

**Demolition or Raze Permit Community Notification Amendment Act of 2009**

**Continuation of Health Coverage Amendment Act of 2009**

**Tenant Opportunity to Purchase Act Exemption Clarification**

**Insurance Claims Consumer Protection Amendment Act of 2009**

**Tenant Protection Act of 2009**

**Omnibus Rental Housing Amendment Act of 2009**

**Vending Regulation Act of 2009**

**Chemotherapy Pill Coverage Act of 2009**

**The Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act of 2009**

\* Public roundtable held to review the critical findings of the District of Columbia Auditor on the Certified Capital Companies Program

\* Public roundtable held to review the impact of foreclosures on home ownership and affordable housing in the District of Columbia



<b>Nominations to boards and commissions</b>
Betty Ann Kane confirmed as the chairperson of the Public Service Commission.
Richard Gersten confirmed as a licensed real estate broker member of the Board of Real Estate.
Franklin Kelly confirmed as a barber member of the Board of Barber and Cosmetology.
Lori Murphy Lee confirmed as a commissioner on the Public Service Commission.
Tanya Lewis confirmed as a licensed electrician member of the Board of Industrial Trades.
Josephine Ricks confirmed as a licensed real estate broker member of the Board of Real Estate.
Roger Small confirmed as an asbestos worker member of the Board of Industrial Trades.
Robert Smith confirmed as a licensed electrician member of the Board of Industrial Trades.



On May 5, Councilmember Bowser presented Dr. Charlene Drew Jarvis, former Ward 4 Councilmember and former president of Southeastern University, with a resolution to honor her many years of dedicated service to residents of the District of Columbia.

**LEGISLATIVE FOCUS**

**Mortgage Lender and Broker Amendment Act of 2009** This legislation brings the District into compliance with Title V of the federal Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) that mandated that all mortgage regulators become members of the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) by August 1, 2009. The legislation also required all states to license mortgage loan originators who take mortgage applications and negotiate terms with residential mortgage borrowers.

**Raze Permit Community Notification Amendment Act of 2009** Approved by the Council, this bill, introduced by Councilmember Bowser, will require that the owner of a structure to be razed post a placard, sign, or notice on the exterior of the structure 30 days prior to the due date of raze, so that the neighborhood will know that raze will take place and District agencies have performed due diligence.

**Continuation of Health Coverage Amendment Act of 2009** Mini-COBRA (Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act) is the term for state legislation that applies to businesses with fewer than 20 workers. Previously, the mini-COBRA benefit was only available for three months after employment is terminated. The approval of this bill ensured that District workers will be able to collect the continuing health coverage benefit subsidy provided under the federal stimulus package.

**Comprehensive Boards and Commissions Review Amendment Act of 2009** The legislation would require the Mayor to undertake a review of the District's boards and commissions. There are 185 boards and commissions, and this bill is necessary to ensure that these boards and commissions are serving their proper role in the government structure. This bill is currently being reviewed by the Committee on Government Operations and the Environment.

**Veterans License Plates Establishment Act of 2009** This bill would put the District on the same footing as nearly all other states that allow their veterans to have a special license plate. The legislation serves two purposes: first, it creates these plates as a way to honor and recognize the contributions of our veterans, and second, it takes the fees from the plates and spends it on services and programs for veterans. A hearing has been held on this bill and Councilmember Bowser is hopeful that it will become law in the fall.

**Senior Housing Modernization Grant Fund Act of 2009** The purpose of this bill is to ensure that the District's senior homeowners get the assistance they need in order to make improvements to their homes. This bill creates a special revenue fund to be administered by the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, which will make available grants of up to \$5,000 to qualified senior citizens. Most of the funding will come from developers utilizing the Planned Unit Development (PUD), which requires developers who use the PUD process to negotiate a community benefits package with affected communities. Deposits into this new Senior Citizens Modernization Grant Fund can be part of their obligated community benefits package. A hearing will be held on this bill in the fall.



Councilmember Bowser joined Police Chief Cathy Lanier on February 20 at a press conference regarding the disappearance of Pamela J. Butler, a Ward 4 resident. In response to summer crime trends, Councilmember Bowser was a vocal supporter of legislation that imposed civil gang injunctions to make neighborhoods safer.

**Vending Regulation Act of 2009** Approved by the Council on July 14, the bill represents a thorough and much-needed legislative reform of our city's vending system. The legislation requires vendors to hold a vending site permit in addition to the basic business license properly endorsed for vending. The vending site permit designates a specific location for the vendor. The passage of this bill ends years of study and discussion over vending in the District of Columbia, creating more varied and safer options for residents, employees and visitors.



Councilmember Bowser studies the "Notice to Abate Nuisance" sign in front of a used car dealership where she joined Mayor Fenty, Attorney General Peter Nickles and DCRA Director Linda K. Argo at a press conference to announce that the District planned to close 23 dealerships in a citywide crackdown.

**Board of Enhanced Access to Public Space and Buildings Establishment Act of 2009** The District's facilities and playing fields are open to the public, but the process for residents to access these spaces for community meetings and gatherings is cumbersome. This bill would establish a board to undertake a best-practices study of the surrounding jurisdictions and other municipalities and make a report to the Council. The Council could then use the report to design a better system, which would enhance the public's access to these rich resources.

**Build the Dream Income Tax Check-off Establishment Act of 2009** This bill will allow District residents to contribute via their income tax filing to the Build the Dream Foundation. The Foundation is raising funds and obtaining final permits to begin building the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. As of December, the Foundation had raised \$108 million of the \$120 million needed to complete construction. The bill has been referred to the Committee on Finance and Revenue.

**Clean and Affordable Energy** The smart grid is coming to the District soon through an emergency provision in the FY2010 budget. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) contained billions of dollars intended to begin the transformation of our country's energy infrastructure. Some of the stimulus funding will go towards the development of the city's smart grid. The smart grid will utilize wireless sensor networks, software and computing to enable utilities to identify the location and amount of energy consumption, and to determine the presence of network blackouts and other problems. This measure will put the District on track to become a leader in clean and renewable energy.

**Safer Elevators** The "Elevator Maintenance Standards Act of 2009" was included as a provision in the FY2010 budget to help protect our residents and visitors by establishing a professional licensure category for those individuals who work on or inspect elevators, or who own companies that work on elevators and other related conveyances within the District, and it would protect the health, safety, and welfare of District residents and visitors by establishing licensure qualifications.

**Crackdown on Illegal Used Car Dealers** Regulations enacted in December 2008 led to the crackdown on used car dealers in the District. DCRA conducted a sweep of 200 used car dealers and it was revealed that many cars stored on the lots were never intended to be sold in the city. In support of Mayor Fenty's reform efforts, Councilmember Bowser led the fight to defeat efforts to roll back this vital initiative for District corridors. The proposed "Used Car Dealers License Reform and Relief Emergency Act of 2009" would not have required these used car dealers to have business hours, sell cars, or keep files.

"This bill is a proactive, not reactive measure. As a native Washingtonian, I know just how far our city has progressed in bringing the number of violent crimes down. But we cannot rest on our laurels. As summer approaches, I am reminded of three summers ago when the city passed emergency crime legislation in the aftermath of a violent crime wave. This bill allows us to face the problem head-on so we're not playing catch up."

Councilmember Bowser on the pressing need for the Council to pass the Omnibus Anti-Crime Amendment Act of 2009.

**WARD 4 PRIORITIES IN FY2010 BUDGET**

**Economic Development**

**Vinegar Hill South Main Street (\$150,000):** The program will be funded to continue to assist businesses along the Kennedy Street corridor in revitalization efforts.

**Upper Georgia Avenue Main Street (\$150,000):** The program will be funded to continue to assist businesses along the Georgia Avenue corridor in revitalization efforts.

**Kennedy Street and Georgia Avenue Green Team (\$250,000):** Neighborhood clean team services supplement public maintenance by the Department of Public Works. It is an effective mechanism for addressing targeted cleaning and safety needs of commercial corridors that have trouble spots and high-volume traffic areas.

**Ward 4 Corridor Improvement Grants Program (\$150,000):** This program includes funding for property improvement grants to address deferred maintenance, exterior security fixtures, business branding and demarcation, and other storefront upgrades.

**Public safety**

**Gang Intervention Partnerships (\$2 million):** The GIP is a unique evidence-based, multi-agency gang prevention and intervention initiative that brings together law enforcement, community institutions and city agencies to address gang-related violence through comprehensive and holistic strategies and services. This money will be available for competitive grants to groups like the Georgia Avenue Rock Creek East Collaborative, in order to implement this important strategy in Ward 4.

**Parks and Recreation**

During this year's budget consideration, Councilmember Bowser was able to target more than \$4.2 million for capital improvements at several Ward 4 parks and recreation sites. This newly dedicated funding includes an additional \$2.1 million for renovation of Raymond Recreation Center; \$1.5 million for Shepherd Park for field improvements and a tot lot; an additional \$500,000 for Upshur Park for completion of its playground and \$145,000 for improvements to the Fort Stevens tennis courts.

**FY2009 Budget Enhancement & Updates**

**Blagden Avenue Bicycle and Pedestrian Path:** DDOT received \$200,000 in funding to construct a pedestrian path on Blagden Avenue between Matthewson Avenue and Beach Drive. The trail would allow safe pedestrian and bicycle access to Rock Creek Park and associated facilities, including Beach Drive and the bike and

foot trails that run throughout Rock Creek Park.

Construction is set to begin in mid-September. Also, a crosswalk will be painted at the intersection at Beach Drive.

**Western Avenue:** DDOT received \$3,745,826 in federal stimulus money for Ward 4 to reconstruct Western Avenue from Chestnut Street to 31st Street NW in Ward 4. This will allow DDOT to rebuild Western Avenue with new road surface and to install a sidewalk. WASA will use the opportunity to replace the water main as well. The work is scheduled to begin in October.

**New traffic signal at Georgia Avenue and Hemlock Street:** DDOT received permission from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in April 2009 to experiment with HAWK signals. HAWK stands for High-intensity Activated cross-Walk. The HAWK signal was installed at Georgia Avenue and Hemlock Street NW. The HAWK remains dark for traffic unless a pedestrian activates the push-button. The overhead signal begins flashing yellow and then solid yellow, advising drivers to prepare to stop. The signal then displays a solid red and shows the pedestrian a "Walk" indication.



Councilmember Bowser joined Mayor Adrian Fenty, Acting Director of the DC Department of Parks and Recreation Ximena Hartsock and Commissioner Brenda Speaks to dedicate the renovated athletic fields and courts at Emery Heights (Soldiers Field).

"It's not an easy tax to figure out, but it would be unacceptable to me to give these scofflaw property owners a tax break while we're cutting police officers and teachers," Councilmember Bowser said.

Councilmember Bowser in Washington Examiner article on the Council's decision to halve the 10 percent tax rate on vacant property.