



MEDIA ALERT

August 24, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Rob Hawkins 202-741-0921 or email rhawkins@dccouncil.us

Bowser calls on Park Service to install safety lights at Sherman Circle

Recent tragedy underscores urgent need for lighting; Bowser, Delegate Holmes Norton and City agencies to meet at Circle today at 3 P.M.

Washington, D.C. – Early Sunday morning, Neil Michael Godleski, a 31 year-old Catholic University student, was shot and killed near Sherman Circle NW while riding his bicycle. To help prevent future tragedies, Councilmember Bowser has called upon the National Park Service (NPS), which controls Sherman Circle, to immediately install lights.

“Residents of Petworth have long complained that NPS grounds within Sherman Circle are potentially dangerous after dark because of the lack of lighting,” said Bowser. “All around the Circle are street lights but within the park grounds there are none. Lighting needs to be installed with great urgency.”

Today at 3 P.M., Bowser will meet at Sherman Circle with Delegate Holmes Norton, the District Department of Transportation, and officials from the Metropolitan Police Department. She has also advised the electric company to be ready to energize the Circle as soon as the federal government decides what to do.

Until NPS decides whether it will install lights, an MPD tower has been erected to secure the area and Councilmember Bowser and DDOT will explore opportunities to increase lighting on the park’s periphery.

“I don’t know if Sunday morning’s tragedy would have been prevented if the Circle had adequate lighting. But, I do know that installing lights, and doing so now, will provide safer passages for adjacent neighbors, bus riders, walkers, and bicyclists.”

Anyone with information about this case is asked to call the police at (202) 727-9099 or 1-888-919-CRIME (1-888-919-2746). MPD currently offers a reward of up to \$25,000 to anyone that provides information which leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons wanted for any homicide committed in the District of Columbia.

Additionally, anonymous information may be submitted to D.C. CRIME SOLVERS at 1-866-411-TIPS and to the department's TEXT TIP LINE by text messaging 50411. If the information provided by the caller to the Crime Solvers Unit leads to an arrest and indictment, that caller will be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

###

-WARD 4-

A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. She is also a member of the Committees on: Economic Development, Human Services, Public Works and Transportation, and Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit www.murielbowser.com for more information.

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 110, Washington, DC 20004
202-724-8052 phone 202-741-0908 fax
