



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



FOCUS ON

July 27, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- ★ Letter from Muriel
- ★ Focus on Ward 4 Schools
- ★ Economic Development in Ward 4
- ★ Keeping Our Neighborhoods Safe
- ★ Recent Community Events
- ★ Upcoming Events
- ★ Resources

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 and Friends,

We're off and running...

I am pleased to write you to introduce our e-newsletter. With this update we look forward to keeping you abreast of our activities, happenings around the city and government, and ways that we can all work together for a better Ward 4.

I am so thankful to have this opportunity to serve our great neighborhoods and look forward to working each day to implement our vision for Ward 4—focusing on our neighborhoods, fixing our schools, and fighting for economic development that will enhance our great corridors.

We're on our way...

Having completed our first 70 days in office, we've accomplished much and have begun planning even more. Here are a few examples:

- ★ Hired experienced staff that joins me in pledging to always provide great service to you, and to always be a phone call away.
- ★ Jumped into committee assignments, hearings, mark-ups, Committee of the Whole meetings, and three marathon legislative sessions. I've been assigned to the following committees: 1) Public Safety and the Judiciary, 2) Public Works and the Environment, 3) Housing and Urban Affairs, and 4) Human Services.
- ★ Attended dozens of ANC, civic and other community group meetings. Joined residents in celebrating their block parties, birthday parties and the graduations of hundreds of our DCPS students.
- ★ Launched "Ward 4 Cares", my constituent services fund that will allow us to make small contributions to deserving residents in need and special community projects. Thank you to our "Ward 4 Cares" Committee who will help us with a fun-filled year of special events to support the Fund. Please join us to celebrate Muriel's Birthday, August 2nd at the home of Loretta Neumann and Dan Smith. Please see the list of Upcoming Events below for more information.
- ★ Briefed DC government agency directors on Ward 4 priorities, especially the schools, economic development and the agencies directly affecting our neighborhoods: Metropolitan Police, Department of Public Works and the Department of Transportation.

I look forward to continuing to share our progress with you in this Focus on 4 newsletter.

Call on us anytime,
Muriel Bowser
 Councilmember, Ward 4

FOCUS ON WARD 4 SCHOOLS

★ Councilmember Muriel Bowser will host a Town Hall meeting on education with Chancellor Michelle Rhee, Thursday, August 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 PM at the Sharpe Health School, 4301 13th Street, NW, Washington, D.C. We need your input.

Join us to hear the Chancellor's vision for change to improve student achievement, an update on Ward 4 schools modernization, and a discussion about how the community can help change outcomes for our kids. Don't miss this important discussion.

★ Councilmember Bowser formed a Ward 4 Education Compact to advise her on critical education issues affecting Ward 4 schools, students and surrounding communities. The Compact will consist of members from each ANC in the Ward. "As we embark on the single most important task of this government—improving our schools—public input is critical," Muriel says. Stay tuned for details and forthcoming meetings.

★ Councilmember Muriel Bowser toured MacFarland Middle School and Rudolph Elementary School on June 28, 2007. Muriel invited Council Chairman Vincent Gray along with teachers, parents, PTA Presidents, ANC Commissioners, and other community leaders. Muriel and this group of community activists reviewed the schools' profiles and demographics, the current conditions of both schools, outstanding work orders, and the Master Facilities Plan. We met with MacFarland Principal Antonia (Tony) Peters and Rudolph Principal Carol Barbour. Muriel is working hard with the Council Chairman to ensure that needed academic enrichment and school modernizations are completed as soon as possible.

New Fields for Coolidge and Roosevelt

★ On June 15th, 2007, the first District-wide school modernization project started with the construction of athletic fields at Roosevelt Senior High School and Coolidge Senior High School. The city-wide project will cost \$21.5 million and is managed by the DC Sports and Entertainment Commission on behalf of DC Public Schools (DCPS). The athletic fields will receive the highest quality synthetic field surfaces used at many college and professional stadiums as well as other upgrades to bleachers, press boxes, track and field race courses and other amenities. We're looking forward to new facilities to be enjoyed by students and community members alike. Muriel is pleased to see that the renovation has not hampered the many neighborhood runners and walkers who continue to loop around the blocks surrounding Coolidge Senior High School!

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WARD 4

Save the Date....

★ Councilmember Muriel Bowser will host a Business Roundtable on October 4, 2007. The Roundtable will bring businesses together to discuss how to improve the business climate in the Ward, how to take advantage of existing programs and services and how the revitalization of our corridors will be good for business. Don't miss this important discussion.

Way to Go Gateway!

★ Muriel joined Ward 4 residents and visitors to the First Annual S.E.E. Gateway Georgia Avenue this past Saturday, July 21, 2007. Something Enjoyable for Everyone was a family-friendly event designed to bring residents out to the Gateway to visit and support local businesses.

The event was sponsored by the Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corporation, a 501 (c)(3) non-profit community development corporation and National Main Street designee.

The 7300 to 7800 blocks of Georgia Avenue, NW and the 7800 block of Eastern Avenue, NW were bustling with activity and people as local businesses and non profit organizations, including the Office of Councilmember Muriel Bowser, staffed tables at the Shepherd Park Library, and where neighbors participated in a scrabble tournament. Muriel has visited all participating businesses to say thank you for investing in Georgia Avenue where Good Things are Happening.

For more information about Gateway Georgia Avenue please contact:

Marc D. Loud/Gateway Executive Director at 202-291-2400 or by email: gatewaycdc@aol.com.

Groundbreaking on Georgia Avenue

★ On July 16th, 2007 Councilmember Bowser broke ground on the new 'Residences at Georgia Avenue', a mixed-use and affordable housing development that is part of the revitalization of the Georgia Avenue corridor. Muriel joins the community in welcoming new, high-quality affordable housing opportunities to the Avenue along with an organic grocery store.

Muriel co-hosted an Economic Development hearing on revitalizing Georgia Avenue

★ On Friday evening, June 29th, Councilmember Muriel Bowser and Councilmember Kwame Brown hosted a hearing about economic development along the Georgia Avenue corridor. There were over 30 witnesses who offered testimony about their vision for Georgia Avenue. The 14th Street, Riggs Road, and Kennedy Street corridors were also part of the discussion. The audience included another 50 community members who came to hear the testimony. The witness list was comprised of business owners, ANC Commissioners, civic association leaders, nonprofit leaders, developers and DC government officials. "We are committed to making sure that Ward 4 has the economic development required for all residents to be able to shop, dine, live, work and play right here in Ward 4," said Muriel. This hearing was one more opportunity to hear from the community. Muriel continues to encourage the community's active engagement in all economic development opportunities and discussions.

Muriel joins the Office of Planning in announcing plans for Riggs Road and Kennedy Street

★ Georgia Avenue is not the only place getting a lot of attention. The Office of Planning (OP) also conducted major planning activities for Riggs Road/South Dakota Avenue and Kennedy Street. OP initiated the first in a series of planning meetings with the Lamond Riggs Community to discuss the potential for development a half mile around the intersection of Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue. A major development project promises to transform the landscape and bring a more pedestrian-friendly area, along with neighborhood serving retail and amenities.

★ Revitalizing Kennedy Street was also the subject of two public meetings. OP launched a comprehensive planning effort to look at ways to attract a variety of new investment and amenities to the corridor. This effort is in very preliminary stages. More public input is planned.

KEEPING OUR NEIGHBORHOODS SAFE

Muriel joins EMS Chief Dennis Rubin to announce the confiscation of illegal fireworks

On July 3rd, Councilmember Muriel Bowser and DC Fire and EMS Chief Dennis Rubin announced the apprehension of at least 10 individuals who were engaged in the sale and distribution of illegal fireworks worth tens of thousands of dollars. This was the result of the task force established to investigate and crack down on the illegal use of fireworks. Drugs and illegal handguns were also collected.

We have heard from residents all over Ward 4 with great suggestions for strengthening the law to aid in enforcement of illegal fireworks and explosives being used in the District. Muriel is considering all options and will keep you updated via this newsletter.

News from the DC Attorney General's Office

On July 12, 2007, Attorney General Linda Singer announced that her office obtained a consent order against the owner of 723 Taylor Street, NW and requested that the residents of this address be evicted by August 1, 2007. This property has been a nuisance property and the site of unlawful distribution, storage and use of controlled substances and drug paraphernalia as well as illegal firearms. Arrests of eight individuals at this address have occurred on October 3, 2006 and again on June 14, 2007.

Councilmember Muriel Bowser applauds this combined effort by the Office of the Attorney General, the Metropolitan Police Department and the Nuisance Property Task Force to create a safer, drug-free neighborhood for the residents in and around the 700 block of Taylor Street, NW. "We hope this action by the Attorney General's Office will help nearby residents feel safe and will eliminate the distribution and use of illegal drugs and firearms," Muriel said.

RECENT COMMUNITY EVENTS

★ We were proud to show support for the 15th Annual Caribbean Carnival on June 23 and 24th and kick off the weekend-long festivities by walking in the "Extravaganza Parade" along Georgia Avenue on June 23rd. The Annual Caribbean Carnival develops and encourages cross-cultural programs for a better understanding of Caribbean culture, arts, and crafts.

★ We also showed our support for the 41st Annual Palisades Citizen's Association's Fourth of July Parade along MacArthur Blvd.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Graffiti Blitz – Saturday July 28th – Georgia Avenue, NW

Councilmember Muriel Bowser, along with the Mayor's Clean City Coordinator and the Department of Public Works are organizing a graffiti blitz to combat graffiti along the Georgia Avenue corridor on Saturday July 28th. Please come out and participate. We need everyone's help to keep Ward 4 clean.

Legg Mason Tennis Classic 2007

Ward 4 is proud to host the annual Legg Mason Tennis Classic beginning July 28th until August 5, 2007 on the grounds of Carter Barron at 16th Street and Kennedy Streets, NW in the William H.G. Fitzgerald Tennis Center. This is the Washington, DC US Open Tennis Tournament. The event has competitions including 48 singles and 16 doubles teams and will benefit the Washington Tennis and Education Foundation (WTEF), a non-profit organization that strives to improve the life of Washington, DC young people through tennis education and community-based activities. For more information about the tennis classic please call 202-721-9500.

Birthday Party for Councilmember Bowser - Thursday, August 2

Save the date! August 2nd from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM to celebrate the birthday of our Councilmember Muriel Bowser. Daniel Smith and Loretta Neumann are hosting this event at their home 7124 Piney Branch Road, NW. Please respond by July 27th to Kamaria Mabry at 202-741-0915 or kmabry@dccouncil.us.

Citywide Job Fair – Wednesday, August 22, 2007

With more vendors, more space and more jobs available to eager job seekers, the DC Department of Human Resources (DCHR) is proud to announce that the 2007 Citywide Job Fair will be held on Wednesday, August 22, 2007 at the Washington Convention Center from 10 am to 4 pm.

RESOURCES

DC Bar Pro Bono Program has a FREE advice and referral clinic every month for the residents of the District of Columbia on the second Saturday from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The Advice and Referral Clinic operates out of two locations: Bread for the City's Northwest Center at 1525 7th Street NW, and Bread for the City's Southeast Center at 1640 Good Hope Road, SE. Parking is available and both locations are Metro accessible.

They also operate a website for FREE legal and referral information for residents of the District: www.lawhelp.org/dc. Lawhelp.org/dc is a project of the D.C. Consortium of Legal Service Providers with financial support provided by the Legal Services Corporation. For more information call: 202-737-4700, ext. 380.