



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



# FOCUS ON

*October 12, 2007*

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## Dear Neighbors -

Here is the Council calendar for the upcoming week:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15

10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman - Agenda item: 1. "District of Columbia Regional Airports Authority Clarification Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0236.

10:30 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman - Agenda item: 1. "Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center Designation Act of 2007", Bill 17-0368.

Councilmember Bowser introduced this legislation to name the Kennedy Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW the Hattie G. Holmes Senior Wellness Center. Ms. Holmes was a community activist, serving as Chair of ANC 4D and was very active in the Ward 4 Democrats, the Upper Northwest Citizens Group, the MPD 4th District Citizens' Advisory Council. She was also an advocate for seniors' quality of life and promoted healthy lifestyles. For years she insisted that seniors must have a center in Ward 4 to call their own and now they do.

12:00 (NOON), COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development Update on McMillan Sand Filtration Site and the Convention Center Hotel".

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Committee of the Whole meeting postponed to October 23

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17

None

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, David A. Catania, Chairperson Agenda item: 1. "The SafeRx Act of 2007".

11:00 AM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson  
Agenda item: "Child Support Compliance Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0291.

11:00 AM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson  
Agenda item: "Appointment of the Chief Medical Examiner Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0351.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19

12:00 (NOON), ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson,  
Chairperson Agenda item: Domestic Partnership Amendments Act of 2007", Bill 17-0135.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20

2:30 PM, THE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM, THURGOOD MARSHALL ACADEMY, 2427 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. AVENUE, SE,  
PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson Agenda item:  
"Development at Poplar Point".

I hope this information is helpful and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: [www.dccouncil.us](http://www.dccouncil.us).

*Muriel*

## Recent Events

### Summary of Ward 4 Town Hall Meeting on Crime – October 11

On Thursday, October 11, Muriel was joined by close to one hundred Ward 4 neighbors, along with representatives from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) including Assistant Chief Diane Groomes and the 4th District Commander Hilton Burton, and Presiding Judge Anita Josey-Herring from the DC Superior Court-Family Court Division, Janice Ferebee from the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council, Robert Hildum from the DC Attorney General's Public Safety Division, the Alliance of Concerned Men, Peaceaholics, the Latin American Youth Center, and Concerned Parents of Petworth for a discussion about crime issues.

The meeting addressed recent crime trends, planned police response, the juvenile justice system and rehabilitation programs, and resources available for families with young people. MPD acknowledged there has been an increase in street robberies and they committed to putting more officers on foot beat in the areas mentioned during the meeting. The Chief of Police will launch "Operation Full Stride" on October 12. This program will rejuvenate the link between the police and the community by increasing the police presence and incorporating foot patrol officers into routine police patrols. Currently, MPD has 50 police officers who are assigned throughout the city to a foot beat. "Operation Full Stride" will immediately add another 150 to the foot patrol ranks, with foot beat officers patrolling neighborhoods in all seven police Districts. Additionally, another 100 officers will be hired to join the ranks of the police force this year. Many of those will be deployed to Ward 4.

When walking alone residents are reminded to:

- Not carry a lot of cash. Women should carry money somewhere other than their purses. Men should carry their wallets in an inside coat pocket or a front pants pocket.
- Don't be flashy. Expensive clothes and jewelry can make you a target for thieves.
- Avoid shortcuts through dark, secluded areas. Stay where other people are around.
- Avoid walking alone. If you jog or walk for exercise, do it with others.
- Walk with confidence. Thieves are more likely to single out those who appear hesitant or unsure of themselves.
- When walking to your residence or car, always have your keys ready so you will spend as little time as possible in the open.
- If you are being harassed, loudly say, "Leave me alone!" If that doesn't stop the harassment, continue to attract people's attention and head toward any type of facility where other people are around.
- If you are confronted, give up your valuables.
- Try to stay out of arm's reach of the attacker. Don't let the attacker move you into an alley or car. Your best defense if the attacker persists is to scream and run.
- Consider purchasing a personal alarm for defensive purposes.
- Look into self-defense classes. Many are offered in the community.

We heard from residents about a number of streets, alleys and intersections that need increased police presence. These included nuisance properties and alleys and garages that become popular locations for illegal activities. The police diligently took note of those areas and we will follow up with Commander Burton to make sure those issues are addressed.

There were lots of good suggestions made throughout the evening. We heard that the juvenile justice system has already begun a closer collaboration with DC government services to provide a coordinated delivery of services to young people and their families. We also heard that more in-school employment and apprenticeship opportunities are needed for young people and constructive after-school activities such as a dedicated wall for creating murals to discourage graffiti. We will investigate whether young people could participate or be hired to clean up graffiti. Muriel committed to strengthen the laws for people convicted of destruction of property through acts such as graffiti.

Muriel and all the panelists appreciated the community feedback and are all committed to make sure that Ward 4 families have the police protection, education, mental health, and other social services resources that are needed for a safe, vibrant and healthy Ward 4. We look forward to collaborating with residents and all of the service providers to follow up on the issues highlighted. Stay tuned for information about another Ward 4 town hall meeting in the coming months.

### **Summary of Dog Parks Regulations meeting – October 6**

On Saturday, October 6th, at Emery Recreation Center, Muriel hosted a meeting to review the revised dog park regulations.

In 2005, DC City Council unanimously passed the “Dog Park Establishment Amendment Act of 2005” requiring DPR to establish rules and regulations for dog parks throughout the city. A task force met for one year and published draft regulations in March 2007. Those draft regulations then led to six public hearings this spring where the community commented on the regulations.

A revised version of the final proposed dog park regulations will be published by the DC Office of Documents and Administrative Issuance and will appear in the DC Register on October 12, 2007 for a 30-day public comment period. Copies may be obtained from the Department of Parks and Recreation located at 3149 16th Street, NW, Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or on the DPR website: [www.dpr.dc.gov](http://www.dpr.dc.gov). All persons wishing to comment on the subject matter of the revised proposed rulemaking shall submit comments, in writing, no later than the thirty (30) days after the date of publication (November 10, 2007) of this notice in the DC Register.

In FY 2008, \$600,000 was allocated to DPR to implement the law. DPR anticipates that each dog park will cost \$150,000 to \$200,000 depending on the size and the grading, etc... Costs include fencing, drainage, grading and a special surface to absorb moisture. DPR anticipates building two or three dog parks this first year.

Applications to create dog parks will need to be filed by nonprofit organizations who have received 501(c) (3) designation by the IRS. Prior to the submission of their application, sponsoring organizations will need to solicit the support of their ANC and neighboring residents. Sponsoring organizations will be responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the park. DPR will write a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with each sponsoring organization to govern the relationship between the two and the dog park. Organizations which don't adhere to the MOU will be forced to close their dog park or transfer sponsorship to another organization. DPR will review each application with a commission comprised of several DC agencies and community members and will do so within 30 days.

There was a discussion about potential sites in Ward 4. Only currently owned DC government land will be considered for potential dog parks. The sites that came up most frequently in the discussion included: the corner of Arkansas Avenue and Allison Street, a wooded area behind Fort Stevens Recreation Center, a portion of the land near Clarke Elementary School at Buchanan and Kansas Avenue, Pinehurst Circle, the open grassy area near the MPD 4th District on Georgia Avenue and a portion of the land at the Takoma Recreation Center. Muriel encourages ANCs and civic organizations to review the issue and will look forward to working closely with the community to determine Ward 4's interest.

## Upcoming Events

### Fire Prevention Week - Activities on October 13 and 14

The theme of National Fire Prevention Week is: Practice Your Escape Plan. The goal is to save lives and prevent injuries by teaching citizens about planning and practicing fire safety drills.

Youth Safety Day is Saturday October 13, 2007 from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM at the Paul Public Charter School, 5800 8th Street NW, Washington, DC 20011. This is a community outreach event designed to educate young people, their families and the surrounding community about how to evacuate safely from their homes. The Fire Safety House will be present at this event. For more information please contact: Samone Hoston, DC Fire and EMS Department at (202) 727-1600.

Open House on Sunday October 14th, 2007 at All FEMS Firehouses from 11 am – 3 pm. Firefighters will be on hand to distribute fire safety materials and speak to visitors about the importance of practicing and planning evacuation drills, the importance of smoke alarms and other home fire safety tips.

### DCPS Garden Week Kick Off – October 15th

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser, Mayor Adrian Fenty, and George Hawkins, Director of the DC Department of the Environment on Monday, October 15, 11:00 am at La Salle Elementary School at 501 Riggs Road, NE to kick-off the DC Public Schools' Garden Week. The photo contest winners will be announced and LaSalle Elementary Students will have a presentation and wetland planting.

Refreshments will be provided. For more information please contact Grace Manubay, Chair, DC Schoolyard Greening at 202-680-8933 or email: [gmanubay@caseytrees.org](mailto:gmanubay@caseytrees.org)

### Seminar on How to Prevent Financial Crimes Against Seniors – October 16

Did you know that seniors are much more likely to be at risk for financial scams? Please come learn more about the various types of fraud that affect seniors and how to protect yourself and your loved ones. New scams are popping up every day. Building awareness of what to look for is the best way for you to make the soundest financial decisions. Some of the scams to be aware of include: fake check scams, mortgage scams, digital tv transition, and pay day loan fraud.

Learn to spot the scams at a seminar on Tuesday October 16, 2007 from 11 AM to 12:30 PM at Emory United Methodist Church, 6100 Georgia Avenue, NW. For more information please contact: Uzo Nwokwu at 202-829-5732.

## Resources

### Reminder to Water Street Trees

Please remember to water trees in your yards, in the tree boxes along the street and even in nearby parks and public space. Lots of trees planted by the city and Casey Trees are really suffering. Stretch a hose, carry some buckets, push a wheeled trash can full of water -- whatever you can do will help.

Please note that applications for spring plantings are due to Casey Trees by Nov. 30. Casey Trees will provide trees, tools and technical equipment to neighbors and groups that organize a planting. They will help with permits too. Plantings can be on public lands, at private

homes, schools, and churches. They would prefer that tree box plantings be done by the city and they are focusing on the other areas. Imagine a hot street where the front yards are bare of trees being transformed into a tree-lined, shady, cool street through the generosity of Casey Trees and the efforts of neighbors some weekend day! Get organized and plant trees! Visit the Casey Tree Foundation website for more information: <http://www.caseytrees.org/index.html>.

### **Changes to Trash Collection Schedule and Leaf Collection Begins Soon!**

The DC Department of Public Works (DPW) will send District residents in affected neighborhoods information announcing new trash and recycling collection schedules to begin October 15, 2007. New brochures announcing the fall/winter 2007-2008 leaf collection season will be sent to residents to all neighborhoods.

“Currently, the Monday/Thursday routes are heavier than the Tuesday/Friday routes, and the sanitation team may change from one day to the next,” said DPW Director William O. Howland, Jr. “We’re going to balance out the routes and maintain the same team for both days, which will result in residents seeing improved service from sanitation workers who are taking more ownership of their work.”

Signs announcing the new trash and recycling schedules will be posted in affected neighborhoods. In addition to posted signs, residents in those areas will also receive brightly colored door knockers listing the revised recycling schedule. Super can routes will not change and only a small percentage of the twice-a-week collection routes will be affected.

Leaf collection brochures will notify residents that the new leaf collection season will run from November 5, 2007, until January 12, 2008, and includes a ward-by-ward collection schedule. It also provides instructions on how residents should prepare their leaves for collection, and other useful recycling information.

To find out if your neighborhood will be affected by the new trash and recycling schedules, or for more information on leaf collection and other DPW programs, please call (202) 727-1000 or visit DPW’s website at [www.dpw.dc.gov](http://www.dpw.dc.gov).

### **Free Graffiti Removal Kits are Available!**

DC Department of Public Works wants home and building owners to know that they can call (202) 727-1000 to receive free graffiti removal kits for the quick removal of graffiti to the outside of their property. The kit includes a voucher for free paint from select Duron and McCormick paint stores. Free, non toxic solvents are also available for graffiti removal on bare brick and sensitive surfaces.

District property owners can redeem their free vouchers at McCormick Paints located at 15th and P Streets, NW, and Duron Paints located at 14th and Clifton Streets, NW. The paint store will match the color of the paint of the property and will provide property owners with paint, primer, a brush, roller, pan, drop cloth, and graffiti scrubs free of charge.

The graffiti removal solvent, which is applied and sprayed off with a garden hose, contain no phosphates, chlorinated hydrocarbons, Xylene or any other products known to cause health or disposal problems for graffiti removal technicians. The solution is 100% biodegradable and meets U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

Requests for a voucher and/or the solvent (there is a separate formula for bare brick and masonry, and a separate formula for sensitive surfaces) can be made by calling the Mayor’s Citywide Call Center at (202) 727-1000. Property owners should expect to receive kit items within five days of making a request. You will be asked to sign the voucher when they redeem it at the paint store.