



WARD 4  
**MURIEL**  
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

**FOCUS ON**



*October 26, 2007*

*Happy Halloween!*

## **IN THIS ISSUE ...**

**Council calendar for the week of October 29**

**Summary of October 23 Council legislative session**

**Thanks to the Ward 4 Core Team for October 19th "Fix-it"**

**Ribbon cutting at The Jefferson Condominiums – October 24**

## **Upcoming Events**

**Make A Difference Day – October 27**

**DC Residents Can Apply For Energy Assistance – October 31**

**MPD Halloween Event – October 31**

**WASA Community Meeting – November 5**

**Office of Zoning Public Hearing – November 8**

**Councilmember Bowser's Thanksgiving Baskets – November 20**

## **Resources**

**Tips to improve your Department of Motor Vehicles experience**

## **Dear Neighbors -**

Here is the DC Council calendar for the upcoming week:

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29

10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Excellence in Local Business Contract Grading Act of 2007", Bill 17-0336.

11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson - Agenda items: 1. "The Department of Corrections". "The Corrections Information Council".

12:00 (NOON), ROOM 412, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson - Agenda items: 1. "Washington Convention Center Authority Board of Directors James Josef Abdo Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0395. 2. "Washington Convention Center Authority Board of Directors Mitchell N. Schear Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0396. 3. "District of Columbia Boxing and Wrestling Commission Jason E. Turner Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0451.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman and COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES, Tommy Wells, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "Sense of the Council Regarding Rights and Services for Residents with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their Families Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0428.

10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, Carol Schwartz, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "Special Election Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0264.

### *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](mailto:mbowser@dccouncil.us)

10:00 AM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson - Agenda item: 1. "Frank Harris Jr. Offset Justice Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0436.

11:00 AM, ROOM 412, JOINT PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, Carol Schwartz, Chairperson and COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson - Agenda item: "First Source Employment Agreement and Small, Local, and Disadvantaged Business Enhancement Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0062.

11:00 AM, ROOM 120, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE, Jack Evans, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Property Tax Exemption Clarification Act of 2007", Bill 17-0374. To amend Section 47-1002 of the District of Columbia Official Code to clarify what types of non-profit entities are eligible for exemption from property taxes.

2:30 PM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, Carol Schwartz, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Enforcement and Effectiveness of the Language Access Act".

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

10:30 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson - Agenda item: "The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department".

3:00 PM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman - "Fiscal Year 2008 General Obligation Bond Issuance Approval Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0465.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Telecommunications Competition Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0332.

10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, David A. Catania, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Effi Barry HIV/AIDS Initiative Act of 2007".

4:00 PM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Best Practices of Public-Private Partnerships for Economic Development".

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 2

10:00 AM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman - Agenda item: 1. "Public Education Personnel Reform Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0450.

11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, Marion Barry, Chairperson - Agenda items: 1. "Housing Production Trust Fund Board David N. Franco Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0281. 2. "Housing Production Trust Fund Board Maria Patricia Corrales Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0282. 3. "Housing Production Trust Fund Board David Charles Bowers Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0283.

12:00 (NOON), ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson - Agenda item: "Juvenile Speedy Trial Equity Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0431.

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*

### Summary of October 23 Council legislative session

Here is a brief summary of some of the highlights from the DC Council's legislative session on Tuesday, October 23rd. A complete copy of the legislation passed and Councilmember Bowser's votes will be available in our office upon request. We will continue to provide summaries of each session in this newsletter.

- ★ DC Council approved emergency legislation that gives the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS) and DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) 30 days to develop a plan to repair fire hydrants. This legislation requires WASA and FEMS to work together remedy the problems with hydrants and water pressure. Muriel was a sponsor of this legislation introduced by Councilmember Yvette Alexander.
- ★ DC Council approved providing a \$79 million investment into a public/private partnership with Specialty Hospitals of America, LLC into an asset purchase agreement with Envision Hospital Corporation and Greater Southeast Community Hospital Corporation to purchase the land, facilities and equipment at Great Southeast Community Hospital.

★ DC Council approved naming the Kennedy Senior Wellness Center at 324 Kennedy Street, NW the “Hattie G. Holmes Senior Wellness Center.” Ms. Holmes was a community activist who advocated for seniors’ quality of life. She served as Chair of ANC4D and for years she insisted that seniors have a Center in Ward 4. Muriel introduced this legislation.

### **Thanks to the Ward 4 Core Team for the October 19th “Fix-it”**

On October 19th, the Ward 4 Core Team, which includes our office and the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services, DPW, DCRA, Fire/EMS, the Office of Clean City, the local ANC Commissioners and US Attorney General’s office, conducted a Fix-It in the alley between 7th Street, Quincy and Randolph Streets, NW.

There were five abandoned cars removed along with sofas and other furniture. Additionally, there was graffiti removed, weed abatement performed, and much additional bulk trash removed. Thanks for the collaboration to improve the condition of this alley. It was a great success. We appreciate the efforts to keep Ward 4 clean and safe. If you would like to schedule a “Fix-It” in your neighborhood, please contact Ayana Rockett at [Ayana.rockett@dc.gov](mailto:Ayana.rockett@dc.gov) or by calling 202-442-8161.

### **Ribbon cutting at The Jefferson Condominiums – October 24**

Councilmember Bowser was joined by Mayor Fenty and former Mayor Sharon Pratt for a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 24th at the new, 39-unit condominium building at 9th and Jefferson Streets, NW. This building was renovated by BHI International. These new condominium units are providing economic development which will enable Ward 4 residents to eat, shop, live, work and play in Ward 4. “I’m so pleased to celebrate this milestone with the community,” stated Councilmember Bowser. “I will continue to do my best to make sure that the full weight of the City’s agencies support neighborhood development all over Ward 4.”

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Make A Difference Day – October 27**

"Make A Difference Day" is one of the volunteer days that Serve DC supports and we want to make sure that Ward 4 residents know about it and the potential impact it can have on the community. Please consider volunteering for the "national day of doing good." Make A Difference Day is a national effort designed to mobilize citizens in communities across the country in volunteer service. Make A Difference Day is co-sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine with the support of Paul Newman and Newman's Own, and in collaboration with local governments, nonprofits and businesses. For more information please visit: [www.serve.dc.gov](http://www.serve.dc.gov) or call 202-727-7925 to find out about a project in your neighborhood.

### **DC Residents Can Apply For Energy Assistance – October 31**

On Wednesday, October 31, 2007, the District Department of the Environment (DDOE) along with their partners, the Public Service Commission (PSC), Office of the People’s Counsel (OPC) and the four DC utilities -- Pepco, Washington Gas, WASA and Verizon are hosting a Joint Utility Discount Day (JUDD) at the Washington Convention Center. District residents in need are encouraged to apply at the DC Convention Center at 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW, from 8am to 7pm.

This event is an opportunity for low-income DC residents to apply for financial assistance with energy bills as well as take advantage of home weatherization services and discounts offered by the four utility companies.

DDOE is also currently accepting emergency applicants whose Pepco or Washington Gas service has been disconnected or they are out of heating oil. Emergency applicants must bring the disconnection notice, proof of household income, most recent utility bills, and a picture ID. On November 19, 2007, eligible residents may apply for energy assistance and discounts through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Please share this information with neighbors, friends and family. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call DDOE’s Energy Hotline at (202) 673-6750.

### **MPD Halloween Event – October 31**

There are many Halloween events at the schools and recreation facilities throughout Ward 4 on Wednesday October 31st. Please contact each for their schedule of events. Please have a fun and safe Halloween.

The Fourth District Metropolitan Police Department would like to invite residents to visit their Haunted House at 6001 Georgia Avenue, NW on Wednesday October 31, 2007 from 6 to 8 pm. There will be a costume contest, games and light refreshments. The Haunted House tour is for ages 5 to 11 with an adult escort. For more information please contact Alicia Rucker, Fourth District Community Outreach Coordinator at (202) 576-7247.

### **WASA Community Meeting – November 5**

DC Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) is holding a series of public meetings for residents to learn about what WASA is doing to help control pollution in the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers along with Rock Creek and what residents can do help. The next meeting is Monday November 5th from 7 to 8 pm at the Petworth Neighborhood Library at 4200 Kansas Avenue, NW (close to the intersection with Georgia Avenue and Upshur Street). Over the next 20 years, WASA will be spending more than \$2 billion dollars to reduce 96 percent of the combined sewer overflows into our waterways. Please attend this meeting and learn more about water pollution control, share your views and find out what you can do to help. For more information, please contact the WASA Office of Public Affairs at 202-787-2200.

### **Office of Zoning Public Hearing – November 8**

There will be a public hearing on DCMR Title 11 – Text Amendment to Eliminate the Certificate of Occupancy Requirement for Community Based Residential Facilities (CBRFs) Housing Six or Less Persons with Disabilities on Thursday November 8th at 6:30 PM at the Office of Zoning Hearing Room at 441 – 4th Street, NW, Suite 220-South.

On September 6th, the Office of Zoning received a petition from the Office of Planning to amend the zoning regulations to eliminate the requirement that a certificate of occupancy be obtained for community based residential facilities intended to house six or fewer unrelated persons with disabilities. At present, the Zoning Regulations require certificates of occupancy for all uses EXCEPT one-family dwellings. A family is defined as including six or fewer unrelated people. Thus, six unrelated people constitute a family and may occupy a dwelling without first obtaining a certificate of occupancy. However, if additional people are required to live there to provide treatment, rehabilitation, assistance or supervision, the dwelling would meet the definition of a community based residential facility and a certificate of occupancy must be obtained.

All individuals, organizations or associations wishing to testify should file in writing their intention to testify. Written statements, in lieu of personal appearances may be submitted for inclusion in the record. Testimony should be sent to Sharon Schelling, Secretary of the Zoning Commission, Office of Zoning, Suite 210-S, 441 -4th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001. More information can be obtained by calling 202-727-6311.

### **Councilmember Bowser's Thanksgiving Baskets – November 20**

On Tuesday, November 20, 2007, Councilmember Muriel Bowser will be distributing Thanksgiving baskets to needy Ward 4 residents. We are in need of volunteers to assist in putting the baskets together on the morning of November 20 at the Emery Recreation Center, 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW, from 9am – 1pm. We will begin distributing the baskets at 1pm until 8pm.

Persons needing Thanksgiving Baskets must call the office, 202-724-8052, to request a basket. Preference will be given to families with minor children, senior citizens, and disabled persons.

If you are available to volunteer for basket assembly, please call Ms. Gloria Dickerson at 202-724-8052. We look forward to working with you as we assist our ward 4 residents to have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

## Resources

### Tips to improve your Department of Motor Vehicles experience

Before visiting a Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) location, please make sure that you have current up-to-date documentation for each transaction. In addition, using credit cards, checks or money orders will speed your process. Many DMV services are now available on-line also. Please visit: <http://dmv.dc.gov/serv/online.shtm> for forms and documents you might need for your DMV visit.

In some cases the DMV website allows you to "skip the trip" to the service locations by completing some transactions online. The following services are available online: paying tickets, renewing your vehicle registration, requesting a duplicate vehicle registration, renewing your driver's license, requesting a duplicate driver's license, taking a sample knowledge test, scheduling a road test appointment.

DMV has high volume periods when customers will wait longer to receive service. To avoid long lines, please visit the service centers on Wednesdays and Thursdays (however, there will normally be a line prior to opening at all of our service centers). The inspection station experiences less customer volume on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday afternoons from 3 pm to 6 pm. Customers are advised that the days before and after a holiday are especially busy due to many customers being off from work. For more information, please contact the Department of Motor Vehicles at 95 M Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024 or by calling (202) 727-5000.

### 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](mailto:mbowser@dccouncil.us)  
[www.murielbowser.com](http://www.murielbowser.com)