



WARD 4
MURIEL
 BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER



FOCUS ON

November 9, 2007

IN THIS ISSUE ...

- Council calendar for the week of November 12**
- Summary of November 6 Council legislative session**
- Muriel hosted meeting about Falkland Chase development in Silver Spring**
- Metro Board Approves Takoma Metro Development**

Upcoming Events

- Home Energy Efficiency Expo – November 10**
- DHCD Public Needs Hearings – November 14**
- MPD hosts Holiday Safety Awareness Seminar – November 14**
- DCPS hearing on fiscal year 2009 budget – November 15**
- Muriel hosts a Community Health Fair – November 17**
- Muriel hosts meeting on Rock Creek Parkway construction – November 19**
- Save the Date - Councilmember Bowser's Holiday Party – December 15**

Resources

- DOES One-Stop Mobile Van coming near you!**
- Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind needs volunteers**

Dear Neighbors -

Here is the DC Council calendar for the upcoming week:

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12 - Veterans Day Holiday Observed – Offices are closed

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13

10:30 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman
 Agenda items: 1. "Contingency Cash Reserve Transparency Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0443. 2. "Fiscal Year 2008 Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2007", Bill 17-0445. To authorize an increase of fiscal year 2008 Local Funds appropriation authority and the use of funds available in the projected fiscal year 2007 year-end fund balance, revised fiscal year 2008 revenues, and fiscal year 2008 operating cash reserve.

1:30 PM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, Carol Schwartz, Chairperson
 Agenda item: 1. "Director of the Office on Latino Affairs Maria Mercedes Lemp Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0452.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

10:00 AM, ROOM 120, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson
 Agenda item: "District of Columbia Community Development Entity Establishment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0474.

10:00 AM, ROOM 123, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND THE JUDICIARY, Phil Mendelson, Chairperson
 Agenda item: "The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department".

11:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, Carol Schwartz, Chairperson
 Agenda item: "Director/Chief Risk Officer of the Office of Risk Management Kelly Valentine Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0344.

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11:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, Vincent C. Gray, Chairman Agenda item: "Board of Zoning Adjustment Mary Oates Walker Confirmation Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0522.

2:00 PM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS, Mary M. Cheh, Chairperson Agenda item: Consumer Protection in the District of Columbia".

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15

9:45 AM, ROOM 120, PUBLIC ROUNDTABLE, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE, Jack Evans, Chairperson Agenda items: 1. "Washington Drama Society, Inc. Revenue Bonds Project Approval Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0526. 2. "Qualified Zone Academy Revenue Bonds Approval Resolution of 2007", PR 17-0529.

10:00 AM, ROOM 412, PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS, Marion Barry, Chairperson Agenda item: 1. "Square 5877 Residential Development Stimulus Act of 2007", Bill 17-0338.

10:00 AM, ROOM 120, JOINT PUBLIC HEARING, COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND REVENUE, Jack Evans, Chairperson and COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, Kwame R. Brown, Chairperson Agenda items: 1. "Disposition and Redevelopment of Lot 854, in Square 441 Approval Act of 2007", Bill 17-0453. 2. "New Convention Hotel Omnibus Financing and Development Amendment Act of 2007", Bill 17-0459. 3. "Rhode Island Metro Plaza Revenue Bonds Approval Act of 2007", Bill 17-0461.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16

10:00 AM, COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROOM 500, PUBLIC OVERSIGHT HEARING, COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND THE ENVIRONMENT, Jim Graham, Chairperson Agenda item: "Major Bridge Construction Projects in the District".

I hope this information is helpful and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Muriel

Summary of November 6 Council legislative session

Here is a brief summary of some of the highlights from the DC Council's legislative session on Tuesday, November 6th. A complete summary of the meeting is available in our office upon request. We will continue to provide highlights of each session in this newsletter.

Muriel introduced Bill #B17-0493 "Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2007". The purpose of this legislation is to require companies to provide detailed information about the health risks of home pesticide application. This legislation, if passed, would ensure that consumers are equipped with all the information they need before deciding to have pesticide applied in their home.

Muriel introduced a ceremonial resolution which received unanimous support to recognize the contributions of Ms. Minnie Green for her commitment to civil rights and her dedication to improving the safety and well being of all residents in the District of Columbia. Ms. Green was also honored at the recent Metropolitan Police Department Fourth District Awards Dinner on October 19th.

Final vote was taken on the Bicycle Commuter and Parking Expansion Act of 2007. This new law will provide for the accommodation of additional bicycle racks in public space including in new condo and apartment buildings.

Muriel hosted meeting about Falkland Chase development in Silver Spring

On Wednesday, November 7th, Councilmember Bowser hosted a meeting about the proposed development at the Falkland Chase Apartments just over the Ward 4 border in Silver Spring. The developer, Home Properties, described their plans to the North Portal and Montgomery County residents assembled at the meeting. Their plans include a mix-used 15 story building with affordable housing units on the corner of 16th Street and East-West Highway. The building will consist of 1,059 units and underground parking to accommodate 1,489 vehicles and is slated to be completed in 2009. The development will only affect the north parcel of Falkland Chase and not the east and west parcels. The landscaping of the corner will be lowered for better blending of the nine acres to be utilized.

Residents expressed concerns about the compatibility of the design of the new building with the surrounding neighborhood and the changes to traffic patterns, mostly a potential for increased traffic that will be traveling around the circle at 16th Street and Colesville Road. Residents felt the developers must hold Montgomery County officials accountable for traffic issues on 16th Street and also in Ward 4. There were also concerns about the historic preservation of the Falkland Chase community. Councilmember Bowser will continue to work with the developers and Montgomery County officials to monitor this project and any potential repercussions on Ward 4 residents.

Metro Board Approves Takoma Metro Development

On November 8, Metro's Board of Directors approved the sale of land and development plans for a townhouse project next to the Takoma Metrorail station on the red line. The project has been in development since 2000, when the Board selected Bethesda-based EYA as the developer. Metro held public hearings on the plan and further changes were made to the site plan.

The current facilities on the site include a 149-space, surface parking lot, nine bus bays, no designated bus layover spaces, 38 bike racks and 60 lockers. The new development will include up to 157 parking spaces, 10 bus bays and four layover spaces, 50 bicycle racks and 70 lockers. The developer will also construct a roundabout, which will improve bus circulation within the site. New sidewalks and crosswalks will be constructed for safe access to the station and new access roads will be built to the parking and bus facilities. Metro also will analyze an alternative proposal offered by Montgomery County officials and modify the site as appropriate to address pedestrian safety and handicapped access.

The developer also will pay Metro a minimum of \$2.5 million in proceeds from the project. The project will now move for consideration by the Federal Transit Administration and the District's Office of Planning and Zoning Administrator office. For more information please contact, Candace Smith or Lisa Farstein at WMATA at 202-962-1051.

Upcoming Events

Home Energy Efficiency Expo - November 10

Combat high utility bills! Don't miss the FREE DC Energy Expo: Making DC Green, One Resident at a Time! On Saturday, November 10, 2007 from 10-2pm at the Washington Convention Center, 801 Mt Vernon Place NW in Rooms 101 and 102A&B. Take Metrorail to Mount Vernon Square station or Metrobus lines: 66, 70, 71 G8, G2 or P6.

There will be workshops and demonstrations from exhibitors such as Home Depot, The Council of Governments, Energy Service Providers, "Green Loan" providers, the US Department of Energy & local alternative energy companies, all geared to help you lower your bills by making your home green & energy efficient. For more information contact DC Office of the Office of the People's Counsel, Consumer Services at 202-727-3071.

DHCD Public Needs Hearings – November 14

The Department of Housing and Community Development is hosting a series of public hearings to provide residents the opportunity to express their concerns about affordable housing, community development and economic opportunities in the District. The next hearing is on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. at the Emory Beacon of Light, Inc., 6100 Georgia Avenue, NW. The information gathered at these hearings will be used to establish spending priorities in: affordable housing (including special needs populations), homelessness, homeownership, and community development. Residents who wish to testify are encouraged to call (202) 442-7250 or email pamela.hillsman@dc.gov to register.

MPD hosts Holiday Safety Awareness Seminar – November 14

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Fourth District PSA 402 is hosting a Holiday Safety Awareness Seminar on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 1 to 3 PM at the Hattie Holmes Senior Wellness Center, 324 Kennedy Street, NW. During the holiday season, many people become victims to crimes of opportunity as they prepare for the holidays. The seminar will teach you how to keep your family safe. Light refreshments will be served. For more information please contact Heather Straker at 202-715-7411.

DCPS hearing on fiscal year 2009 budget – November 15

On Thursday, November 15, at 6 PM, Chancellor Michelle Rhee will hold a public hearing on the Fiscal Year 2009 budget for District of

Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). The hearing will be held at DCPS offices at 825 North Capitol Street, NE, in the 5th Floor board room. The purpose of the hearing is to solicit public input regarding the FY2009 operating budget for DCPS.

The public is invited to testify. The Chancellor would like to receive testimony about the current and prospective educational needs of students in DC public schools, as well as support systems that are needed to increase safety and efficiency. Testimony may be limited to three minutes per witness and five minutes per organization. If you would like to testify, please contact Traci Higgins in the Chancellor's office at 442-5615 by 5 pm on Wednesday, November 14 or by email: traci.higgins@dc.gov. Witnesses should bring three copies of their written testimony to the hearing.

Written testimony can also be submitted to Ms. Cheryl Vincent, Office of the Chancellor, 825 North Capitol Street, NE, 9th Floor, Washington, DC 20002 no later than 5 pm on Friday, November 23, 2007.

Muriel hosts a Community Health Fair – November 17

Councilmember Bowser will host a Community Health Fair on Saturday November 17th from 11 AM to 3 PM at the Emery Recreation Center located at 5701 Georgia Avenue, NW. This event is cosponsored by the DC Department of Health and the DC Office of the Attorney General. There will be many services available, among them will be: free lead testing for children; HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, flu shots, dental screenings, pneumonia shots (for the elderly), substance abuse screening and counseling, and rodent control information. For more information please contact Joy Holland at 202-724-8052 or jholland@dccouncil.us.

Muriel hosts meeting on Rock Creek Parkway construction – November 19

Muriel is hosting a community meeting along with Councilmember Mary Cheh (Ward 3) on Monday, November 19, 2007 from 6:30 PM to 8 PM to discuss Rock Creek Parkway construction issues. The Superintendent of Rock Creek Park, Adrienne Applewhaite-Coleman, will be present to answer questions and concerns from the community. The meeting will be at the Knollwood Retirement Home, 6200 Oregon Avenue, NW, in the "Gold Room."

Attendees driving into the main entrance at Knollwood Retirement Home should park in the large employee lot (the first sharp left turn after entering from Oregon Avenue) and walk up the hill on the sidewalk to the main entrance.

Also residents can get updates at any time about the status of construction along Rock Creek Parkway from the Federal Highway Administration's website. Please go to www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov. Then look under "Projects" with the subheading "Traffic Advisory." For more information about the meeting, please call Councilmember Bower's office at 202-724-8052.

Save the Date - Councilmember Bowser's Holiday Party – December 15

Please save the date for Councilmember Bowser's Annual Ward 4 Holiday Party at the Kingsbury Day School, 5000 - 14th Street, NW from 6 to 8 PM. We will include more details in this newsletter in the coming weeks.

Resources

DOES One-Stop Mobile van coming near you!

The Georgia Avenue/Rock Creek East Family Support Collaborative is hosting the Department of Employment Services (DOES) One-Stop Mobile van outside their offices at 1104 Allison Street at Georgia Avenue, NW every second Monday of the month from 10 am to 2 pm. Residents can receive information about available jobs and free job training. The next date will be Monday December 10, 2007. Come visit the van before the end of the year and start your job search! For more information please call Shakira Gantt at the Georgia Avenue Family Support Collaborative at 202-722-1815 ext. 351 or by email: sgantt@garcec.org.

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind needs volunteers

Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind, a nonprofit organization serving blind and visually impaired people of all ages in the Washington Metropolitan area, is recruiting adult volunteers to serve as readers and friendly visitors in Ward 4.

Participants in the readers & friendly visitors program are adult volunteers who are matched one-on-one with blind or visually impaired adults. Volunteers arrange weekly meetings with clients at their homes to assist with activities, such as reading mail, grocery shopping or running errands. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please contact Jocelyn Hunter at 202-454-6422 or jhunter@clb.org to attend an upcoming orientation.

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