

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



*A weekly update for residents, visitors,
and workers in the District of Columbia*

Friday, March 4, 2005

SERIOUS CRIME IN DC DECLINES DURING FEBRUARY

Reported crime in DC declined by almost 15 percent in February, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC, continuing the downward trend in crime of the past three years. Overall, there were 2,224 serious crimes reported in the February 2005 time period, compared with 2,632 in the same period of 2004. The February statistics showed that violent crime fell by 6 percent and property crime by 17 percent. The largest reduction for the month occurred in stolen autos, which declined 31 percent citywide and 47 percent in the Sixth Police District, where auto theft has been a particularly serious problem in recent years. Through the first two months of the year, crime in DC was down 18 percent, according to the preliminary data. There have been decreases this year in all major crime categories, except for assault with a deadly weapon, which has risen from 460 to 469 reported offenses. Homicides and stolen autos were both down 30 percent through the end of February. The preliminary data show that so far this year, serious crime is down in all seven police districts, with the Sixth District recording the largest decline.

- ① View the latest preliminary statistics, for each police district and the District as a whole, at: http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/districts/crstats_readthis.shtml
- ① For tips on how you can reduce your risk of becoming a crime victim, check out the Safety Tips page on the MPDC website: <http://www.mpdc.dc.gov/info/tips.shtml>

UPDATE ON PHOTO RADAR WARNING PERIOD

The four new stationary photo radar enforcement cameras recently activated by the MPDC captured more than 25,000 aggressive speeding events during the first two weeks of operation. That's a daily average of approximately 1,800 aggressive speeding events at the four locations combined. The MPDC activated the four new speeding reduction cameras on February 18, which began a 30-day period in which only warning notices are being issued to violators. Beginning March 21, actual Notices of Infraction will be mailed to the registered owners of vehicles caught speeding aggressively by the new stationary cameras. All of the events captured by the cameras are reviewed and certified by an MPDC officer before warning notices or tickets are mailed, and not every event results in a notice being mailed. The four locations recorded the following number of aggressive speeding events during the first 14 days of the warning period: 4700 block of MacArthur Boulevard, NW – 5,524 events; 5400 block of 16th Street, NW – 2,841 events; 100 block of Michigan Avenue, NE – 7,553 events; and the 2800 block of Benning Road, NE, location – 9,560 events. The initial numbers seem to confirm the serious problem of aggressive speeding at these four locations. However, experience with other photo radar locations – both mobile and stationary – shows that the number of violations will decline sharply after only a few months. For example, in the 600 block of Florida Avenue, NE, where the MPDC installed North America's first stationary photo radar camera in February 2004, the rate of aggressive speeding plummeted from more than 11 percent to less than 4 percent in just two months after the camera was activated.

- ① For more information about the four new stationary photo radar speeding reduction cameras, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/news/news.asp?sid=3075>
- ① For detailed information on the photo radar program, including the locations of both stationary cameras and mobile enforcement zones, visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/info/traffic/speed.shtml>
- ① The DC Council's Judiciary Committee recently held a public roundtable on the MPDC's use of automated traffic enforcement. Individuals interested in submitting written comments to the Committee may do so by contacting Sanja Partalo, Legislative Analyst, at (202) 724-8779, or spartalo@dccouncil.us. The hearing record closes March 9.

FAQS ON ... PROTECTION ORDERS FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What is the difference between a Civil Protection Order and a Temporary Protection Orders? Do I have to be a DC resident to be able to file for a TPO/CPO in DC Superior Court? Do I have to be a legal immigrant to seek a protection order in the District? Do I need an attorney to help me obtain a protection order? Is there a cost to obtain a protection order? These are just a few of the questions frequently asked by victims of domestic violence as they seek legal protection against someone who has abused or threatened them. In an attempt to educate victims and other members of the community about the existence of protection orders and the procedures for obtaining them, the MPDC has published an FAQ page on its website. A Civil Protection Order is a court order issued by a judge, lasting up to one year, designed to provide a victim with long-term protection from an abuser. The CPO orders the abuser to stop abusing and/or threatening you, to stay away from you, not to contact you in any way, and provide other forms of relief that you need to be safe. In some cases, the judge will issue a Temporary Protection Order, which is valid for up to 14 days. Learning the facts about protection orders is an important first step that people can take to help stop domestic violence and protect victims.

ROC NORTH LAUNCHES "YOUNG MEN OF DISTINCTION," SEEKS ADULT VOLUNTEERS FOR PILOT PROJECT

The clergy-police-community partnership of Regional Operations Command-North is kicking off a new after-school, safe haven program called "Young Men of Distinction" (MOD), and organizers are seeking adult volunteers who are motivated to work with youth. Organized by the Faith-Based Community Action Partnership (FBCAP), the MOD pilot project is a faith-based effort to provide tutoring, homework supervision and enrichment activities to fifteen 6th and 7th graders at MacFarland Middle School, 4400 Iowa Avenue, NW. The MOD program will operate Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 3:15 to 6:30 pm. The FBCAP is looking for tutors, artists, craftsmen, mentors, musicians, poets, singers and adults with other talents.

NEWS & NOTES

GLLU Open House on March 11. The MPDC's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit has a new home in Dupont Circle, and community members are invited to an open house to celebrate. The GLLU's new headquarters is at 1369-A Connecticut Avenue, NW, in space provided by SunTrust Bank (entrance is on the Massachusetts Avenue side of SunTrust building). The Open House is from 2-10 pm on March 11, with the official ribbon-cutting scheduled for 3 pm. The GLLU's phone number remains (202) 727-5427; the new fax number is (202) 724-4120. For details, visit: <http://www.gaydc.net/gllu/>

Serial Arson Reward Increased. The Arson Task Force investigating a series of arson fires in the DC metropolitan area has announced an increase in the amount of reward money. The reward fund is now up to \$100,000 for information resulting in the arrest and conviction of the person setting these fires. Citizens are asked to call 301-77-ARSON (301-772-7766) with information. For details (in PDF): http://www.atf.gov/press/fy05press/field/030105bal_arsontaskforce.pdf

January Court Reports. Each month, the US Attorney's Community Prosecution Unit publishes a report containing a summary of significant cases that were prosecuted in each police district during the previous month. January reports are now available at: http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html

New FOIA Contact for MPDC. Effective March 1, 2005, all Freedom of Information Act requests involving the MPDC should be addressed to MPDC, Office of the General Counsel, 300 Indiana Ave., NW, Room 4125, Washington, DC 20001, ATTN: Vanessa Murray.

① View the entire FAQ page at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/dvu/dv_faq.shtm

① The MPDC's Domestic Violence Unit serves as a liaison among law enforcement, victim service agencies, victim advocates and the community. Learn more about the unit and its services, as well as domestic violence in general, by going to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/about/units/dvu/dvu.shtm>

① Volunteer opportunities are flexible. Volunteer training will take place on March 8 at 6 pm at MacFarland.

① The program kickoff dinner will be held on March 15.

① For more information or to sign up, call Kathy Minor at ROC-North, at (202) 576-7188, or email her at kathy.minor@dc.gov.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 3/4/05	2004: 183
◆ 2005: 24		
◆ 2004: 32		
◆ % Change: -25.0%		
◆ Closure Rate: 54.2%		(13 closures)
Adult Arrests	week end. 2/26/05	
◆ Total: 776		
◆ Drugs: 112		
◆ Weapons: 32		
◆ Motor Vehicle Theft: 17		
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 26		
Juvenile Activity	week end. 2/26/05	
◆ Arrests: 56		
◆ Curfew Violators: 34		
◆ Truants: 28		
Firearm Recoveries	as of 3/2/05	
◆ March: 5		
◆ February: 311		
◆ 2005 Total: 543		
Traffic Fatalities	as of 3/4/05	
◆ 2005: 5		
◆ 2004: 7		
◆ % Change: -28.6%		

Information, ideas, or comments about this service? Send an e-mail to **KEVIN MORISON**, MPDC's Director of Corporate Communications, at kevin.morison@dc.gov. Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

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