

WHAT'S New in the Metropolitan Police Department



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

Friday, February 24, 2006

CHIEF RAMSEY REPORTS ON MPDC PERFORMANCE

For the third year in a row, crime in the District of Columbia declined significantly in 2005, bringing DC's crime rate to its lowest level in at three-and-a-half decades. Clearance rates for all crime types increased last year, as arrest levels remained strong and gun seizures rose by 14 percent. And the MPDC is generally exceeding its staffing goals for neighborhood patrols in the Police Service Areas. Those were among the highlights that Chief Ramsey reported this past week to the DC Council's Committee on the Judiciary, during the MPDC's annual performance hearing. Ramsey noted that last year's 7 percent drop in crime (as recorded by preliminary statistics) followed reductions of 18 percent and 9 percent the previous two years. Crime was down last year in all seven police districts and in every major crime category except robbery, which rose 6 percent. In the area of crime solving, preliminary figures indicate that clearance rates improved in every crime category last year, with a 61 percent UCR clearance rate for homicide and 74 percent for forcible rape. Even with this progress, Ramsey said crime solving remains one of the Department's priorities in 2006. Ramsey also said there are more officers patrolling DC neighborhoods. In the 20 months since the MPDC restructured the PSA boundaries, the number of members available for full duty in the PSAs rose substantially – with 170 more officers and 32 more sergeants. This was achieved primarily by reaching and maintaining the Department's overall authorized level of 3,800 sworn members and by dramatically cutting – from 13.5 percent to 7 percent – the number of officers unavailable for full duty because of extended sick leave and other factors. Ramsey publicly saluted the rank-and-file members of the MPDC for last year's strong performance. "Our sworn and civilian employees have worked tirelessly and successfully over the past year to make our city even safer. And their hard work – in partnership with the community – continues to reap remarkable safety benefits for our city," he said.

① Read the Chief's full statement to the Judiciary Committee at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1247,q,559338,mpdcNav_GID,1543.asp

WITH ANNUAL BOAT SHOW UNDER WAY, NOW'S A GOOD TIME TO THINK ABOUT BOATING SAFETY

The temperatures outside might not have many people flocking to DC's waterways quite yet. But with the 45th Annual Washington Boat Show wrapping up this weekend at the Washington Convention Center – and with warmer weather just around the corner – now is a good time for boat owners and enthusiasts to review some basic boating safety tips for the upcoming year. The MPDC's Harbor Patrol is committed to ensuring a safe and enjoyable boating season for all. In addition to staffing a safety display at the Boat Show, the Harbor Patrol is once again offering boating safety classes and other information and support to boat owners. DC law requires any registered vessel that is principally used on District waters to obtain a Certificate of Title issued by the Harbor Master, prior to the issuance or renewal of a registration number. All vessels must properly display boat numbers and have a Hull Identification Number (HIN) permanently attached to the transom on the starboard side, above the waterline. In addition, anyone operating a vessel on DC waterways is required to have a Boating Safety Certificate, which is issued to individuals who successfully complete an 8-hour Boating Safety course offered by the Harbor Patrol. The course is held beginning in mid-March and throughout the summer.

① Learn more about the history and function of the Harbor Patrol, as well as legal requirements for boats in DC and some important safety tips, at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547718,mpdcNav,,.asp>

① For more information about the 45th Annual Washington Boat Show, go to:

<http://www.washingtonboatshow.com>

MORE CIVILIAN JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCED BY MPDC

The MPDC is currently accepting applications for at least 15 full-time civilian positions within the agency. Current openings include the following: two Administrative Support Specialists in various police districts (DS-301-11); two Capital Project Specialists in the Facilities Management Administration Section (DS-301-12); a Cellblock Processing Technician in the Second District (DS-807-07); an Applicant Investigator in the Recruiting Branch (DS-1810-09/11); a Materials Handler in the Equipment and Supply Branch (RW-6907-05); a Management Analyst in the Intergovernmental Relations Division (DS-343-13); four Property Clerks in various police districts (DS-303-06); a Supervisory Fingerprint Specialist in the Fingerprint Analysis Branch (MS-072-13); a Supply Technician in the Equipment and Supply Branch (DS-2005-06/07), and a Supervisory Human Resources Specialist in the Labor and Employee Relations Unit (MS-201-14). The Department also continues to seek candidates for part-time Crossing Guard positions. The closing dates for the new positions vary, but all are in early March. Salaries, tours of duty and other elements of the jobs also vary. The MPDC employs several hundred civilian members, working in various administrative, technical, operational and management positions.

MAYOR ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Mayor Williams this week announced that DC is one of 16 states to receive a \$1.2 million, three-year grant award for Adolescent Treatment Coordination from the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. The Mayor also announced the city's first-ever town hall meeting devoted to the issue of underage drinking, to be held on March 28. The newly funded DC Youth Treatment Coordination (YTC) Project will build and expand working and referral relationships among key District agencies, including the Departments of Mental Health and Youth Rehabilitation Services, the Child and Family Services Agency, the MPDC, DC public and charter schools, and Court Social Services. The project will establish a strategy for youth substance abuse treatment; institute an annual planning and budgeting cycle; work to maintain or expand existing service levels; improve the quality of care; address systems-level barriers; and fill service gaps. The DC YTC Project will also develop certification standards for youth treatment personnel and programs, and provide training and technical assistance to ensure that publicly funded services meet the certification standards. Together, these initiatives are designed to enhance the quality, effectiveness, availability and accessibility of services across the adolescent care continuum, as well as the accountability of DC programs certified to provide youth treatment.

NEWS & NOTES

Chief Ramsey on News Channel 8, WTOP. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues with the public during two media appearances in the upcoming week. On Wednesday, March 1, from 4-5 pm, the Chief appears on News Channel 8's "News Talk" program, hosted by Bruce DePuyt. Then on Thursday, March 2, from 10-11 am, the Chief has his regular monthly "Ask the Chief" appearance on WTOP radio.

National Law Enforcement Museum Film Festival. On March 2-4, at the AFI Silver Theatre in Silver Spring, Maryland, the public will get a unique chance to see the real story and science behind the "reel" depictions of law enforcement subjects in the movies. The first National Law Enforcement Museum Film Festival will feature three film screenings, followed by discussions with local and Hollywood celebrities and law enforcement experts, including MPDC Canine Officer Marcello Muzzatti and his partner Shrek. Details on this free event are at <http://www.nleomf.com/TheMuseum/filmfestival.htm>.

Court Reports Available. Each month, the Community Prosecution staff of the US Attorney's Office publishes a report containing a summary of significant cases in each police district that were prosecuted during the previous month. These Court Reports discuss crimes that occurred in DC neighborhoods and provide updates on the criminal convictions of those who commit these crimes. Access the reports for January 2006 and other recent months at http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Community_Prosecution/Court_Reports/index.html.

① Details on the current vacancies, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,538142.asp>

① The MPDC is also looking for citizen volunteers to join the MPDC's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPDC in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,547109.asp>

① Read the full news release at:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=858&mon=200602>

① The number of juveniles arrested for narcotics law violations in DC declined slightly last year, from 367 in 2004, to 320 in 2005

① The city's first-ever town hall meeting on underage drinking will be held on Tuesday, March 28, from 10 am – noon, at the Sumner School, 1201 17th Street, NW.

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 2/24/06
◆ 2006: 24
◆ 2005: 18
◆ % Change: +33.3%
◆ Closure Rate: 50.0% (12 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 2/18/06
◆ Total: 865
◆ Weapons: 14
◆ Robbery: 7
◆ Auto Theft: 10
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 43

Juvenile Activity week end. 2/18/06
◆ Arrests: 60
◆ Curfew Violators: 21
◆ Truants: 57

Firearm Recoveries as of 2/22/06
◆ February: 139
◆ 2006 Total: 387

Traffic Fatalities as of 2/17/06
◆ 2006: 9
◆ 2005: 8
◆ % Change: +12.5%

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.

mpdc.dc.gov