

# WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



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

*Friday, April 21, 2006*

## **NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK IS APRIL 23-29, 2006**

DC is joining communities across the nation, April 23-29, in commemorating National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) – a time to remember the victims of crime and to raise public awareness of victims' rights and services. This edition of "What's New in the MPDC" focuses on services and initiatives offered to crime victims in DC. This year marks the 26th anniversary of the official commemoration of NCVRW, which is celebrated nationwide by crime victims, survivors and those who serve them. It is also the 22nd anniversary of the passage of the Victims of Crime Act, which in 1984 established the Crime Victims Fund to provide support for victim services through fines and fees levied against federal offenders. The theme for 2006 NCVRW is "Victims' Rights: Strength in Unity." In commemorating this year's NCVRW, the US Justice Department's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and thousands of crime victims and their advocates are expressing their gratitude to President Ronald Reagan for his vision and leadership in promoting victims' rights and services. President Reagan's early recognition of the plight of victims and survivors of crime has had a profound impact on how America views and treats victims. As President, he made crime victims' needs and rights a priority for his Administration, and his impact is evident today with more than 10,000 justice system- and community-based victim assistance programs and more than 32,000 laws that define and protect victims' rights.

## **MPDC HIGHLIGHTS VICTIMS SERVICES UNIT**

The policy of the MPDC is to treat all victims of crime in a respectful, responsive and compassionate manner – every day of the year. During National Crime Victims' Rights Week, the Department will be highlighting some of its recent initiatives in this area, including the establishment of the Victims Services Unit. The unit, part of the Superintendent of Detectives Division, provides support, information, and referrals to victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The unit's victim specialists serve as a support system and conduit for victims and survivors, with the ultimate goals of empowering victims of crime. In addition, the Victim Services Unit aims to enhance the quality of life for the residents of DC by establishing relationships with the community and being a resource for victims and their families. As part of its outreach efforts, the Victim Services Unit is holding an open house on Friday, April 28, from 10 am-1 pm, in Room 3001 of Police Headquarters.

- ① For background on National Crime Victims Rights Week, including a resource guide, visit: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/welcome.html>
- ① Get extensive listings of victim assistance resources and services in DC at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,Q,539164,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,Q,539164,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp)
- ① For information on the history of NCVRW and the legacy of President Reagan, go to: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ovc/ncvrw/2004/reagan.html>
- ① For more information about the unit, including contact names and numbers, visit: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,559779,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,559779,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp)
- ① Learn more about the mission and services of the MPDC's Domestic Violence Unit at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,541110,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,541110,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp)
- ① Learn more about the mission and services of the MPDC's Sex Assault Unit at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,556783,mpdcNav\\_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp](http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,556783,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp)

## DC CRIME VICTIM'S BILL OF RIGHTS

Under DC law, every victim of crime has certain basic rights guaranteed by the criminal justice system. Specifically, crime victims in DC have the following rights:

1. The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
2. The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender.
3. The right to be notified of court proceedings.
4. The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense unless the court determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other testimony at trial.
5. The right to confer with attorneys for the government in the case.
6. The right to restitution.
7. The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender.

If a victim feels that he or she has not received all of these rights, the victim should contact the prosecuting attorney's office. Both the DC Attorney General's Office and US Attorney's Office maintain Victim Witness Assistance Units.

In observance of NCVRW, the DC Attorney General's Victim Witness Assistance Unit will staff an information table on April 24-28 in the lobby of One Judiciary Square (441 4th Street, NW). Information is intended to increase awareness of the services provided by VWAU, as well as the work done by other local and national agencies.

## VICTIMS REMINDED THAT THEY MAY QUALIFY FOR COMPENSATION

Many victims of violent crime suffer more than just physical injury or emotional trauma. Violent crime frequently costs victims monetarily as well. DC's Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP) assists victims and their families with the financial burden of a violent crime. Managed by the DC Superior Court, the CVCP pays for bills that are not covered by other sources such as private health, automobile or life insurance, medical aid programs, and Social Security Income or Disability. The CVCP may provide financial assistance up to \$25,000 per claim. There are sub-limits on the amount of assistance claimants may receive; for example, the limit for funeral expenses is \$3,000. Following are some of the expenses covered by DC's CVCP: crime-related medical and mental-health counseling bills; funeral and burial costs; wages, support or services lost as a direct result of the crime; crime scene cleaning costs; replacement costs for clothing held as evidence; temporary emergency housing for domestic violence victims. Emergency awards, limited to \$1,000, are also available in cases where the claimant is able to show that undue financial hardship will be incurred if assistance is not granted expeditiously.

## NEWS & NOTES

**Reward Offered Following Double Traffic Fatality.** The MPDC is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for a serious assault that ultimately led to a double traffic fatality in Southeast early Wednesday morning. Details at <http://app.mpdcc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=385000>.

**MPDC Seeking Supervisory Research Analyst.** Applications are being accepted for this civilian position in the Office of Organizational Development. Learn more at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,559821.asp>.

**National Summit on Illegal Guns.** Mayor Williams will join the leaders of other major US cities in the first national summit on illegal guns in New York City on April 25. The summit will bring together more than a dozen mayors to share the challenges they face in combating gun crime, discuss cutting-edge policing and legal strategies and identify opportunities for greater coordination in combating the flow of illegal guns among states. Details at <http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=890>.

- ① Learn more about the US Attorney's Victim Witness Assistance Unit at:  
[http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Victim\\_Witness\\_Assistance/index.html](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/dc/Victim_Witness_Assistance/index.html)

- ① Got a question about the CVCP? Access program FAQs at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,539171.asp>
- ① CVCP applications are available at a number of locations, or individuals may download an online copy at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1241,q,539171.asp#apply>

## DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 04/21/06
◆ 2006: 45	
◆ 2005: 52	
◆ % Change: -13.5%	
◆ Closure Rate: 51.1% (23 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 04/15/06
◆ Total: 921	
◆ Weapons: 18	
◆ Robbery: 6	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 34	
◆ Narcotics: 182	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 04/15/06
◆ Arrests: 53	
◆ Curfew Violations: 132	
◆ Truants: 0	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 04/19/06
◆ April: 83	
◆ 2006 Total: 740	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 04/21/06
◆ 2006: 15	
◆ 2005: 15	
◆ % Change: Unchanged	

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](mailto: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**