

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



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

Friday, April 28, 2006

RAMSEY BECOMES LONGEST SERVING MPDC CHIEF SINCE HOME RULE

Chief of Police Charles H. Ramsey this week became the longest serving head of the Metropolitan Police Department since DC achieved home rule during the 1970s. In marking his eighth year at the helm of the MPDC, Chief Ramsey surpassed the longevity of former Chief Maurice T. Turner Jr., who served about eight years to the day, from July 1981 to July 1989. Chief Ramsey was sworn in on April 21, 1988. According to surveys by the Major Cities Chiefs, the average tenure of a big city police chief in the US is less than three years. Mayor Williams issued a statement congratulating Chief Ramsey on the eight-year milestone, pointing out the Chief's Ramsey's tenure has been "a period with continually decreasing crime rates throughout the city and constant improvements in department operations." Between 1997 (the year before Ramsey became chief) and 2004, reported crime in DC fell by more than 36 percent. Crime rates today are lower than they have been since the current statistical reporting system was initiated in the late 1960s. Homicides have fallen by 34 percent during this same time period. Under Ramsey's leadership, the MPDC has also dramatically improved recruiting, hiring standards, training and pay for police officers. Equipment, fleet and technology have all been upgraded as well. Use of deadly by MPDC members – once the highest rate in the nation – has been reduced substantially through a number of reforms. And the Department has refined its community policing strategy and successfully met a number of new challenges associated with homeland security and domestic preparedness. "I want to thank Chief Ramsey for his continued excellent service to the District," said Mayor Williams. "The officers under his command have done an outstanding job in bringing down crime rates across the city, and I appreciate his strong commitment to the city. It's my hope that he continues to serve the city and our residents and visitors for many years to come."

- ① Read the Mayor's complete statement at:
<http://http://dc.gov/news/release.asp?id=892>
- ① Prior to joining the MPDC, Chief Ramsey spent 29 years with the Chicago Police Department. Read his biography at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,537799,mpdcNav_GID,1529,mpdcNav_|.asp
- ① View a listing of all MPDC chiefs, dating back to 1861, at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1230,q,540347,mpdcNav_GID,1529,mpdcNav_|31458|.asp

REWARD IN DONTÉ MANNING HOMICIDE INCREASED TO \$125,000

On the one-year anniversary of the senseless crime, the MPDC this week announced another substantial increase in the reward offered for information that can solve the shooting death of 9-year-old Donte Manning. The reward in this case has been increased to up to \$125,000 for information which leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this fatal shooting. On Thursday, March 24, 2005, at approximately 9:46 pm, Donte Manning was playing with a group of children in front of the apartment complex where he lived, at 2620 13th Street, NW. Reportedly, an unidentified gunman stood at the corner of 13th and Euclid Streets, NW, and opened fire with a handgun. The young victim was struck in the face by a bullet. He was transported to Children's National Medical Center, where he was admitted in critical condition. Just over a month later, on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, Donte Manning succumbed to his injuries. The case remains under investigation by members of the MPDC's Violent Crimes Branch. Anyone with information about this homicide is asked to call police at (202) 727-9099. All individuals who provide on this case can remain anonymous. Witness relocation services are available, if necessary.

- ① Read the news release and download a flyer on the case, in English and Spanish, by going to:
<http://app.mpdc.dc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=393000>
- ① The standard reward in all unsolved homicides in DC is up to \$25,000. View flyers on unsolved homicides from recent years at:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1243,q,541992,mpdcNav_GID,1533.asp

SEX ASSAULT UNIT WORKS TO COMBAT CRIME, SUPPORT VICTIMS

Each year, April is designated as National Sexual Assault Awareness Month – a concerted effort to raise awareness of sexual violence and garner community support to prevent this devastating crime. During April and throughout the year, the MPDC's Sex Assault Unit works to combat sexual assault in DC and to provide support to the victims and survivors of sexual assault. Part of the Violent Crimes Branch, within the Superintendent of Detectives Division, the Sex Assault Unit investigates sexual assaults involving adult victims ages 18 and older. (Sexual assaults involving juvenile victims are investigated by the Youth Investigations Branch.) The members of the Sex Assault Unit are specially trained in the investigation of sexual assault, and the detectives recognize and understand the sensitive, personal and invasive nature of sexual assault crimes. To support victims and family members during criminal investigations, the Sex Assault Unit last year unveiled a specially designed, victim-sensitive interview room at Police Headquarters. In addition, victim specialists with the MPDC's Victim Services Unit work with the unit's detectives, providing information, support and referrals to victims of sexual assault and their families during the investigation. The Sex Assault Unit is an active member of the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART). SART is a partnership of public and private agencies that work to coordinate a high-quality, multidisciplinary, victim/survivor-centered response to sexual assault cases.

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING RATE FOR MARCH REMAINS LOW

Even as a record number of vehicles passed through DC's photo radar enforcement zones during March, the rate of aggressive speeding in the city remained at a near-record low. During the month, more than 3.1 million vehicles passed through enforcement zones monitored by the District's stationary and mobile photo radar cameras; that is the highest monthly number of vehicles monitored in the nearly five years the speeding reduction program has been in effect. But fewer than 70,000 of those vehicles were found to be speeding aggressively – that is, traveling above the threshold speed established for the program. That represents an aggressive speeding rate of just 2.2 percent, the second lowest in the history of the program. The record low rate – 2.0 percent – occurred in February 2006. In March 2002, by contrast, only 538,000 vehicles were monitored by photo radar, but nearly 70,000 potential violators were caught on camera that month, for an aggressive speeding rate of nearly 13 percent. Whereas almost 1 in 3 motorists were found to be speeding aggressively at the beginning of the photo radar program, the number plummeted to about 1 in 45 motorists during March 2006. Average speeds on all DC roadways – especially residential streets – continue to be substantially lower today than they were when the program began in the summer of 2001. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was 24.2 mph in March 2006 – down from 35.5 mph in July 2001.

NEWS & NOTES

More Vehicles To Be Available for Online Auction. The next group of vehicles available for auction from the MPDC should be posted online during the week of May 1, 2006. The MPDC's seized, abandoned and surplus property, including vehicles, are now auctioned online through Liquidation.com. Learn more about the auction process, and get a link to the online auction site, at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1242,q,558351,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|.asp

Chief Ramsey on News Channel 8, Washington Post Radio. Chief Ramsey discusses public safety issues with the public during two media appearances in the upcoming week. On Wednesday, May 3, from 4-5 pm, the Chief appears on News Channel 8's "News Talk" program, hosted by Bruce DePuyt. Then on Thursday, May 4, from 10-11 am, the Chief has his regular monthly "Ask the Chief" appearance on Washington Post Radio (1500-AM and 107.7-FM). Note that "Ask the Chief" is no longer heard on the main WTOP station (103.5-FM).

① For more information about the Sex Assault Unit, including helpful information on what to expect during a criminal investigation, visit:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,556783,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp

① Details on the Sexual Assault Response Team are at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,556790,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp

① Learn more about the MPDC's Victim Services Unit at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1232,q,559779,mpdcNav_GID,1523,mpdcNav,|31417|.asp

① Read the latest results of DC's photo radar program at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,548110,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|31886|.asp

① The latest information on DC's red-light camera intersection safety program can be found at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,Q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 4/28/06
◆ 2006: 47	
◆ 2005: 57	
◆ % Change: -17.5%	
◆ Closure Rate: 51.1% (24 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 4/22/06
◆ Total: 896	
◆ Weapons: 21	
◆ Robbery: 6	
◆ Auto Theft: 14	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 18	
◆ Narcotics: 157	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 4/22/06
◆ Arrests: 55	
◆ Curfew Violations: 51	
◆ Truants: 57	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 4/26/06
◆ April: 131	
◆ 2006 Total: 788	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 4/28/06
◆ 2006: 16	
◆ 2005: 15	
◆ % Change: -6.7%	

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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