

WHAT'S *New*

in the Metropolitan Police Department



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

Friday, July 21, 2006

COUNCIL PASSES EMERGENCY CRIME PACKAGE TO HELP MPDC DEAL WITH RECENT SPIKE IN CRIME

Mayor Anthony A. Williams this week thanked the DC Council for interrupting its summer recess to act quickly on a package of legislative proposals aimed at reversing the recent spike in crime. In a special session called by Council Chair Linda Cropp, the Council this past Wednesday passed a comprehensive set of measures that the Mayor and the MPDC had sought in support of police efforts to combat crime. The Council action comes one week after Chief Ramsey declared a “crime emergency” in response to a troubling spike in homicides, robberies and serious assaults in DC neighborhoods. A key component of Mayor Williams’s plan provides funding for the MPDC to deploy officers on a six-day work week, a move the Chief implemented this past week to increase police presence. The extra manpower means at least 300 more uniformed officers on the streets. The plan also provides the Mayor with the authority to modify the District’s curfew time during a crime emergency, moving it, for example, from midnight to 10 pm in certain circumstances. The package also authorizes the expansion of the District’s closed circuit television (CCTV) program, permitting cameras to be used in some neighborhoods for both crime prevention and investigation. Until now, CCTV use has been limited to downtown areas during major events and periods of heightened alert for terrorism only. The package also changes the rules on bail to make it harder for violent criminals to get back on the streets, and it eases bureaucratic red tape to allow critical information about certain serious juvenile offenders to be shared between agencies. Finally, the plan includes additional funds for youth anti-violence programs, mediation efforts and increased recreational opportunities. The legislative package will remain in effect for 90 days after a final version is forwarded to the Mayor for his signature.

- ① Read the news release at:
<http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=947&mon=200607>
- ① For background on the crime emergency, go to:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=49000>
- ① The MPDC’s crime-fighting activity was up during the first week of the crime emergency, with increases in arrests, curfew citations and firearm recoveries. Details at:
<http://app.mpd.cdc.gov/newsroom/newsroom.asp?sid=50500>

MPDC, FEDERAL AGENCIES ANNOUNCE NEW TASK FORCE TO ADDRESS VIOLENT CRIME

A coalition of federal and local law enforcement agencies has formed a new Violent Crime Task Force to combat robberies and other violent crimes in DC, officials announced this week. Led by the MPDC, the US Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia and the FBI’s Washington Field Office, the Task Force will aggressively investigate pending cases and dedicate increased resources to identify and apprehend persons responsible for committing robberies, gun offenses and other violent crimes. The Task Force will be staffed jointly by federal and local officials, including MPDC and FBI supervisors, as well as MPDC detectives, FBI agents, and prosecutors, intelligence research specialists and criminal investigators from the USAO. Supporting the Task Force will be a larger coalition of DC and federal law enforcement agencies, including the US Park Police, US Secret Service, Metro Transit Police, US Capitol Police, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Drug Enforcement Administration and the US Marshals Service. Last week, Chief Ramsey convened a meeting of these and other agencies to discuss how the law enforcement community could support the Chief’s recent declaration of a crime emergency. The formation of the Task Force is one of the first steps in a long-term effort to combat violent crime in DC. Within 60 days, federal and local officials will engage in a Violent Crime Summit to assess the efforts of the Task Force and plan additional strategies for combating violent crime in the future.

AGGRESSIVE SPEEDING HITS A NEW RECORD LOW IN DC

Aggressive speeding in DC's photo radar enforcement zones hit a new record low rate during June 2006, with just 1.9 percent of the vehicles monitored by photo radar found to be speeding aggressively. The previous record low rate — 2.0 percent — occurred in February 2006. The latest figures continue a five-year trend: the aggressive speeding rate for the month of June has declined sharply, from more than 9 percent in June 2002 to less than 2 percent last month. And while almost 1 in 3 motorists were found to be speeding aggressively in the summer of 2001 at the beginning of the photo radar program, the number plummeted to fewer than 1 in 50 motorists speeding aggressively during June 2006. Last month, just over 1.9 million vehicles passed through enforcement zones monitored by the District's stationary and mobile photo radar cameras, but fewer than 36,000 were found to be speeding aggressively (that is, traveling above the threshold speed established for the program). Average speeds of all vehicles traveling on DC roadways continue to be substantially lower today than they were when the program began nearly five years ago. On streets with a 25-mph speed limit, for example, the average speed of all vehicles monitored by photo radar was 25.4 mph in June 2006 — down from 35.5 mph in July 2001. Since August 2001, nearly 1.95 million photo radar Notices of Infraction have been mailed and about 1.46 million have been paid, resulting in fines of more than \$111 million.

WITH TURMOIL IN THE MIDDLE EAST CONTINUING, MPDC STEPS UP "OPERATION TIPP" EFFORTS

As the fighting in the Middle East continues to intensify, the MPDC is stepping up efforts to help prevent terrorists incidents here in the District through a program that enlists the support of the business community. Launched more than a year ago, the effort is called Operation TIPP — the Terrorist Incident Prevention Program. It is designed to make it easy for businesses, service agencies and other organizations in the Washington region to get directly involved in terrorism prevention. Operation TIPP has two key parts: educating businesses on what to look out for in the way of suspicious activity related to their particular industry group; and providing businesses with easy and convenient ways to report suspicious activity to the police, including a confidential, toll-free telephone number: 1-877-YOU-WATCH (968-9282). The program is based on the idea that some terrorists use materials and equipment that are generally available in the marketplace. Some terrorists may attempt to portray themselves as legitimate customers in order to procure the goods they need, while others may attempt to steal them. In either case, it is usually an individual business or service organization that will be the first to notice something out of the ordinary. When that happens, it is critical that these suspicions be immediately passed on to law enforcement, so that the information can be examined, evaluated and, if necessary, acted upon. The MPDC has produced a range of Operation TIPP informational materials, customized for different businesses and industry groups in DC. The MPDC is stepping up efforts to get these materials into the hands of the business community, and encouraging them to report any suspicious activity to the police.

NEWS & NOTES

More Officers Join Neighborhood Patrols. For the second consecutive week, police patrols in DC neighborhoods are getting an additional boost, with the swearing in Friday of the MPDC's 17 newest police officers. All of the new officers are being detailed to various police districts, where they will be assigned to Police Service Area patrols.

National Night Out Reminder. Police-community partnerships will be in the spotlight on Tuesday, August 1, when DC celebrates the 23rd annual National Night Out against crime, with a variety of crime prevention events scheduled in all seven police districts, including the citywide kickoff at 5 pm at the Turkey Thicket Recreation Center in Northeast. Residents are encouraged to come out, meet their neighbors and PSA officers, and get involved in community crime prevention. For details on NNO, go to www.mpdc.dc.gov/nno.

① Read the latest results and get more information on DC's photo radar speeding reduction program at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547970,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

① For the latest information on the MPDC's red-light intersection safety camera program, visit: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547886,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

① The next phase of the regional Smooth Operator, anti-aggressive driving campaign takes place July 23-29 in DC and in dozens of communities throughout Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. Read more at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547928,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,|.asp

① Learn more about the program at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,555173,mpdcNav_GID,1578,mpdcNav,|32355|.asp

① For more information and tips on emergency preparedness in DC, click on: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,547382,mpdcNav_GID,1547,asp

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 7/21/06
◆ 2006: 97	
◆ 2005: 99	
◆ % Change: -2.0%	
◆ Closure Rate: 46.4% (45 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 7/15/06
◆ Total: 1,087	
◆ Weapons: 32	
◆ Robbery: 13	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 23	
◆ Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 59	
◆ Narcotics: 180	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 7/15/06
◆ Total Arrests: 83	
◆ Robbery: 5	
◆ Weapons: 1	
◆ Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 12	
◆ Curfew Violators: 138	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 7/12/06
◆ June: 106	
◆ 2006 Total: 1,286	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 7/21/06
◆ 2006: 24	
◆ 2005: 24	
◆ % 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. 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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