

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 18, 2011

GRAY ADMINISTRATION OPENS MPD EVIDENCE WAREHOUSE

On March 15, 2011, Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Chief Cathy L. Lanier and Department of Real Estate Services' (DRES) Interim Director Brian J. Hanlon officially marked the opening of the new, state-of-the-art Evidence Warehouse. The facility handles all seized MPD property evidence and integrates advanced technology and best practices to ensure safe and responsible storage. The project was completed eight weeks ahead of schedule and is approximately \$700,000 under budget.

MPD partnered with the Department of Real Estate Services (DRES), who managed the design and construction process for the Evidence Warehouse. The 30,000 square foot building is comprised of 10,000 square feet of administrative area for MPD and 20,000 square feet of storage space.

The new Evidence Warehouse facility is located near the former DC Village emergency shelter at DC Village Lane, SW. As an incentive to the general contractor, the project included a shared savings and early completion clause. As a result, the general contractor will receive a bonus of approximately \$200,000 and the District will keep the remaining \$500,000 in savings.

» Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov>

TIPS ON AVOIDING FRAUDULENT CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTION SCHEMES

Recently, several natural disasters, including the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, have devastated thousands of lives. In the wake of these events, individuals across the nation may feel a desire to help victims by making monetary donations. Unfortunately, these disasters also prompt individuals with criminal intent to solicit contributions under the guise of supporting a charitable organization or a good cause. Therefore, before making a donation of any kind, consumers should adhere to certain guidelines, including the following:

- Do not respond to unsolicited e-mail (SPAM).
- Be skeptical of individuals representing themselves as officials soliciting via e-mail for donations.
- Do not click on links contained within an unsolicited e-mail.
- Be cautious of e-mail claiming to contain pictures in attached files, as the files may contain viruses. Only open attachments from known senders.
- To ensure contributions are received and used for intended purposes, make contributions directly to known organizations rather than relying on others to make the donation on your behalf.
- Validate the legitimacy of the organization by directly accessing the recognized charity or aid organization's website rather than following an alleged link to the site.
- Attempt to verify the legitimacy of the non-profit status of the organization by using various Internet-based resources, which also may assist in confirming the actual existence of the organization.
- Do not provide personal or financial information to anyone who solicits contributions: providing such information may compromise your identity and make you vulnerable to identity theft.

» To obtain more information on charitable contribution schemes and other types of online schemes, visit:
<http://www.LooksTooGoodToBeTrue.com>

» If you believe you have been a victim of a charity related scheme, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCDF). More than 20 federal agencies, including the FBI, participate in the NCDF, allowing it to act as a centralized clearinghouse of information related to relief fraud.
o Telephone: (866) 720-5721
o Fax: (225) 334-4707
o Email: disaster@leo.gov

» To report suspicious e-mail solicitations or fraudulent websites or learn more about the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) go to:
<http://www.ic3.gov/>

STREET SWEEPING TO RESUME MARCH 21

On Monday, March 21, 2010, daytime mechanical street sweeping will resume in scheduled residential neighborhoods where signs are posted indicating that this will take place. Residents are reminded to observe the street cleaning signs so sweepers can resume cleaning residential streets. Alternate-side parking restrictions in these areas will go into effect as well. Parking tickets, which carry a \$30 fine, will be issued, beginning March 21, to vehicles parked during street sweeping hours in areas posted with "No Parking/Street Cleaning" signs. Beginning March 21, parked cars also may be towed to allow the sweepers access to the curbside. Generally, parking is prohibited for two hours while sweeping is underway.

MPD CONTINUES EFFORTS TO KEEP COMMUNITY MEMBERS EDUCATED ON FILING POLICE COMMENDATIONS AND COMPLAINTS

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is committed to providing quality, professional service to all members of the community. The MPD does its best to recognize individuals who provide exemplary service. Community members or visitors to DC who have had a positive experience with an MPD officer or civilian employee are invited to share their positive experiences by submitting a commendation.

Sometimes, however, individuals may feel that a member of the MPD has failed to meet that standard by engaging in misconduct or using excessive force. In these situations, individuals are encouraged to report this information to the MPD or the District of Columbia's Office of Police Complaints (OPC). The Office of Police Complaints is a District Government agency that is independent of the MPD, and its mission is to receive, investigate, and resolve police misconduct complaints filed by the public against MPD and DC Housing Authority Police Department officers.

The MPD will investigate all complaints, including anonymous complaints, in a fair, thorough, and impartial manner. OPC has the authority to investigate complaints alleging harassment; use of unnecessary or excessive force; use of language or conduct that is insulting, demeaning, or humiliating; discrimination; retaliation for filing a complaint with OPC; or failure to wear required identification or refusal to provide name and badge number when requested to do so by a member of the public.

» OPC complaint forms and information sheets can be obtained by:

- Visiting OPC at 1400 I St., NW, # 700, Washington, DC 20005
- Calling OPC at (202) 727-3838
- Calling the OPC 24-hour, toll-free hotline at 866-588-0569
- Visiting OPC's website, <http://policecomplaints.dc.gov>

» OPC complaint forms can be submitted:

- In person or by mail to the address above
- By fax to (202) 727-9182
- By dropping forms off at any MPDC district station

» To file a complaint with the MPD, you may:

- Visit any MPD District station or facility
- Call (202) 727-4385 or the 24-hour hotline at 800-298-4006
- Visit MPD's website at mpdc.dc.gov
- Email the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) at citizen.complaints@dc.gov
- Call the IAB TTY number at (202) 898-1454
- Submit your complaint in person at any MPD facility or by mail to: Internal Affairs Bureau, Metropolitan Police Department, 51 N Street, NE, 4th Floor, Washington, DC
- Fax your complaint to (202) 727-5116

» For more information about DPW's street sweeping program, visit DPW's website at: <http://www.dpw.dc.gov>

» For more information on filing a commendation or complaint, visit: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/citizencomplaints>

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 3/18/11

2011: 19

2010: 17

% Change: 12%

Closure Rate: 79% (15 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 3/12/11

Total Arrests: 883

Weapons: 15

Robbery: 9

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7

Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 36

Narcotics: 224

Juvenile Activity week end. 3/12/11

Total Arrests: 55

Weapons: 7

Robbery: 10

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 0

Narcotics: 8

Firearm Recoveries as of 3/14/11

March: 54

2011 Total: 363

Traffic Fatalities as of 3/18/11

2011: 10

2010: 5

% Change: 100%

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Preventing terrorism is everybody's business. If you SEE

something, SAY something. Call the Metropolitan Police Department at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity or behavior that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or

emergencies. Learn more about steps you can take to help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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