

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, August 19, 2011

BUSINESSES ARE INVITED TO SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT CCTV SYSTEMS TO AID IN INVESTIGATIONS

The Metropolitan Police Department operates a network of closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in neighborhoods throughout the District of Columbia to help combat crime. Although many factors help to drive down crime, data indicate that the areas with CCTV crime cameras outperformed — or had a greater reduction in violent crime than — the city as a whole. In addition, video from the cameras can be used to help identify suspects and develop leads after an event has occurred.

Let the Community Know You Have a Camera

Cameras can only help prevent crime if people know they are there. If you have a CCTV or other camera system in your business, you are encouraged to post a sign in a conspicuous place indicating that a CCTV or other surveillance system is in operation at your place business and that you will share recordings of suspicious activity with the police. One is available for download from MPD's website at www.mpd.cdc.gov/cctv/business.



» To learn more about the MPD's business CCTV program — including a downloadable brochure — visit:

<http://www.mpd.cdc.gov/cctv/business>

» You can get copies of the placard at left in seven languages, as well as a single poster of the warning in all languages at:

<http://www.mpd.cdc.gov/cctv/business>

Tell Us About Your System

In addition, you can help support criminal investigations by notifying us about your system. This can help accelerate the investigations if a crime occurs near your place of business, helping the police to quickly identify suspects and witnesses.

Your participation is entirely voluntary and costs nothing. The benefit to you is the knowledge that you will be helping the police prevent and deter crime.

To notify MPD about your CCTV system, email the information to cctv.programs@dc.gov. In your email, you'll want to include your business name, the street address, business phone number, a contact person and his or her title, an email address for follow-up, and the following about your system: the make, model and type (analog or digital); the number of cameras; the software maker and version number; the video file format; the internal and external locations of camera placements; and the recording media your system uses (digital, VHS, mini-DV, etc.).

What Will Happen Next?

The information you provide will be used by police to help us identify security cameras around the city. If a crime takes place near your business, the police may contact the business representative provided on your notification form to arrange the transfer of the video from your establishment to the police department. The videotape or digital file may assist detectives in their investigation and it could become evidence in a criminal trial.

MPD CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO STOP IMPAIRED DRIVING WITH CHECKPOINT STRIKEFORCE, OTHER MEASURES

As a community, we all support law enforcement efforts to protect us from theft, burglary and assault. Yet, many otherwise law-biding citizens continue to view impaired driving merely as a traffic offense. Don't be fooled. Impaired driving is no accident nor is it a victimless crime. It is a serious crime that kills more than 16,000 people and injures nearly 305,000 others every year. Every 32 minutes, someone in America dies in an impaired driving crash. Every two minutes, someone is injured. Law enforcement agencies in every State and locality are serving on the frontlines in the fight against this deadly threat to America's communities. Traffic crashes are not only a threat to our citizens but are also the leading cause of death for law enforcement officials.

The cost to both the family of victims, those responsible for DUI-related crashes, and society is startling. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the average alcohol-related fatality in the United States costs \$3.2 million: \$1.2 million in monetary costs and \$2 million in quality of life losses. The estimated cost per injured survivor of an alcohol-related crash averaged \$79,000 — that's \$36,000 in monetary costs and \$43,000 in quality of life losses.

That's why the Metropolitan Police Department is conducting Checkpoint Strikeforce — an initiative to curtail and eliminate drunk and impaired driving in the District of Columbia. The effort involves sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols designed to identify and arrest impaired drivers before they can do themselves, property, or others harm. The MPD reminds all drivers that drinking and driving are no joke — Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.



- » The Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign is part of NHTSA's national effort to curb drunk driving. To learn more, visit: <http://www.stopimpaireddriving.org>
- » Learn the risks, costs, and myths associated with impaired driving at the Checkpoint Strikeforce website at: <http://checkpointstrikeforce.net>
- » Learn about the penalties for drinking and driving in the District of Columbia at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547865,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,.asp
- » Get the facts on drunk driving, including the legal limit for BAC and more at: http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1240,q,547837,mpdcNav_GID,1552,mpdcNav,.asp

DATA BOX	
Homicides	as of 8/12/11
2011: 70	
2010: 74	
% Change: -5.4%	
Closure Rate: 88.5% (62 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 8/6/11
Total Arrests: 1,052	
Weapons: 19	
Robbery: 18	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 5	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 24	
Narcotics: 214	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 8/6/11
Total Arrests: 69	
Weapons: 5	
Robbery: 4	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1	
Narcotics: 4	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 8/15/11
August: 83	
2011 Total: 1,163	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 8/19/11
2011: 26	
2010: 18	
% Change: 44.4%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Beautification Day 2011. Roll up your sleeves and transform our schools. Invest your time and resources in our youth, connect with your community and enhance our schools. This will be held Saturday, August 20th at 8:00 am-1:00 pm. To register or donate, email dcps.beautificationday@dc.gov or call 442-5447.

Drug Free Zones in Fourth District. The Fourth District will be holding Drug Free Zones in PSA 403 and PSA 405 on several dates in August and September. While the area is designated as a Drug Free Zone, any group of

two or more persons congregating on public space for the purpose of participating in the use, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs within the boundaries of the zone, and who fails to disperse after being instructed to do so by a uniformed officer of the MPDC, will be subject to arrest. To learn more about the DFZ program, see http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542244,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp. For a list of current and upcoming Drug Free Zones, visit www.mpdcc.gov/dfz.

MPD Celebrates 150 Years. The Metropolitan Police Department turned 150 on August 6. Look for a special decal on most marked vehicles to highlight and

celebrate this landmark in the agency's history. In addition, many of our uniformed officers have chosen to honor the sesquicentennial by wearing a commemorative badge through September 30, 2011.

In honor of the milestone, additional information about the Department's history is being added to our website, including the biographies of every Chief of Police since 1861, a history of the badge, and more each week. To see the special section, visit www.mpdcc.gov/150th.



Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KEVIN PALMER** at kevin.palmer@dc.gov

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