

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, December 29, 2011*

## POLICE BOUNDARY REALIGNMENT PLAN GOES INTO EFFECT THIS WEEKEND

Beginning January 1, 2012, the police district boundaries and police service areas (PSAs) will have revised boundaries. In 2011, Chief Lanier launched an effort to realign patrol-service boundaries because of current and projected future imbalances in patrol-district workload.

"With increasing business and residential development and the thriving tourist and entertainment areas throughout the city, workload in the police districts has shifted significantly since the last boundary realignment was done in 2004," said Chief Lanier. "The goal of the boundary realignment is to improve police service to the city."

The city is divided into seven Police Districts, each of which is subdivided into five or more Police Service Areas (PSAs). The realignment plan, which will go into effect on January 1, is based on evaluation of crime, calls for service, development and road-construction plans, community concerns and other factors. The new boundaries will distribute crime and calls for service almost equally among the districts. While some police districts are changing more than others, all are undergoing some change. In addition, under the new boundaries, the largest PSAs will be reduced in size, with the total number of PSAs increasing from 46 to 56.

"All of this means more efficient police services for residents, as well as those who work here and visit our city," said Mayor Gray. "I want to commend Chief Lanier and the men and women of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for the progress they have made in combating crime."



» The MPD's website has already been updated with the realignment information. To see maps and get information on your new PSA boundaries and leadership, go to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/districts>

» Read the complete news release on the realignment plan and the significant drop in homicides in 2011 at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov>

## DESIGNATE A DRIVER FOR YOUR NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION

Metropolitan Police officers are out in force this holiday season, looking for impaired drivers, speeders and other aggressive or unsafe drivers. Several sobriety checkpoints will be conducted between now and New Year's Day, as part of the MPD's holiday traffic safety detail. The MPD is also throwing its support behind both the designated driver and SoberRide programs this holiday season. Sponsored by the Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), SoberRide provides holiday revelers with free cab rides home (up to \$50) every evening from 10 pm to 6 am, now through January 1. Individuals may request a cab by calling (800) 200-TAXI (200-8294); Cingular Wireless customers can access the service by dialing #TAXI. The MPDC reminds motorists that DC has tough drunk driving laws, including a Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) standard of .08, zero tolerance for youthful offenders, and penalties that include stiff fines, license revocation and the possibility of jail time, even for first offenders.

» Learn more about drunk driving laws in DC by going to:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>

» More details on SoberRide are available at:  
<http://www.wrap.org/soberride/>

## MPD AND DC COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SEEK CELL PHONE DONATIONS

Did you get a new Blackberry, iPhone, Droid for the holidays? Are you wondering what to do with your old phone? If you have upgraded, please consider contributing your old cell phone to someone in need. The Victim Services Branch has collaborated with the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence for several years in collecting used cell phones for victims of domestic violence. Phones are collected by Victim Specialists and distributed to clients through our partner agencies, including: the Domestic Violence Intake Center at DC Superior Court and the Southeast Satellite Office at Greater Southeast Community Hospital.

Collection sites are in every police district and substation. Individuals may drop off their used and unwanted cell phones (and chargers/batteries, if you have them) in the designated boxes.

The DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence handles all tax deduction requests. Individuals requesting to receive a tax deduction for their contribution may either mail them directly to the DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence, drop them off at any police district, or contact the Victim Services Branch to schedule a time to drop off your phones with a Victim Specialist at the Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters location.

The cell phone donation program is a part of an effort to assist victims trying to leave an abusive relationship. During this crucial transition, the likelihood of a violent assault substantially increases and access to emergency services for victims can be critical. Victims can use a cell phone without an active service plan to call 911, which can provide the means for hope that help is a phone call away during a domestic violence assault. For you, it may just be clutter. For someone else, help is only a call away from a violent situation. Let's ensure they have a phone to make the call.



» For more information on the cell phone collection program, including a list of donation sites, visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov/donatecellphone>

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

##### **DC Public Library Offering Fine Forgiveness through 2/5.**

Do you have an overdue library book, CD or DVD? Check it in before February 5 and DC Public Library (DCPL) will forgive your fines. That's right! No fines, no fees, and no questions asked. The DCPL will forgive lost books as well. Regardless of how long you've had it and the condition it's in, check it in and discover the joy of using DC Public Library again. For more information visit <http://www.dclibrary.org/node/29020>.

##### **Join the MPD Reserve Corps.**

The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolice.jobs>.

##### **Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline.**

The CyberTipline is a Congressionally-mandated means for reporting crimes against children. Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling **1-800-843-5678** or reporting crimes online at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

##### **Support the Washington DC Police Foundation.**

The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

### DATA BOX

#### **Homicides**

as of 12/29/11

2011: 108

2010: 132

% Change: -18.2%

Closure Rate: 93% (101 closures)

#### **Firearm Recoveries**

as of 12/26/11

December: 121

2011 Total: 1,885

#### **Traffic Fatalities**

as of 12/29/11

2011: 32

2010: 25

% Change: 28%

#### **Information, ideas, or comments about this service?**

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at [kaylin.castelli@dc.gov](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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