

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, January 27, 2012*

## GET TIPS ON PREVENTING VEHICLE THEFT DURING 2012 WASHINGTON AUTO SHOW

Visitors to the 2012 Washington Auto Show will be able to do more than just check out the latest in new automobiles and accessories. They can also get valuable information and resources on how to protect their vehicles from theft. The safety tips are courtesy of the MPD. The Washington Auto Show runs from Friday, January 27, through Sunday, February 5, in the Washington Convention Center. Members of the MPD's Auto Theft Unit and the Washington Area Vehicle Enforcement (WAVE) team, as well as other area law enforcement agencies will be passing out safety tips and information on how to reduce the chances of your vehicle being stolen.

In 2011, 3,820 vehicles were reported stolen in DC, according to preliminary statistics. While that was a seven percent decrease compared to 2010, far too many cars are stolen each year. To help protect automobiles from theft, motorists are encouraged to follow some steps to make your car – and the valuables in it – less attractive to thieves. The common-sense approach to protection is the simplest and most cost effective way to avoid would-be thieves. You should always secure your vehicle, even if you're parking for "just a minute." Do this by: removing your keys from the ignition; locking all of your doors; closing all of your windows; parking in a well-lit area; and never leaving your engine running and vehicle unlocked while you run into your home, a convenience store or anywhere else.

Also, a visible or audible device will alert thieves that your vehicle is protected. Popular devices include audible alarms, steering wheel locks, steering column collars, theft deterrent decals, and tire locks.

» For more auto theft prevention and other safety tips, go to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

» For information on the 2012 Washington Auto Show, visit:

<http://www.washingtonautoshow.com>

## ONLINE SERVICE REQUEST CENTER MAKES REQUESTING CITY SERVICES A SIMPLE CLICK AWAY

From trash pick-up to traffic signals, the DC Government's Service Request Center makes it easy to submit requests online. In three simple steps, you can request a city service with an easy way to monitor its progress. Just select a service type, enter the service location. Through the Service Request Center, you'll also receive a tracking number, allowing you to check the status of your request.

Public safety and city services go hand in hand. Ensuring that an abandoned auto is quickly towed or having graffiti removed promptly has a doubly-positive effect. It fosters pride in the community, while at the same time, it sends a clear message to potential vandals letting them know their actions will not be tolerated.

Visitors to the Service Request Center can report abandoned vehicles, request alley cleaning or repair, ask snow removal, register for DMV services, request graffiti clean-up or removal, file complaints or commendations of DC Government employee driving, report illegal dumping or posters, report certain parking violations, request the replacement of street signs, get a street light repaired, and so much more. So the next time you see a problem that requires a city service, take action and report it to the Service Request Center.

» Need to request a city service? Call 3-1-1 or visit:

<http://311.dc.gov/>

## SHARE THE ROAD: TIPS FOR DRIVERS, CYCLISTS, AND PEDESTRIANS

Approximately 2,700 pedestrians and bicyclists are injured every year in the Washington region, and 89 are killed. Pedestrian and bicyclist fatalities account for almost a quarter of the total traffic fatalities in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and northern Virginia. What's disappointing is that many of these fatalities could have been avoided. By exercising some common sense and extending some common courtesies, future tragedies can be avoided. The following tips should help drivers, bikers and walkers share the road and get where they're going safely.

### Tips for Drivers

Drivers are reminded to turn on vehicle headlights at dusk and be vigilant in looking out for cyclists and pedestrians. Additionally, drivers should:

- » Stop for pedestrians at crosswalks.
- » Yield to pedestrians and cyclists when turning.
- » Look before opening your door.

### Tips for Cyclists

When traveling on city streets, cyclists should follow the same rules of the road as motorized vehicles. This means stopping at stop signs; obeying traffic signals and lane markings; and using signals to let others know your intention to stop or turn. Furthermore, cyclists are advised to be aware of their surroundings:

- » Don't wear headphones; you need to be able to hear if a car is approaching.
- » Be predictable: ride with the flow of traffic, on the right, and in a straight line – not in and out of parked cars on the side of the street.
- » Be visible and wear the proper protective gear.
- » Make eye contact with motorists to let them know you are there (but don't always expect them to see you).

### Tips for Walkers and Runners

When walking or exercising, especially in the early morning or at dusk or dark, pedestrians should keep the following tips in mind:

- » Stay on the sidewalk, not in the street; only cross the street in crosswalks with traffic control devices.
- » Look both ways before crossing the street.
- » Never run between cars into the street.
- » Wear clothing that allows drivers and people to see you. That means no dark clothes after dark or early in the morning.
- » Keep alert! Dawn and dusk offer convenient shadows for muggers and other crooks.

- » Get tips for drivers, cyclists and pedestrians, and learn how to avoid fines for associated violations at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/sharetheroad>
- » Tips for drivers, bikers and pedestrians are available on the Street Smart website:  
<http://www.beststreetsmart.net>
- » Get more Smart Bicycling Tips from Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA):  
<http://www.waba.org/>
- » Get cycling tips and hand signals from the Street Smart Campaign:  
<http://www.beststreetsmart.net/bike.php>
- » Get more walking and running tips at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/runners>
- » Aggressive driving is a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety. If you witness aggressive driving, report it. Learn more about aggressive driving at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Street Closures.** On Sunday, January 29, 2012, the Chinese New Year Parade and celebration will take place from approximately 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. In conjunction with this event, there will be several street closures

and parking restrictions in the Chinatown neighborhood. For more information go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov>.

#### Summer Youth Employment Application Now Available Online.

On Fri., Jan. 27, 2012 at 3:15 pm, the online application for the 2012 SYEP will become available to District residents between the ages

of 14 – 21 years old and can be accessed by visiting <http://www.summerjobs.dc.gov>.

**One City Summit Set for 2/11.** DC residents are invited to join Mayor Gray at the Washington Convention Center on Feb. 11 for the One City Summit. For more information visit <http://onecitysummit.dc.gov>.

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 1/27/12
2012: 8	
2011: 9	
% Change: -11%	
Closure Rate: 25% (2 closures)	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 1/23/12
January: 139	
2012 Total: 139	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 1/27/12
2012: 1	
2011: 3	
% Change: -67%	

### 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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