

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, June 22, 2012*

## DEPUTY MAYOR AND POLICE CHIEF BRIEF MEMBERS OF THE LGBT COMMUNITY ON PARTNERSHIP WITH A NEW TASK FORCE

Deputy Mayor Paul Quander and Chief of Police Cathy L. Lanier met with members of and advocates for the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, and transgender (LGBT) community yesterday to brief them on the formation of a task force to assess the Metropolitan Police Department's outreach efforts and partnerships with various communities in the city and its investigation and reporting of hate crimes. Task force members include the Anti-Defamation League (ADL), Human Rights Campaign, National Center for Transgender Equality, the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights, and two of the nation's leading academic experts on the causes and impact of hate violence, Professor Jack McDevitt of Northeastern University and Professor Jim Nolan of West Virginia University.

"The District of Columbia is open and welcoming to people of all nations, races, sexual orientation, and gender identity," said Deputy Mayor Quander. "We want all individuals – whether they are people in those communities or those who might commit a hate crime – to know that intolerance and hate crimes have no place in our vibrant city."

In December 2011, Chief Lanier asked ADL, a national leader on the issue of hate crimes, to assist the Department by conducting an impartial review of MPD's programs, comparing them with programs in other departments in the nation, and identifying any areas that might be strengthened. The ADL has assembled this small group of national civil rights organizations, advocacy groups and recognized academic authorities with involvement and experience on the issues of community engagement and hate crimes to donate their time to this effort.

"We appreciate that the members of the task force are willing to dedicate their time to support the District on this important issue," noted Chief Lanier. "The Metropolitan Police Department and the members of the task force share a strong commitment to working with communities to strengthen police-community relations and combat violence of all kinds, including hate crimes."

The task force will carry out its work in two phases. The first phase will focus on outreach and response to the LGBT community. The second phase will examine how MPD works with other groups in the community. Phase one will begin immediately, with the assessment task force interviews and meetings with LGBT community members and activists over the next month.

» The Metropolitan Police Department's Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit (GLLU) is a team of dedicated officers that focuses on the public safety needs of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and their allied communities. For more information on the GLLU and other Special Liaison Units in the MPD, go to:

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

## BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH EXTREME TEMPERATURES

The sweltering 90 degree temperatures that hit the District Columbia earlier this week offer a toasty reminder that summer is here. While summer is a time to kick back and relax, it's important to take the proper precautions when the mercury rises.

When it gets hot, it is very important to pay attention to and abide by heat related warnings. Excessive exposure to high temperatures can cause life threatening illnesses such as: heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat rash, and heat cramps to name a few.

General symptoms associated with heat related illnesses include, but are not limited to, mild weakness, dizziness, fatigue, vomiting and high body temperature. Consider the following suggestions to avoid heat-related illnesses:

- » DO NOT leave children or pets in vehicles.
- » Keep your body cool and hydrated by drinking a sufficient amount of water and juice throughout the day.
- » Avoid drinking alcohol, especially beer, because it dehydrates the body.
- » Wear light-colored and loose fitting clothing.
- » Stay out of the sun or try to limit your sun exposure as much as possible, especially between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm, when it is strongest.
- » Stay in an air-conditioned environment as much as possible. If your home is not air-conditioned, visit your local mall or library.
- » Avoid strenuous outdoor activities such as: sports, jogging, bike riding, mowing the lawn, etc.
- » Be sure to check on elderly relatives or neighbors. Senior citizens are much more susceptible to the effects of heat.



- » Get information on coping with the heat in DC by visiting the DC Department of Homeland Security's website at: <http://hsema.dc.gov/>
- » Sign up for alerts from HSEMA and the Department of Health via the DC webpage at: <http://dc.gov> or [72hours.dc.gov](http://72hours.dc.gov)
- » During heat emergencies, United Planning Organization vans will canvass various areas throughout the city to identify persons suffering from the heat and transport them to cooling centers. Persons who need transportation to cooling centers can call the hypothermia hotline at **(202) 399-7093**.
- » Stay cool at the pool by visiting one of the 33 swimming sites managed by the DC Department of Parks and Recreation. Details about pool locations, hours and fees are available at: [http://app.dpr.dc.gov/DPR/information/swimming\\_pools/index.asp](http://app.dpr.dc.gov/DPR/information/swimming_pools/index.asp)

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides as of 6/22/12

2012: 40  
2011: 52  
% Change: -23%  
Closure Rate: % (32 closures)

#### Adult Arrests (week end. 6/16/12)

Total Arrests: 786  
Weapons: 15  
Robbery: 20  
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7  
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 12  
Narcotics: 118

#### Juvenile Activity (week end. 6/16/12)

Total Arrests: 52  
Weapons: 1  
Robbery: 9  
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 0  
Narcotics: 3

#### Firearm Recoveries as of 6/18/12

June: 88  
2012 Total: 927

#### Traffic Fatalities as of 6/22/12

2012: 6  
2011: 18  
% Change: -66.7%

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Join the MPD Reserve Corps.** The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

**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>.

**Preventing terrorism is everybody's business.** If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the MPD at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn how you can help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

**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>.

#### 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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