

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, July 20, 2012*

## BUCKLE UP, BABY!

### KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY

Today, more parents and caregivers than ever before secure their kids in child safety seats. According to the Data from the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), show an estimated 8,959 lives were saved by child restraint systems from 1975 to 2008.

But amid this good news is an alarming fact: too many parents still don't use the full range of child safety seats, especially booster seats. Safety experts strongly recommend that children should not be moved into regular seat belts until they are at least four feet, nine inches (4' 9") tall, weigh about 80 pounds, and are approximately eight years old. And DC law now requires booster seats for children up to age 8. Yet, booster seat use for children ages four to eight is still less than 10 percent nationally.

The MPD encourages all parents and caregivers to know about and follow the law, to acquire and use age-appropriate child safety restraints, to have their child safety seats inspected, and to follow the four essential steps to protecting children in motor vehicles. The four steps to protect your children as they grow older are listed in the steps below. Remember to have safety seats inspected on a regular basis. Seat belts can seriously injure or kill small children who are not properly placed in child safety seats.

Protect your children by following each step as they grow older. And remember to have their safety seats inspected on a regular basis. Seat belts can seriously injure or kill small children who are not properly placed in child safety seats.



» Learn more about child passenger safety and the laws in the District of Columbia at:

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

» On Saturday, July 21, 2012 from 11 am - 3 pm, the MPD and DDOT will be offering a free car seat inspections and installation workshop at 501 New York Avenue, NW. Please email for an appointment: [arlinda.page@dc.gov](mailto:arlinda.page@dc.gov) or [karen.gay@dc.gov](mailto:karen.gay@dc.gov).

#### Four Steps to Car Seat Safety

» **Step 1: Infants**

From birth to 1 year (or up to approx. 20 lbs), use a rear-facing car seat.

» **Step 2: Toddlers**

From 1-4 years (20-40 lbs), use a forward-facing child seat, or a convertible car seat.

» **Step 3: Younger Children (40 - 80 lbs. and up to 54")**

For younger children (40-80 lbs and up to 54"), use a belt-positioning booster seat (high-back or booster without a back).

» **Step 4: Older Children (8 years or older, more than 80 lbs. and taller than 54")**

For older children (over 80 lbs and over 54"), use a seat belt. Be sure the child is large enough for a correct fit.

## 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 a simple way to monitor its progress. 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 can report abandoned vehicles, request alley cleaning or repair, ask for leaf or bulk garbage collection, 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.

## BE PREPARED FOR THE HEAT WHEN DRIVING ON THE STREET

As the DC region continues to battle the heat, drivers should be prepared in case their vehicle breaks down or they encounter traffic delays. Drivers are encouraged to take appropriate precautions and preparations to help in case of an emergency.

- » Before starting on your trip, make sure you have enough water for yourself as well as the radiator.
- » Check or create a road safety kit. It should include battery cables, a flashlight, water and flashers.
- » Keep sunscreen in the vehicle.
- » Even if it's not raining, store an umbrella in your auto. It may not be safe to stay in the vehicle (even on a mild sunny day, temperatures in a car can exceed 120 degrees). An umbrella will provide shade if there's no natural cover.
- » Keep extra coolant in the car.
- » Check your tires before hitting the road. Excessive heat can lead to low air pressure.
- » If possible, have your cell phone with you, but do not use it WHILE driving. Use the phone only in case of emergency, and after you have pulled to the side of the road.
- » Don't leave anyone behind when you park your car. Make sure everyone – including your pets – are out before you close the doors.
- » Check your vehicle's rubber belts, hoses, and all fluid levels on a regular basis.
- » If possible, try scheduling your travel times to avoid sitting in rush hour traffic.
- » If possible, use transit as an alternative to driving.

» Need to request a city service? Call 3-1-1 or visit: <http://311.dc.gov/>

» Try DC's new 3-1-1 smart phone app to report a non-emergency issue in your neighborhood. Download the app at: <http://ouc.dc.gov/page/dc-311-smartphone-app>

### DATA BOX

#### Homicides as of 7/20/12

2012: 49  
2011: 62  
% Change: -21%  
Closure Rate: 83.7% (41 closures)

#### Adult Arrests (week end. 7/14/12)

Total Arrests: 904  
Weapons: 18  
Robbery: 14  
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 16  
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 21  
Narcotics: 164

#### Juvenile Activity (week end. 7/14/12)

Total Arrests: 73  
Weapons: 1  
Robbery: 10  
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 5  
Narcotics: 2

#### Firearm Recoveries as of 7/16/12

July: 62

2012 Total: 1,037

#### Traffic Fatalities as of 7/20/12

2012: 9  
2011: 23  
% Change: -60.9%

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline.** The Use the CyberTipline to report 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>.

#### 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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