

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, September 28, 2011

FOLLOWING THE LAUNCH OF THE LATEST APPLE PRODUCT, SMARTPHONE USERS ARE REMINDED TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

Cell phone theft is a growing problem, and the problem isn't just that people are losing their valuable property. Oftentimes, these property crimes escalate to become violent robberies, where the victims are injured for their electronic devices. In addition to the loss and injury experienced during the initial crime, there is an added risk of identity theft if the stolen smartphone isn't password protected to prevent a thief from getting access to private information on the device.

Smartphone owners are encouraged to do what they can to reduce their risk of becoming a victim of a robbery. The MPD offers the following tips:



- **Protect your Information.** Make sure your phone is password protected before you walk out the door. That way, if your device is lost or stolen, no one can run up your phone bill or access your online accounts.
- **Don't Walk and Text.** Texting while walking is dangerous, especially in crosswalks and other areas with heavy pedestrian and vehicular traffic. Not only that, when you're texting, you're not paying attention to your surroundings, which make you an easy target for criminals.
- **Pocket the Phone.** Consider putting your smartphone away for a bit. If you are wearing headphones, don't turn up the volume so high that you cannot hear outside noises. Don't forget that ubiquitous white cord may indicate to would-be thieves that you're carrying a certain brand of smart phone.
- **Be Alert.** Always be aware of your surroundings. Wherever you are—on the street, in an office building or shopping mall, driving, waiting for a bus or subway—stay alert and tuned in to your surroundings.
- **Safety in Numbers.** If possible, don't walk alone during late-night hours. Walk in groups whenever you can—there is always safety in numbers.
- **Trust your instincts.** If something or someone makes you uneasy, avoid the person or leave.

If someone tries to rob you, don't resist. Give up your property—don't give up your life. Report the crime to the police. Try to describe the attacker accurately. Your actions can help prevent others from becoming victims.

» In April of this year, the FCC Chairman Genachowski joined Senator Schumer, DC Mayor Gray, State Police Departments and wireless carriers to announce new initiatives to combat massive smartphone and data theft. Consumers can protect themselves by being aware of their surroundings and by participating in the wireless industry's program so that we can eliminate the black market sales of stolen electronics. Read the complete release at:

http://mpdc.dc.gov/smartphone_release_041012

» The MPD offers a variety of safety tips, including a complete brochure on robbery prevention. Read the tips online or download brochures at:

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

MPD WELCOMES TWENTY-THREE NEW OFFICERS, SIX NEW RESERVE CORPS MEMBERS

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 23 officers who were sworn in during a graduation ceremony on Friday, September 28, 2012, at the Metropolitan Police Academy in Southwest DC.

Training awards presented during the ceremony recognized **Officer David Naples** (Academic Training Award); **Officer Michael Barbieri** (Vehicle Skills Awards);

Officer David Naples (Firearms Training Award); and **Officers Kaitlyn Bush** and **Eric Baca** (Physical Skills Awards). The new officers all completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the police academy, which includes a full program of physical, classroom, and firearms training to prepare them for the challenges of being a police officer. The subjects covered include laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal law, traffic regulations, human relations, community policing, and ethics. In addition, recruit officers receive skills training in firearms, operation of emergency police vehicles, self-defense, advanced first aid, and much more.

The Department also welcomed six new Reserve Corps members. During training, Reserve Officer candidates completed a full program of physical skills, classroom, and hands-on training to prepare them for the challenges of being a Reserve Officer. Among the subjects covered by the training are laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal law, traffic regulations, human relations, community policing, ethics and integrity, and basic police techniques. Level I Reserve Officer candidates must successfully complete the same firearms training as career officers to be elevated to Level I status.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is focused on building a crime-fighting partnership with the community, and developing our own promise and potential as a department. Police work requires a certain type of individual — one who has strong interpersonal skills and the motivation to work with our partners to help build strong, safe and healthy communities throughout the District of Columbia.



» For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPD visit the police recruiting website at: <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>

» The MPD is looking for volunteers to join the MPD's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPD in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details on the Reserve Corps and other volunteer programs are available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/volunteer-opportunities-mpdc>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 9/28/12
2012: 68	
2011: 81	
% Change: -16.0%	
Closure Rate: 81.0% (51 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 9/15/12
Total Arrests: 717	
Weapons: 19	
Robbery: 13	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 17	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 16	
Narcotics: 88	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 9/15/12
Total Arrests: 59	
Weapons: 3	
Robbery: 6	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7	
Narcotics: 1	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 9/24/12
September: 150	
2012 Total: 1,448	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 9/28/12
2012: 12	
2011: 28	
% Change: -57.1%	

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>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

Would you like *What's New in the MPD* emailed to you each week?

Register with DC.Gov at <http://dc.gov/DC/Subscribe/Email+Alerts>

LEARN MORE AT
mpdc.dc.gov