

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, November 22, 2013

MPD LAUNCHES NEW PHOTO ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY DESIGNED TO MAKE THE DISTRICT'S STREETS EVEN SAFER

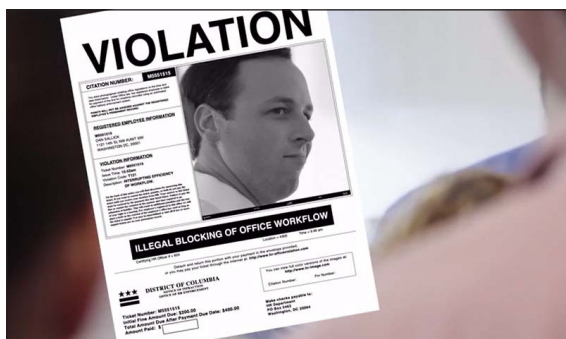
The Metropolitan Police Department announced today the deployment of several new types of automated traffic enforcement as part of a new traffic safety campaign called DC Street Safe.

DC StreetSafe
Serving to protect | DCStreetSafe.org

» For more information about the new technology, the locations of all automated enforcement units, and DC Street Safe videos, please visit: <http://www.DCStreetsafe.org>.

DC Street Safe is aimed at using new photo enforcement technologies to combat aggressive and dangerous driving habits that endanger some of our most vulnerable road users, such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vehicle drivers and passengers. Additionally, DC Street Safe allows traffic safety enforcement in areas and circumstances where it could be dangerous or impractical for police officers to pull over vehicles for violations. DC Street Safe will be comprised of the following new technologies:

- Gridlock enforcement units that will improve traffic flow by targeting “blocking the box” at intersections;
- Portable stop sign enforcement units to reduce violations in residential neighborhoods;
- Portable crosswalk enforcement units that will enhance pedestrian safety at crosswalks near schools, parks, and recreation centers;
- Speed enforcement units that will focus on intersections with known speeding problems;
- Units that will enforce rules on oversized and overweight commercial vehicles in order to reduce infrastructure damage and enhance quality of life in our neighborhoods.



The deployment locations for the automated traffic enforcement units were selected based on a variety of criteria, including sites with crashes and injuries, calls for service, high speed volume, near schools, or in zones prohibited for use by certain commercial vehicles. MPD also considered recommendations or requests from the Department of Transportation, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and community organizations.

The new automated traffic safety enforcement cameras will be activated on Saturday, November 23. Cameras at new locations will issue warnings to vehicles for violations until Sunday, December 29. Beginning Monday, December 30, cameras at new locations will issue fines for violations.

MPD REMINDS SMART PHONE USERS TO PROTECT THEIR PROPERTY

These days, it is impossible to walk down the street without seeing a smart phone in use. These ubiquitous, expensive devices appeal to criminals because they can be easily reprogrammed, or erased, and quickly sold for cash. Thieves are sometimes bold enough to snatch a smart phone right out of its owner's hand while he or she is using it. People have also had their phones taken from tables while sitting at restaurants. Although the vast majority of these offenses do not involve physical harm to the victim, it is still a disconcerting trend.

The MPD is reminding people to be aware of their surroundings, especially while walking down the street and talking on the phone. It is particularly important to be aware of your surroundings if you are walking alone at night. Do not leave your phone on a table while dining out, as this may also attract would-be thieves.

Cell phone users should also consider how to use their phones safely. Talking and texting on a cell phone may distract you from your surroundings, and it can become downright dangerous at intersections. Please, stop texting long enough to cross a street. While you may technically have the right-of-way, as walker, you don't stand a chance against a car.

Here are some more tips for reducing your risk of becoming a victim of a robbery:

- **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 smart phone 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.

As always, if you observe any suspicious activity, please call 911 immediately.

» The MPD offers a number of safety tips, including tips on guarding against robbery and assault and burglary prevention. Get these and other safety tips at:

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

» Brick it! By bricking your phone, you will permanently disable your device and help us eliminate the black market for stolen smart phones. Learn more at:

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



NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Remembering Homicide Victims

on 12/7. MPD's Victim Services Branch, in collaboration with other community service

providers, will host the Sixth Annual Tree of Remembrance event on December 7, 2013, from 11am-5pm at 101 M Street, SW (First District Community Room). This Holiday Remembrance Event is dedicated to honoring the lives of loved ones lost in the District of Columbia. For more call Dawn Christie (202)

727-7139 or Carla Okonkwo (202) 645-6363.

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>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

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

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