

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, July 18, 2014*

## KNOW THE FACTS ABOUT MARIJUANA IN DC

You may have heard that marijuana is now legal to possess and use in the District of Columbia. This is not true!

**What's no longer a criminal violation?** On July 17, 2014, the District of Columbia law on possession of small amounts of marijuana changed. As a result, it is no longer a criminal violation for a person to:

- Possess one ounce or less of marijuana;
- Transfer one ounce or less of marijuana to another person, so long as there is no payment made or any other type of exchange of goods or services; or
- Possess marijuana-related drug paraphernalia – such as bongs, cigarette rolling papers, and cigar wrappers – that are associated with one ounce or less of marijuana.

**Civil fines for possession of small amounts of marijuana.** Although the actions noted above are no longer criminal violations, any person found by an MPD officer to be in possession of one ounce or less of marijuana can receive a \$25 ticket. Any visible marijuana or paraphernalia will be seized.

Any person(s) receiving a \$25 ticket must provide their accurate name and address. If they fail to do so, they could face arrest and, upon conviction, a fine of up to \$100.

If a person wishes to appeal the \$25 ticket, they can follow the instructions on the ticket to file an appeal with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

**What is still a criminal violation?** A person can still be arrested for:

- Selling any amount of marijuana to another person;
- Operating a vehicle or boat under the influence of marijuana;
- Smoking, eating, or drinking marijuana – or holding or carrying a lighted roll of paper or other lighted smoking equipment filled with marijuana – in any public space, such as:
  - o On any street, sidewalk, alley, park, or parking area;
  - o In a vehicle on any street, alley, park, or parking area; or
  - o Any place to which the public is invited.

Anyone arrested for using marijuana in public can, upon conviction, be sentenced up to 60 days in jail or a fine of up to \$500. Prosecutions for these violations will be done by the Office of the Attorney General.

**Impact on authorized medical marijuana users.** A person who has been issued a Medical Marijuana Card by the District Department of Health may continue to possess up to two ounces of medical marijuana per month. However, the use of medical marijuana in public remains a criminal offense and can result in arrest.

**Enforcement by federal law enforcement agencies.** Although the District of Columbia has decriminalized possession of up to one ounce of marijuana, federal law continues to prohibit the possession or use of any amount of marijuana. As a result, federal law enforcement officers may arrest anyone in the District of Columbia for possession or use of any amount of marijuana as a violation of federal law. For example, the U.S. Park Police can arrest a person for possessing or using any marijuana on the National Mall, Rock Creek Park, or any other National Park Service land.

Prosecutions for federal law violations would be done by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia.



KNOW THE FACTS  
About Marijuana in DC

You may have heard that marijuana is now legal in the District of Columbia. **This is not true.** Be smart and know the facts.

- » Possessing one ounce or less of marijuana is subject to a \$25 ticket and seizure of the marijuana by police.
- » If you refuse to provide your real name and address to police when being given a ticket, you can be arrested.
- » You can be arrested if you smoke or consume marijuana in public, have more than 1 ounce, or sell any amount of marijuana.
- » Driving while under the influence of marijuana is a dangerous crime and will be prosecuted.
- » Under federal law, federal law enforcement officers may arrest anyone in the District for possession of any amount of marijuana.
- » To learn more, please visit [www.mpd.dcgov/marijuana](http://www.mpd.dcgov/marijuana).

» Learn about marijuana decriminalization in DC and download a helpful business-card handout with facts about marijuana in DC at:  
<http://mpdc.dcgov/marijuana>

## NEW AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT LOCATIONS DEPLOYED

Today, the Metropolitan Police Department announced the deployment of new photo enforced locations beginning on or about July 18, 2014. The deployment locations for the Photo Enforcement Units will be sites where speeding and pedestrian safety has been identified to be a problem.

The 30-day educational phase will commence on or about July 19, 2014, whereas violators will receive warning citations. After thirty days of warning tickets, MPD will begin issuing live moving citations to violators.

The new photo enforcement locations are as follows.  
The speed limit for each of these locations is 25 MPH:

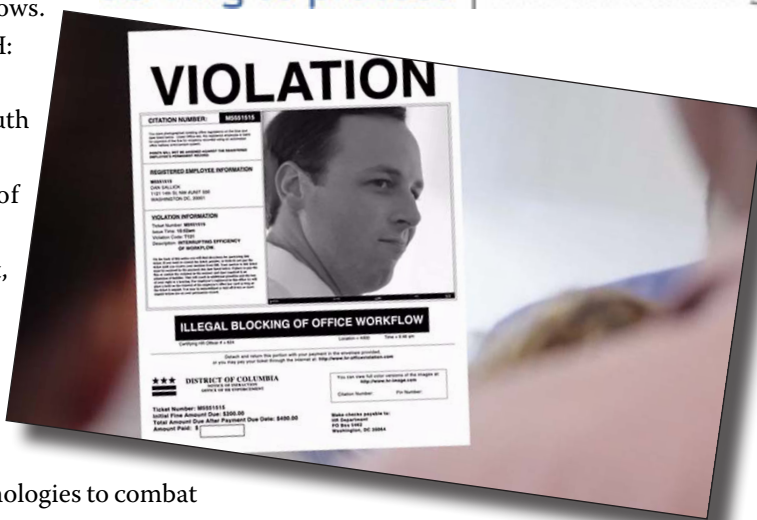
- Speed Camera: 5th District // 3900 block of South Dakota Avenue, NE (southeastbound)
- Speed Camera: 6th District // 3700 block of Minnesota Avenue, NE (southbound)
- Crosswalk Camera: 6th District // 49th Street, NE northbound @ Clay Street

The speed cameras are part of several types of automated traffic enforcement the MPD uses as part of the DC Street Safe traffic safety campaign. DC Street Safe is aimed at using 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 is 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.

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

**DC StreetSafe**  
Serving to protect | [DCStreetSafe.org](http://DCStreetSafe.org)



### 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>.

**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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