

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, August 15, 2014

MPD POLICE CADET PROGRAM PROVIDES REAL-LIFE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO DC STUDENTS INTERESTED IN POLICING

The Police Cadet Training Program provides training and experience in the field of law enforcement to qualified individuals between the ages of 17 to 21 who have the desire to pursue a career with the Metropolitan Police Department. The program is designed to prepare candidates for entrance into the Metropolitan Police Officer Recruit Program.

The comprehensive benefits package includes a starting salary of \$25,315–\$33,055 per year; full college tuition through the University of the District of Columbia; dental and health benefits; and annual and sick leave. In addition, cadets will gain familiarization with the daily operations of the department and its rich history through temporary assignments throughout the department's police districts and specialized units. Cadets will participate in community policing activities, and interface with citizens and visitors of the District of Columbia.

In order to enter the Police Cadet Training Program, candidates must be enrolled in a District of Columbia high school or have graduated from high school and received their diploma or a GED issued by the District of Columbia. Candidates must also pass a comprehensive background investigation that includes a medical examination, drug screening and a psychological evaluation; meet certain academic requirements and conform to Physical Fitness Standards.



- » For more information on joining the MPD Cadet Program, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/cadet>
- » Ever wonder what it takes to join the MPD? Check out the MPD's Physical Ability Test Video to see what's required:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/multimedia/physical-ability-test-video>

WMATA WARNS RIDERS TO AVOID SMARTRIP CARD SCAMS

On August 11, 2014, Metro issued a news release cautioning riders not to buy discounted (plastic) SmarTrip cards from individuals or non-official sellers, as the cards may not work on buses or faregates in rail stations. Metro is concerned that its customers may lose money by falling victim to discount fare card scams. The transit authority routinely deactivates SmarTrip cards that are purchased fraudulently and then sold to the public for less than the fare value on the cards. The Metro Transit Police Department investigates potentially fraudulent sales of SmarTrip cards, including monitoring activity on online auction sites.

“Riders should be aware that any SmarTrip card purchased from an unauthorized individual or website may be subject to deactivation and the loss of any value on the card,” said Metro Transit Police Chief Ron Pavlik.



SmarTrip cards are available for sale at thousands of locations around the region, including dispensers at all Metrorail stations, at Metro Sales Offices, and through licensed vendors including CVS, Giant, Safeway, and Walmart. Any card purchased from an individual or unlicensed source is considered invalid and may be flagged for deactivation.

- » Read the complete news release, which includes a number of SmarTrip security tips, at:
http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=5757

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. 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.dc.gov/marijuana.

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

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

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