WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

Friday, January 2, 2015

JANUARY IS STALKING AWARENESS MONTH

Stalking is a crime that affects 6.6 million adults a year. One in 6 women and 1 in 19 men will experience stalking at some point in their lives. Many of these crimes will go unreported and unprosecuted. During National Stalking Awareness Month, MPD renews its commitment to provide support to all victims of stalking. It will also honor those victims who are no longer with us as a result of this crime.

Stalking occurs when a person repeatedly behaves or acts in a way that causes intense physical and emotion distress. It is a series of actions that puts a person in fear of his/her safety or the safety of family members. Stalking may include direct or indirect threats, harassment, or unwanted communication via phone, text messages, or emails. It may also include any behavior that would make a reasonable person feel threatened, intimidated, annoyed, or afraid. Many victims may feel forced to move or change jobs.

A stalker is much more likely to be someone known by the victim, than someone who is unknown. The stalker's behavior may start with small, annoying and persistent actions. Tragically, the behavior tends to escalate over time; and is sometimes followed by sexual assault or homicide. Stalking is a serious crime, like sexual assault and domestic violence. It's about power, control, domination and doing harm.

If a person believes he or she is being stalked, it's important to: find an ally; tell someone (family, roommates, trusted friends, and/or co-workers); contact the police to report the crime; formulate a safety plan; and keep a log of all communications, threats, email, mail or other contacts.

» For more information on stalking contact the MPD's Victim Services Branch at (202) 724-4339.

» Whether you have a few minutes, a few hours, or a few days, you can educate yourself and your community about stalking during January, National Stalking Awareness Month: http://stalkingawarenessmonth.org/

ONLINE SERVICE REQUEST CENTER MAKES REQUESTING CITY SERVICES A SIMPLE CLICK AWAY

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. 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 service with an easy way to monitor its progress. Just select a service type and enter the service location. Through the Service Request Center, you'll also receive a tracking number, allowing you to check the status of your request.

Visitors to the Service Request Center can report abandoned vehicles, request alley cleaning or repair, ask snow removal, 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.

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

» Use your smartphone to report issues in your neighborhood using the OUC's app: http://ouc.dc.gov/page/dc-311-smartphone-app

POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM OFFERS COMMUNITY MEMBERS INSIGHT INTO THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE MPD

The Metropolitan Police Department's Police Ride-Along program allows residents to accompany officers during their tour of duty in a police vehicle. "Ride-Along" means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying a police officer during part of a normal tour of duty. The primary purpose of a police Ride-Along is to provide an opportunity for the community to see firsthand the day-to-day workings of law enforcement in the District of Columbia. The Ride-Along participant receives important insight into what it means to be a police officer. Criminal Justice students and individuals interested in law enforcement careers have found it particularly useful. The Ride-Along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the police officer's role in the community.

Other Ride-Along goals are to:

- provide citizens the opportunity to get to know their police officers.
- offer citizens interested in a career in law enforcement an opportunity to examine the job.
- educate the community about the responsibilities of police officers.
- provide an opportunity for police officers to get to know their community.

» For additional contact information and to download an application to participate in the MPD's Police Ride-Along program, go to: http://mpdc.dc.gov/ridealong

REPORT INTERNET CRIMES THROUGH FBI'S IC3

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) receives, develops, and refers cyber crime complaints to local, state, federal, and international law enforcement agencies. The IC3 gives cyber crime victims a convenient and easy-to-use reporting mechanism that alerts authorities of suspected criminal or civil violations.

Many complaints involved identity theft, such as loss of personally identifying data, and the unauthorized use of credit cards or bank accounts. The IC3 uses information from the complaints to detect emerging trends and proactively fight consumer victimization through educational efforts with project partners, various publications and the consumer education website, www.lookstoogoodtobetrue.com.

» Learn more about the Internet Crimes Complaint Center (IC3) at: http://www.ic3.gov

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Tell Us How We're Doing. MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service – positive or negative – through MPD's email groups, our social media, or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at **http://grade.dc.gov.**

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.**

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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