

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 17, 2015

NATIONAL CRIME VICTIMS' RIGHTS WEEK PROVIDES OPPORTUNITY TO HONOR VICTIMS AND ADVOCATES, RAISE AWARENESS

Every year, the US Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime celebrates the promotion of victim's rights and honors crime victims as well as advocates. This year, National Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 19 through April 25. The theme points to the importance of community involvement to both prevent crime as well as empower survivors of crime. For every neighbor that speaks out about domestic violence, every witness that is willing to admit they observed criminal activity, for every brave soul that seeks to make their environment safer for the next generation, a crime is prevented or a victim is empowered. Through communicating effectively, sharing information and resources, and encouraging cultural shifts, this upcoming awareness week will be a success.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week serves as a platform to inform crime victims. It's the perfect time to let someone know they are not alone or that resources are available if they are in need. It's the very time to ditch the "snitches get stitches" rhetoric and embrace the "We Are One" language. Consider reaching out to someone you know is a crime victim, "engage your community", and let them know there is help.

» Learn more about National Crime Victims' Rights Week at:
<http://ovc.ncjrs.gov/hcvrw>

National Crime Victims' Rights Week

April 19 - 25 ★ 2015

Resource Guide for 2015

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APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Sexual assault is any type of sexual activity that you do not agree to, including inappropriate touching, vaginal, anal, or oral penetration, sexual intercourse that you say no to, rape, attempted rape, and child molestation. Sexual assault can be verbal, visual, or anything that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention. It is a reality for everyone. Anyone can be a victim regardless of gender, race, socio-economic status, or religion. Sexual assault victims include infants, elders, deaf and hearing impaired individuals, and members of the LGBT community, minorities, women, men, and disabled persons. No one is exempt. Above all, sexual assault is a crime! In light of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the following tips are just a few risk reducers to being sexually assaulted:

- **Listen to your instincts.** Normal premonition and "gut" feelings are natural indicators that something may be wrong. If you do not feel comfortable with a situation, leave.
- **Be independent.** Most sexual assaults occur between acquaintances or people you already know. You don't want to be dependent on someone for transportation to and from social outings and if dating someone you don't need to feel as though you "owe" something because of things done for you during the courtship.
- **Avoid mixing alcohol and drugs with decisions about having sex.** It is difficult to make important choices about sex if you are under the influence.
- **Be aware of date rape drugs.** These drugs are often impossible to smell, taste, or detect in

» If you have been a victim of a sexual assault, the MPD's Victim Specialist Unit can provide you some much needed support. Get more information on this unit at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/vsu>

» Get more information about Sexual Assault Awareness Month at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center at:
<http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>

» Some helpful links to local resources include:
o RAINN: <http://www.rainn.org>
o DC Rape Crisis Center: <http://www.dcrcc.org>
o National Center for Victims of Crime: <http://www.ncvc.org>
o La Clinica Del Pueblo: <http://www.lcdp.org>

beverages. If you leave your drink alone with someone, do not drink it after you return. You can choose to have a trusted friend watch your drink as well.

- **Consider going with a group** of people if you are meeting someone new.
- **Communicate.** It is important to clearly talk about what each person in a relationship wants to do sexually. However, understand that NO means NO. Communication can be verbal as well as physical.
- **Avoid dating people who...** don't listen to you, don't respect your personal space, make you feel guilty, or call you names (i.e., prude or uptight).
- **Be assertive.** Make it clear that you are not going to do anything you don't want to do and know that your date should stop once you have said or indicated NO.



A victim is never responsible for being sexually assaulted. You are not at fault, the perpetrator is. The aforementioned are risk reducers but know that making a poor choice or failing to use the risk reducers does NOT make it acceptable for anyone to sexual assault you.

STREET CLOSURES PLANNED FOR MULTIPLE EVENTS THIS WEEKEND

Spring is in the air and events that require street closures are...everywhere! At least, that's how it may feel if you're looking to park your car. Three big events this weekend include the IMF/World Bank Meetings; the Walk for Lupus; and the Earth Day Concert on the National Mall.

Parking restrictions and street closures will be in effect around 19th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, for the Spring IMF/World Bank Meeting, which will run through Saturday, April 19. Additionally, on Saturday, April 18, rolling street closures will accommodate the participants in the Walk for Lupus will begin at 12th and Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, and run from 9 am – noon. Finally, the Earth Day Concert on the National Mall hosted by Will.I.Am and Soledad O'Brien will take place from 11 am – 7:30 pm. Street closures around the National Mall will run from 6 am – 9 pm. With headliners including No Doubt, Usher, Fall Out Boy, Mary J Blige, Train, and My Morning Jacket, attendance will be high and large crowds will also contribute to traffic congestion. Entrance points to the concert are:

- 17th Street at Constitution Avenue (Opens at 10 am)
- 15th Street at Jefferson Drive (Opens at 10 am)
- 17th Street at Independence Avenue (Opens at 1 pm)
- 14th Street at Madison Drive (Vehicles only)

Motorists traveling in the area of this event may experience delays and should consider alternative routes, if possible. The Metropolitan Police Department and the District Department of Transportation would like to remind motorists to pay full attention whenever operating any motor vehicle and to be mindful of heavy pedestrian traffic that may be associated with special events. These street closings are subject to change without notice based upon unanticipated events and prevailing conditions.

If you plan on driving into the downtown DC area, or if you intend to visit the National Mall, please plan accordingly or consider using Metro.

» For a full list of all street closures and parking restrictions, visit:
<http://ddot.dc.gov/release/upcoming-street-closures-to-plan-your-weekend-0>

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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