

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 15, 2015

## 36TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE HONORS AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY HONORED IN 2014

Earlier this week, members of the law enforcement community gathered in front of the Metropolitan Police Department Headquarters memorial fountain to remember the service and sacrifice made by two local law enforcement officers. On January 17, 2014, US Capitol Police Sergeant Clinton J. Holz collapsed while on duty protecting the halls of Congress. Corporal Jamel Clagett, of the Charles County Sheriff's Department was killed in a car crash on December 21, 2014.

The memorial service, which was sponsored by the Fraternal Order of Police Auxiliary took place 11 am on Monday, May 11, 2015, at the memorial fountain outside MPD Headquarters at 300 Indiana Avenue, NW. It was one of a number of activities and services held each year during "National Police Week," an annual event held during the week of May 15 – the date designated by President John. F. Kennedy in 1962 as Peace Officers Memorial Day. Tens of thousands of law enforcement officers from around the world gathered in DC to participate in a variety of events to honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice and were killed in the line of duty.



- » MPD maintains an online memorial to officers killed in the line of duty. Family members, friends and other loved ones may submit remembrances at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/heroes>

## BIKE SMART: KNOW SAFE BIKING PRACTICES AND SECURE YOUR BICYCLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEFT

Bicycling is a great form of exercise and it helps reduce pollution. It's fun for both adults and children. Whether you use a bicycle to get to and from school, for your daily work commute, or for exercise, it is important to follow the DC Bike Laws. The Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA) and the DC Department of Transportation (DDOT) have worked together to develop a Pocket Guide to DC Bike Laws designed to inform both cyclists and law enforcement officers of the rights and responsibilities of cyclists on DC Streets. This guide includes information on traffic laws, common traffic crashes and enforcement errors, bicycling infractions, safety equipment, what to do in case of a bike crash, bike parking/security, as well as other information. This handy guide is available for download from the DDOT website.

In addition to being safe on the road, it is important that you always secure your bicycle when it's not being used. In an effort to prevent thefts and to aid in the recovery of stolen bicycles, the MPD offers the following simple suggestions.

- Invest in a quality lock and use it whenever you are not riding the bicycle.
- Lock your bicycle in an area that is well-lit.
- If you are not going to use your bicycle for a significant period of time, locate a place (preferably inside) where you can safely secure it.
- Document the following information about your bicycle: make, size and serial number. Store this information in a safe place. The serial number is found underneath the bicycle

- » To learn more about the District's Bicycle Program visit: <http://ddot.dc.gov/page/bicycle-program>
- » WABA and DDOT have prepared a Pocket Guide to DC's Bike Laws which is available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/publication/bike-laws-pocket-guide-dc-bike-laws>
- » WABA has created a simple table that details selected bicycle guidelines for DC, Maryland and Virginia online at: <http://www.waba.org/resources/laws.php>

between the crank arms and the bottom bracket. Keep all receipts for your bicycle, including the purchase receipt and repair receipts; these will help provide proof of ownership if your bicycle is stolen.

- Register your bicycle with the National Bike Registry.

While bicycle registration is not required in the District of Columbia, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the MPD strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). NBR is a service that allows you to register your bicycle by serial number in a national database. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. Law enforcement anywhere can access this database. NBR also guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within six months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long that may be.

## CLICK IT OR TICKET ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS TO RUN THROUGH MAY 25

Wearing a seat belt is the single most effective way to avoid being killed in a crash. Would you ever ride a roller coaster without the harness down? Would you ever skydive without a parachute? When you ride in a motor vehicle without a seat belt, you are taking a huge risk. One you can't afford. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, in 2013, there were 9,580 unbelted vehicle occupants killed in crashes on our nation's roads.

This May 18 to 31, the Metropolitan Police Department is joining NHTSA and law enforcement agencies nationwide for the 2015 Click It or Ticket enforcement mobilization. We will be out in full force, cracking down on seat belt violations, issuing citations to anyone caught traveling without a buckled seat belt or transporting unrestrained children. We are determined to get the message across: Seat belts save lives.

In addition to increased patrols and zero-tolerance enforcement, we really want to get the right information out to motorists. There are too many false notions out there about seat belts. Young adults in particular seem to think they are invincible in vehicles. Unfortunately, they are dying at a disproportionate rate because they are not wearing their seat belts. Almost twice as many men are dying in vehicle crashes compared to women, and wearing their seat belts less than women. Pickup truck occupants think that they don't need to wear their seat belts because they believe their large vehicles will protect them in a crash. The numbers from NHTSA tell the truth: 63 percent of pickup truck occupants who were killed in crashes were not buckled up. That's compared to 43 percent of passenger car occupants who were killed while not wearing their seat belts. During the Click It or Ticket enforcement period, an important part of our safety messaging to motorists includes the words "day and night" – and for good reason. More people are being killed in nighttime crashes than ever before, and we are going to be targeting nighttime seat belt violators as a result.

Next time you head out on the road, make sure you and everyone in your vehicle are buckled up. Don't just do it to avoid a ticket, do it so you arrive at your destination safely. Since it's our job to help protect area motorists, we're taking Click It or Ticket seriously. Consider yourself warned: If police catch you not wearing your seat belt on the road, you will get a ticket. No excuses, no warnings. We're hoping you'll get the message and buckle up every trip, every time, even after the crackdown period is over. Wearing your seat belt is required by law 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

So please remember, day and night, Click It or Ticket.

- » Learn more about the Click It or Ticket mobilization, dispel myths about seatbelt safety in the "real deal" section, and view related PSAs at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/ciot>



### 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)

### Would you like *What's New in the MPD* emailed to you each week?

Register with DC.Gov at <http://dc.gov/DC/Subscribe/Email+Alerts>

LEARN MORE AT  
**mpdc.dc.gov**