

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, January 8, 2016

MAYOR BOWSER, CHIEF LANIER ANNOUNCE ROBBERY INTERVENTION TASK FORCE

On Wednesday, January 6, 2015, Mayor Muriel Bowser, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Chief Cathy Lanier, Councilmember Charles Allen and public safety officials announced the creation of a Robbery Intervention Task Force.

“We know that a small number of repeat offenders target our neighborhoods and commit robberies” said Mayor Bowser. “This task force will help focus our efforts to find these criminals, prosecute them and get them off our streets.”

The Task Force, comprised of MPD, the Metro Transit Police Department, the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and the United States Attorney’s Office (USAO), will ensure maximum coordination between different parts of the criminal justice system. Their efforts will focus on quickly identifying and responding to patterns of a robbery spree. They will also work together to develop the strongest cases possible to prosecute repeat offenders. The OAG and USAO have assigned prosecutors to ensure that arrests related to such robberies will be prioritized.

“The U.S. Attorney’s Office is committed to working with the task force to identify and effectively react to robbery patterns through the coordinated use of criminal intelligence and law enforcement resources,” said Richard Tischner, Chief of the Office’s Superior Court Division. “When coordinated law enforcement efforts have identified repeat robbery offenders, the U.S. Attorney’s Office will mount comprehensive investigations into their criminal histories, locate and review past cases in which they evaded prosecution, and revive previous prosecutions where appropriate.”

“Nobody in any neighborhood of our city should feel afraid to walk down the sidewalk at night,” said Attorney General Karl Racine. “We are focused on ensuring that we and our public-safety partners gather robbery evidence and present it in ways that enable successful prosecutions.”

As part of the new effort, MPD has assigned Criminal Research Specialists within MPD’s Crime Information Center to identify robbery patterns in real-time, as they emerge. In addition, MPD has embedded an MPD officer within the Metro Transit Police Department. The officer will quickly identify any crimes where suspects are moving between the Metro and MPD jurisdiction.

“While Metro crime rates remain relatively low overall, we have seen an increase in robbery offenses in recent months,” said Metro Transit Police Chief Ronald A. Pavlik. “Metro operates with the philosophy that any crime is one too many, and our partnership in the mayor’s Task Force is another step to proactively address the issue and ensure a safe ride for everyone.”

The District experienced a 5% increase in robberies in 2015. However, that number is below the historical average. The city experienced 22% fewer robberies in 2015 than in 2007 – despite the fact that the population grew 12% during that time.

» Read the complete news release online at:
<http://dc.gov>

» Download preliminary crime data and map the results using the crime mapping application at:
<http://crimemap.dc.gov>

PUBLIC INVITED TO NOMINATE A MEMBER FOR MPD'S COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING AWARD

On Thursday, March 3, 2016, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will honor members of the Metropolitan Police Department at the 16th Annual Awards Ceremony. The District of Columbia honors those police officers, civilian employees, and residents who have excelled in making city neighborhoods safer and more livable, during the Metropolitan Police Department's Annual Awards Ceremony.

Among the awards presented are the Medal of Valor, for bravery and heroism; the Lifesaving Awards; the Blue Badge Award, for members seriously injured in the line of duty; and the Community-Oriented Policing Award.

The MPD invites the public to submit their nominations for the Community-Oriented Policing Award. Do you know a member of the Metropolitan Police Department who provided outstanding police service and/or truly exemplifies community oriented policing? If so, let us know! This award is to acknowledge service in calendar year 2015.

- » Nominate a member of the MPD for the Community-Oriented Policing Award at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/submit-nomination-mpds-community-oriented-policing-award>
- » Learn about past award recipients at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/node/146482>



NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

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>.

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>.

Support the Washington DC Police Foundation. The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

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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