

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, January 29, 2016

GAY AND LESBIAN LIAISON UNIT CHANGES NAME

On January 11, 2016, the Metropolitan Police Department's Special Liaison Division announced a name change to the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit. In an effort to be inclusive of all members of the LGBT community, the Gay and Lesbian Liaison Unit will change its name to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Liaison Unit (LGBTLU). This name change will be recognizable to all members of the LGBT community seeking assistance from the Metropolitan Police Department.

The mission of the Special Liaison Division is to provide a support mechanism to all citizens within the District of Columbia, empowering the community and building relationships through effective law enforcement strategies, leadership, advocacy, education and support. The vision of the Division is to build relationships based on mutual respect and trust by providing exceptional support to the citizens of the District of Columbia. These efforts will foster access, success and lifelong learning relationships while advancing the District's interests in a well informed and empowered citizen base.

The Special Liaison Division supports community policing with communities that are sometimes underserved, and is composed of the Asian Liaison Unit (ALU), Deaf and Hard of Hearing Liaison Unit (DHHLU), Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Liaison Unit (LGBTLU), and the Latino Liaison Unit (LLU).

The Special Liaison Division has expanded to include "affiliate" officers on patrol throughout the city. The affiliate officers have volunteered to receive specialized training on diverse communities, their issues and how to best serve them. They will continue to work in their home district, but will receive coordinated support, information, and trainings through the Liaison Units in the SLB.

This expansion enables MPD to:

- Enhance response to these communities throughout the city, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Provide consistent information to these communities, while ensuring that information about their needs is integrated into services in each patrol district.
- Reinforce the messages of progressive training, policies, and procedures department-wide.

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

» Learn more about the Special Liaison Unit at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/special-liaison-division>

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/>

WITH THE COLDER WEATHER HERE, DON'T MAKE YOUR VEHICLE AN EASY TARGET

With colder temperatures taking hold in DC, there's something that police officers are on the lookout for: motorists who leave their vehicles running while unattended. In 2015, over 2,800 vehicles were reported stolen in DC, according to preliminary statistics. And while it is impossible to tell how many auto thefts are the result of running vehicles left unattended, national statistics show that a large number of stolen autos had the key left in the ignition. As colder temperatures settle in, some drivers will be tempted to run their vehicle to warm it up, while they remain indoors. Other motorists may leave their vehicles running while they dash into a convenience store or other location. Their reasoning: they will be away from their cars for only a "brief" minute or two. In either instance, the practice is unwise, unsafe and illegal in the District of Columbia. Some auto thieves need as little as a minute to break into and steal a vehicle that is locked and without a key. The time needed to steal a car that is unlocked, unattended and running is literally a matter of seconds. And under DC law, motorists who leave a motor vehicle running and unattended can receive a \$50 ticket and the vehicle may be impounded. This cold-weather season, the MPD asks all motorists to take appropriate measures to avoid being the victim of auto theft and to never leave their vehicles running unattended.

» For more auto theft prevention and other safety tips, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

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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