

## Letters & Kudos

### Share Your Story

Send a letter detailing your experiences — positive or negative — to [victim.services@dc.gov](mailto:victim.services@dc.gov) or send via US Mail to:  
■ Family Liaison Specialists Unit 101 M Street SW Washington, DC 20024

### Memoirs of a Mom

Supported friend and sister, Since we have met, you have always taken your time and checked in with me. As well as supporting and being very understanding of the needs of the families, I appreciate you so very much, thank you from the bottom of my heart! This is a very difficult process and healing. I have been at this fight of Senseless Homicides for a very long time. I wanted to share my history of having to bury my loved ones and their stories. I'm trying to allow the readers

to support, understand, learn and feel our pain. So that we can curb these senseless homicides.

—AJG

### Grateful for Travel Expenses

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the reimbursement I received to cover the travel expenses incurred during my visit to the United States in January 2023. The trip was essential for me to meet with the detectives handling my brother's case and make necessary arrangements with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME).

I am pleased to inform you that I have received a cheque in the amount of \$500, which covered the travel costs I had incurred during my trip to the US. This reimbursement has greatly alleviated the financial

burden I faced and has shown me the immense support and compassion of both yourselves and the organizations you represent.

Words cannot adequately convey my appreciation for your understanding and assistance throughout this difficult time. Your prompt response and commitment to resolving the matter expediently is a testament to your professionalism and dedication to helping others.

Please extend my thanks to the entire team involved in processing my reimbursement. Your collective efforts have made a profound impact on my journey to seek closure and ensure my brother's body is handled with the utmost care and respect.

With heartfelt thanks and warm regards,  
—AM

### Assistance with CVCP Form

I came into your office with former police officer AW the other day to complete the application for the Crime Victim Compensation fund. I just wanted to drop you a quick line to give you my heartfelt thanks for your kindness and all your assistance in helping us to push through our application for compensation services for my son. Your office was extremely helpful and I wanted to personally thank you.

—TB

### Thanks for the Empathy

Thank you again for your empathy, condolences and diligence in processing this application. I sincerely appreciate it. Tymeer's services were held on Monday, July 17, 2023. It was extremely painful and difficult as it is to type this email.

—FD



Metropolitan Police Department  
Victim Services Branch/Family Liaison Specialists Unit  
101 M Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

# Empower!

GIVING VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES A VOICE



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## Message from Tyria Fields



Tyria Fields

The Victim Services Branch is all about advocacy. We offer meaningful informative assistance and support for victims of crime in the District of Columbia. Members provide helpful resources to assist survivors in obtaining the help they need. As ad-

vocates within law enforcement, ensuring victims' voices are heard and supported remains the mission. We work with our law enforcement colleagues to spotlight the perspective of survivors and help facilitate the family's desired course of action. Please connect with the Metropolitan

Police Department's Victim Services Branch if you are in need of advocacy due to a victimization in the District of Columbia.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### August

#### Violence Prevention & Community Wellness Initiative

• August 14 – September 8 | All Day

We have another 4-Week cohort starting in August. UDC has been tapped to develop a four-week hybrid gun violence prevention certification program for the Violence Prevention & Community Wellness Initiative. It is targeted to train cohorts of Violence Interrupters. The framework and curriculum will cover the following topics: Mindfulness, meditation, Violence Prevention, Gang Intervention Partnership, Cease-Fire, Restorative Justice, Professionalism, Street Law, & Youth Development

AGENCY:  
University of the District of Columbia  
4250 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 2210

REGISTER: [www.udc.edu/academics/gun-violence-prevention](http://www.udc.edu/academics/gun-violence-prevention)

CONTACT: Dr. Kevin C. Norton, Program Coordinator, Violence Prevention & Community Wellness Initiative  
(202) 274-5567 office  
(202) 923-1509 mobile  
[kevin.norton@udc.edu](mailto:kevin.norton@udc.edu)

SKY Breath Meditation x FITDC Day  
• August 19–August 21 | Mon: 6:30–9 pm; Sat/Sun: 11 am–1:30 pm

Backed by 100 independent studies, easily learn this advanced technique scientifically shown to create 3x better sleep & 5x improved immunity, plus 56% reduction in anxiety. Taught by Art of Living in live, interactive sessions for more than 40 years to millions of people in 156 countries. Use code fitdc for free registration.

AGENCY:  
Art of Living and FITDC

LOCATION: Online  
REGISTER: <http://tiny.cc/fitdcxsky>  
CONTACT: Shalini Jerath, (650) 521-1343  
[shalini.jerath@iahv.org](mailto:shalini.jerath@iahv.org)

DCAEHS Mothers Retreat  
• August 25-26, 2023 | All Day

DCAEHS Community Outreach will host an overnight getaway to promote healing and restoration for ten mothers who have lost a child to homicide.

The DC Alliance, Empowering Homicide Survivors, Inc., (DCAEHS)

Bon Secours Retreat & Conference Center  
REGISTER: Pastor Saunders [pastorpsaunders@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpsaunders@gmail.com)

Jazz on the Green  
• August 31/ September 28 | 4–8 pm

AGENCY:  
Marshall Heights Community & Wise Workz, Inc.

LOCATION: 3939 Benning Road, SE  
REGISTER: (202) 867-0956  
CONTACT: Sharon Wise [wiseworkz@gmail.com](mailto:wiseworkz@gmail.com)

### September

Dancing is My Voice 2023  
• September 10 | 9 am–4:30 pm

We are excited to invite you to Dancing Is My Voice, honoring and encouraging those healing from interpersonal violence along with those who support them and the general community. Join us for a day of uplifting music, energizing physical movement, powerful performances, resources for support and connection to other survivors and those who care for them!

LOCATION: Lincoln Memorial

REGISTER: [bit.ly/dimv2023](https://bit.ly/dimv2023) or <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/dancing-is-my-voice-2023-tickets-431460860047>

CONTACT: Lisa Francia, Founder  
[lisa@dancingismyvoice.com](mailto:lisa@dancingismyvoice.com)  
(571) 332-0578

The Day of Remembrance: A Special Service for DC Homicide Survivors  
• September 25 | 7–9 pm

This day is for you. All are welcome to come and support those who have lost family members to gun violence. Adults only. Masks required.

AGENCY:  
The DC Alliance, Empowering Homicide Survivors, Inc., (DCAEHS)  
LOCATION: Impact DMV Church 5335 First Place, NE

REGISTER: Required – email name, phone number and Ward number to Pastor Saunders at [pastorpsaunders@gmail.com](mailto:pastorpsaunders@gmail.com)

Art of Living Presents: World Culture Festival  
• September 29–October 1 | All Day

World Culture Festival is coming to the National Mall in Washington DC. Renew, groove, dance, sing, and connect with millions of people who long for more unity and less division.

AGENCY:  
Art of Living and FITDC  
LOCATION: National Mall  
REGISTER: [wcf.artofliving.org](http://wcf.artofliving.org)  
contact: Marlene Sandhu at [marlene.sandhu@iahv.org](mailto:marlene.sandhu@iahv.org)

## Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting/Gun Violence Awareness Month

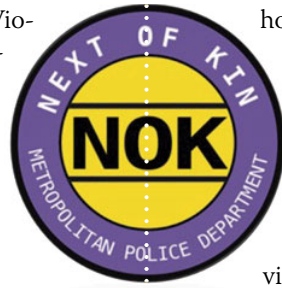
### Resources

For more information on Cold Cases visit <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unsolved-homicides> or email [unsolved.murder@dc.gov](mailto:unsolved.murder@dc.gov)

For information contact the Victim Services (FLSU) at (202) 645-6363.

June is Gun Violence Awareness Month. Throughout the month of June, communities across the U.S. unite in their voices to end gun violence as they come together for Wear Orange Campaign. In the District, organizations such as PEACE FOR DC and the T.R.I.G.G.E.R Project work alongside community, law enforcement and government agencies to end gun violence.

- » Peace for DC was founded by gun violence survivors and community activists, it is dedicated to amplifying and accelerating evidence-based community-led efforts to stop shootings and



homicide and heal trauma in Washington, DC. It offers various programs and trainings such as the DC Peace Academy to train violence intervention workers in life-saving skills, Stop The Bleed, and help bring Roca's Rewire Cognitive Behavioral Theory (CBT) program to the District.

For more information visit: [www.peacefordc.org](http://www.peacefordc.org)

- » The T.R.I.G.G.E.R Project focuses on changing the norm and narrative of gun violence in communities of color by authentically providing safe (physically + emotionally) space for youth

survivors and through telling the untold stories of everyday gun violence users to all walks of life.

For more information visit: <https://thetriggerproject.org>.

To commemorate Gun Violence Awareness Month, The Metropolitan Police Department Victim Services Branch held its annual Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting. The Meeting was held June 19-23, 2023 for family members of open 2013 homicide cases. The Next of Kin Meetings ensure the communication between the Department and secondary victims of homicide continues throughout the investigation process.

—Marlene Castro

## Roundtable Discusses How Crime Affects Deaf and Hard of Hearing

The Now You Know Roundtable – Deaf & Hard of Hearing Awareness Edition was released with guest speakers **Sara Selzer**, Program Engagement Assistant for DeafDawn, **Officer Meghan Martin** and **Senior Police Officer Myra Wheeler-Jordan**, Executive Office of the Chief of Police Strategic Change, Deaf and Hard of Hearing Unit. The discussion covered Crime and Safety in the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community, The Metropoli-



tan Police Department Deaf & Hard of Hearing Unit & Resources.

Here are some statistics about the Deaf & Hard of Hearing Community you may not already know:

- » One in every four Deaf women will experience a forced sexual experience in her lifetime.
- » Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are 1.5 times more likely to be victims of relationship violence, including sexual harassment, sexual assault, psychological abuse and

physical abuse, in their lifetimes

- » There is an estimate that 50% of the Deaf community has been sexually abused as a child.
- » Only five percent of Deaf rape survivors report their assaults or seek support and guidance from crisis or counseling centers.

Please follow the link to the resources and webinar: <https://youtu.be/YJxPCKP-Ghms>.

—Sharon Daugherty

## Observing 36th Annual Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) was launched nationwide in October 1987 as a way to connect and unite individuals and organizations working on domestic violence issues while raising awareness for those issues. Over the past 30+ years, much progress has been made to support domestic violence victims and survivors, to hold abusers accountable, and to create and update legislation to further those goals.

The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

(NCADV) offers “Six Ways to Prepare for Domestic Violence Awareness Month This Summer” which include save the dates to join the larger conversation around domestic violence: [www.thehotline.org/resources/prepare-for-dvam-2023](http://www.thehotline.org/resources/prepare-for-dvam-2023)

- » October 2nd, 2023: Day of Unity
- » October 19th, 2023: Purple Thursday
- » October 22nd-25th, 2023: NCADV Conference The Domestic Violence Awareness Project (DVAP) focuses on shifting awareness to action during October and

year-round. Their #1Thing social media campaign offers a unifying, comprehensive message to spread awareness of intimate partner violence. [www.dvawareness.org](http://www.dvawareness.org).

The DC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (DC-CADV) honors DVAM with their Spread Love DC campaign, a unique way to engage community members, advocates, young people, and families to raise awareness and promote safety, respect, and accountability. Together, we can spread love and prevent domestic violence. [www.dccadv.org](http://www.dccadv.org).

—Sharon Daugherty

## What's New at the Crime Victims Compensation Program (CVCP)

### Resources

For more information regarding the Crime Victims Compensation Program or the new legislation, contact the CVCP at (202) 879-4216 or send questions and inquiries to [CVCPoffice@dcsc.gov](mailto:CVCPoffice@dcsc.gov).

Or visit [www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation-matters](http://www.dccourts.gov/services/crime-victims-compensation-matters)

### Legislation

On October 28, 2022, District of Columbia Council unanimously passed the “Expanding Supports for Crime Victims Amendment Act of 2022” which was effective April 6, 2023. This bill allows more victims of crime to apply for compensation through the Crime Victim Compensation Program (CVCP) by dramatically expanding the supports and rights for victims and survivors of crime. The new legislation added six new compensable criminal offenses (criminal abuse, financial exploitation, criminal negligence of a vulnerable adult or elderly person, cruelty to animals committed against the victim's animal, destruction of property, and voyeurism). While CVCP now accepts applications from victims that have experienced destruction of property resulting from the discharge of a firearm into

the victim's residence or vehicle, or destruction of property committed by an intimate partner, CVCP does not cover the cost of the property that was damaged. For example, if a victim's cell phone was damaged by their boyfriend or girlfriend, CVCP would not pay for the replacement cost, but other services may be available to the victim. Another example would be if your vehicle or home was shot up during a drive-by shooting, CVCP would not pay for the damages to your car or home but may be able to assist you with other services such as providing temporary housing, relocation and/or counseling services. Other changes include expansion of the acceptable types of reporting documentation, such as temporary anti-stalking orders or anti-stalking orders and extension of the time for filing an application in specific case types.

### Upcoming Community Outreach Events

The Program Awareness Team will be participating in the following community events. Come out and get more information about the services offered at CVCP.

- » July 20, 2023: Kennedy Recreation 600 Blk of O St NW (12–6 pm)
- » August 3, 2023: Petworth 9th & Taylor St NW (12–6 pm)
- » August 23, 2023: Fort Davis Community 1400 41st St SE (12–6 pm)
- » August 30, 2023: The Wharf (2–7 pm)

—Sequoria Brown