

Empower!

GIVING VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES A VOICE



A Publication of the Metropolitan Police Department's Victim Services Branch

Summer 2024 | Volume 16, Issue 2

Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting

Resources

For more information on Cold Cases visit <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unsolved-homicides>

For more information on future NOK Meeting and supportive services, contact the Family Liaison Specialists Unit at (202) 645-6363 or victim.services@dc.gov.

June was Gun Violence Awareness Month. Across the country, communities come together to honor survivors of gun violence. Community based organizations such as the T.R.I.G.G.E.R. Project and Peace for DC work with community members to bring awareness and end gun violence in the District.

The T.R.I.G.G.E.R. Project aims to denormalize and destigmatize gun violence in communities of color across the nation. The DC based organization works with youth survivors to tell the stories of everyday gun

violence users, and to bring awareness and compassion for people who feel invisible without guns. For more information visit <https://thetriggerproject.org>.



Peace for DC aims to end gun violence in the District by providing training and support to community violence intervention workers. They provide trainings such as the DC Peace Academy, Stop The Bleed, and Roca's Rewire Cognitive Behavioral Theory (CBT). For more information visit www.peacefordc.org.

In honor of Gun Violence Awareness Month, The Met-

ropolitan Police Department's Victim Service Branch hosted its annual Cold Case Next of Kin Meeting the week of June 24–June 28, 2024. Family members of open homicide cases from 2014 were invited to meet with a Cold Case Detective to get an update on their loved ones' case. Next of Kin Meetings are designed to elevate families' trust in the Department by maintaining open communication and transparency. In hosting these meetings, the Department hopes to keep families engaged in the investigative process and increase survivors' confidence that they are being heard and supported.

—Marlene Castro

Celebrate National Night Out 2024 with MPD!

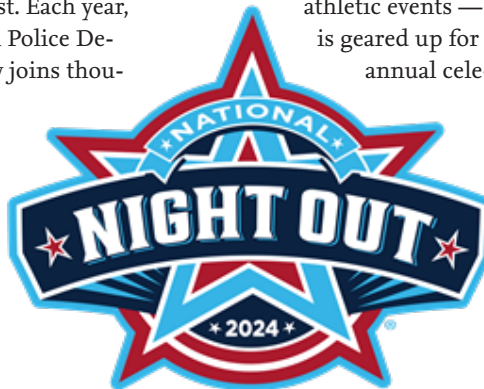
Resources

Check our website for the updates and locations at mpdc.dc.gov/nno

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual event, sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, that takes place annually on the first Tuesday in August. Each year, the Metropolitan Police Department actively joins thousands of DC residents, DC government and

nonprofit agencies, and other community leaders to celebrate National Night Out. From community cookouts to open houses — block parties, candlelight vigils and athletic events — DC is geared up for its annual cele-

bration of America's Night Out Against Crime. In addition to the numerous activities at the kickoff event, communities across DC — in all seven police districts — have scheduled NNO events during the late afternoon and evening hours.



POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Domestic Violence Awareness and Resources

Resources

If you suspect elderly victimization, please call for help:

- Police/Fire Emergency — **911**
- Elder Abuse Hotline: **(202) 541-3950**
- National Center of Elder Abuse: **(855) 500-3537**
- MPD Victim Services Branch: **(202) 727-6007**

Domestic Violence, also known as Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), affects millions of households. IPV centers around manipulation to gain power and control over an individual. Perpetrators typically display abusive patterns that manifest as systematic forms of physical, sexual, emotional, financial, stalking, and psychological actions. The devastating impacts of abuse can be gradual, on-going and/or abrupt. Surviving abuse requires a variety of service responses — and gratefully, the District has plentiful crime victim resources to meet the needs of survivors in their stage of crisis, transition, healing and empowerment. Below are a few service provider agencies:

Escaping violence is vital to safety, which begins by removing the victim from the abuser's location. Abuse can occur at any time. DC Safe offers a 24/7 crisis line to connect victims to shelter and intervention. Ad-

ditionally, the Crime Victims Compensation Program also provides temporary housing support. When leaving an abusive situation, survivors may not have access to available funds to secure relocation. District Alliance for Safe Housing (DASH) offers a Survivor Resilience Fund that consists of several housing support aids, ranging from moving cost, first month's rent, and more.

Victims often need court services for civil protection or family matter establishment. The legal system can be complicated and access to affordable representation is often limited. The Superior Court's Domestic Violence Division, issues Civil Protection Orders (CPO) that restrict abusers from communicating and committing crimes against a victim. Filing options can be done in-person, **online**, or by visiting the **Domestic Violence Intake Center**. Regal legal assistances, community providers such as Legal Aid DC, NVRDC, and DCVLP offer le-

gal support—CPO filing, family law, housing, and more—at little to no cost to crime victims. Victims can locate legal organizations via this **DC courts legal assistance provider list**.

The resources are a small highlight of community and governmental agencies that provide emergency relief and on-going support to domestic abuse survivors. Victim Specialists in the Victim Services Branch (VSB) at Metropolitan Police Department play an important role at responding, liaising, empowering, and connecting survivors to **domestic violence resources**. If you or someone that you know is affected by domestic violence and are in need or resources, please connect with the DC 24/7 Victim Hotline (**1-844-443-5732**). Always, if the situation is an emergency, contact 911. However, if you'd like to speak with a VSB member about your options, Victim Specialist can be reached at **(202) 724-4339** or by **clicking this link**.

—T. Stone

Late Night Hype, New Partnership With Beat the Streets

Resources

Learn more Beat the Streets at mpdc.dc.gov/page/communityoutreach.

Late Night Hype is the DC Department of Parks and Recreation's nighttime carnival-style event featuring an open pool (at centers with pools), music, food, video games, and talent shows. In addition to its normal setup, the summer-long event series will now feature activations from MPD, including the Side-by-Side Band and community resources — all while bringing youth and families together with MPD through community engagement.

For dates and locations, visit latenighthype.splashthat.com.

Remaining Dates

- Friday, July 12, 7–11 PM
Emery Heights Recreation Center 5701 Georgia Avenue,



- Friday, July 26, 7–11 PM
Woody Ward Pool & Community Center 5100 Southern Ave SE
- Friday, August 2, 7–11 PM
Fort Stanton Pool & Recreation Center 1812 Erie Street, SE
- Friday, August 9, 7–11 PM
Rosedale Pool & Community Center 1701 Gales Street, NE
- Friday, August 23, 7–11 PM
Banneker Pool & Community Center 2500 Georgia Avenue, NW