

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, January 21, 2011

MPD VICTIM SERVICES BRANCH RELEASES WINTER 2011 ISSUE OF "EMPOWER!" NEWSLETTER

In January 2011, the MPD's Victim Services Branch published a new issue of "Empower!" the quarterly newsletter that highlights programs and services supported by the VSB and also provides support information to victims of crime, particularly families and survivors of homicides. Over the past months, the VSB hosted a number of very successful events that benefited families of homicide victims. On December 4, 2010, members of the MPD hosted the 3rd Annual Tree of Remembrance event, during which almost 300 individuals, including friends and family of homicide victims, had the opportunity to interact with other survivors by sharing inspirational, encouraging and thoughtful words in memory and honor of their loved ones. The VSB conducted several outreach initiatives as well, including participating in the National Day of Remembrance; monthly meetings with the men and woman at the Salvation Army Residential Treatment Center; and special site visits, like the information session members of the VSB held at the Emery House.

"Empower!" highlights resources and support services provided by the Metropolitan Police Department's Victim Services Branch, as well as upcoming events, like the Langston Community Outreach Project, National Crime Victims Rights Week in April and a special awards ceremony honoring crime victims and advocates.



» Read the complete Winter 2011 issue or download the any past issue of "Empower!" at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/vsu>

ONLINE SERVICE REQUEST CENTER MAKES REQUESTING CITY SERVICES A SIMPLE CLICK AWAY

From trash pick-up to traffic signals, the DC Government's Service Request Center makes it easy to submit requests online. In three simple steps, you can request a city service with an easy way to monitor its progress. Just select a service type, enter the service location. Through the Service Request Center, you'll also receive a tracking number, allowing you to check the status of your request.

Public safety and city services go hand in hand. Ensuring that an abandoned auto is quickly towed or having graffiti removed promptly has a doubly-positive effect. It fosters pride in the community, while at the same time, it sends a clear message to potential vandals letting them know their actions will not be tolerated.

Visitors to the Service Request Center can report abandoned vehicles, request alley cleaning or repair, ask snow removal, register for DMV services, request graffiti clean-up or removal, file complaints or commendations of DC Government employee driving, report illegal dumping or posters, report certain parking violations, request the replacement of street signs, get a street light repaired, and so much more. So the next time you see a problem that requires a city service, take action and report it to the Service Request Center.

» Need to request a city service? Call 3-1-1 or visit: <http://311.dc.gov/>

PREVENTING TERRORISM IS EVERYBODY'S BUSINESS

It is no surprise that terrorism continues to be a threat in the United States and in the Nation's Capital. What may be surprising, however, is that some terrorists use materials and equipment that are generally available in the marketplace. Some terrorists may attempt to portray themselves as legitimate customers in order to procure the goods they need, while others may attempt to steal them.

In either case, it is usually an individual business or service organization that will be the first to notice something out of the ordinary. When that happens, it is critical that these suspicions be immediately passed on to law enforcement, so that the information can be examined, evaluated and, if necessary, acted upon.

Fortunately, we are empowered to protect ourselves. First, as members of the community, we are able to see things that are out of line from the norm, and then say something about it by calling 911 to report these suspicious actions and events. In many instances, it is very subtle observations that can make the difference between interceding and stopping a dangerous act, or not. Some unusual behaviors that could be indicators of terrorist planning include:

- **Surveillance.** Are you aware of anyone recording or monitoring activities, taking notes, using cameras, maps, binoculars, etc., in your neighborhood?
- **Stockpiling Materials.** Have you observed abandoned vehicles, stockpiling of suspicious materials or trash, or persons loitering in your neighborhood?
- **Suspicious Persons/Questioning.** Are you aware of anyone who does not appear to belong in your neighborhood or business? Has anyone attempted to gain unusual information in person, by phone, mail, or email regarding your business or a facility nearby?
- **Acquiring Supplies.** Are you aware of anyone trying to improperly acquire explosives, weapons, ammunition, or other dangerous materials that could be used in a terrorist act?

The Metropolitan Police Department asks that you remain ever vigilant in your awareness of the following: (1) others who are behaving in an unusual way; (2) strange smells that seem out of sorts [particularly chemical odors]; (3) the delivery of odd looking packages, machines, and devices to you or others around your home or business; and (4) other out-of-the-ordinary actions you happen to see.

How to Describe or Report Suspicious Behavior

Person

- Sex
- Race
- Height
- Weight
- Build (medium, heavy)
- Hair (color, length, include facial hair)
- Complexion (light, dark, olive)
- Peculiarities (scars, tattoos, missing limbs)
- Clothing (from head to toe, style, etc.)
- Weapons (if any)
- Method of transportation (direction, vehicle, etc.)

Vehicle

- License plate and state
- Year, make, model and color
- Body type (2-door, 4-door, van, SUV)
- Number of passengers
- Damage or anything unusual (logos, etc.)

- » Operation TIPP (Terrorist Incident Prevention Program) provides an easy and convenient way to report suspicious activity. Calls are taken 24 hours a day at **(202) 727-9099**. Get more information about Operation TIPP and download a helpful brochure at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/tipp>
- » Report suspicious activity to the FBI online at: <http://www.dhs.gov/files/reportincidents/>

DATA BOX	
Homicides	as of 1/21/11
2011: 6	
2010: 7	
% Change: -14.3%	
Closure Rate: 50% (3 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 1/15/11
Data Not Available	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 1/15/11
Data Not Available	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 1/18/10
January: 104	
2011 Total: 104	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 1/21/11
2011: 3	
2010: 2	
% Change: +50%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Drug Free Zones in Effect in 4D. Metropolitan Police are enforcing DC's anti-loitering law in designated areas of PSAs 401 and 404 in Northwest DC. For more information, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov/DFZ>.

Get AMBER Alerts through Facebook. The goal of an AMBER Alert is to instantly galvanize the entire community to assist in the search for and the safe recovery of the child. A total of 53 new

AMBER Alert Facebook pages have been created — available for every U.S. state as well as Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and District of Columbia. To get DC AMBER Alerts, go to <http://www.facebook.com/AMBERAlertDC>.

MPD Accepts Cell Phone Donations. Did you recently get a new Blackberry, iPhone, or Droid? Are you wondering what to do with your old phone? Please consider contributing your old cell phone to someone in need. Phones are collected by Victim Specialists and distributed to clients through our partner agencies. For more information

on the cell phone collection program, including a list of donation sites, visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov/donatecellphone>. **Hypothermia Watch Partner Program.** The Department of Human Services' Hypothermia Watch Partner Program is designed to prevent hypothermia deaths among the homeless by providing District citizens with a hotline number they can call to have homeless persons who are outside in freezing temperatures picked up by a van and transported to a local shelter. You can call the shelter hotline at **1 (800) 535-7252**.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, Manager of Internet Communications, at 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