

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, February 4, 2011

MPD OFFERS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH ON UNDERSTANDING AND AVOIDING GANGS

Joining a gang or crew can give you a sense of belonging and acceptance, but often being associated with one can lead to dangerous consequences. The MPD has developed a brochure that offers some ways to explore alternatives to gang membership and how to safely "leave" a gang if you're already involved. Some of these steps take time, but with dedication and the support of your family, you can change your life.

A gang is a group of individuals that band together for a common cause and are involved in criminal activity. Many gangs are highly organized and operate across state lines. A crew is a more loosely-knit group, often based on a neighborhood. These are usually individuals who grew up in or who have family roots in that neighborhood. Regardless of gang or crew affiliation, both groups are often associated with a variety of crimes, including narcotics trafficking, gun violations, assaults, and even homicides. Female gangs or crews are growing in DC as well. Gang violence is a community problem.

The MPD's webpage on gangs helps explain who joins these groups and why and provides signs of possible gang involvement. It also offers suggestions for what parents can do to protect their children and how young people can avoid getting involved.

- » For more information and to download a printable version of the brochure, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/gangs>

RESIDENTS REMINDED ABOUT REWARDS IN HOMICIDES, ROBBERIES, OTHER VIOLENT CRIMES

In an effort to enlist even more community support in solving crimes and prosecuting offenders, the MPD reminds members of the public that the Department operates and supports a number of reward programs. These programs offer members of the community substantial cash rewards for information that can help the MPD close cases. For example, the MPD offers a reward of up to \$25,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any homicide committed in the District of Columbia. This reward applies to recent cases or homicides that were committed years ago. The Department also offers an enhanced reward of up to \$5,000 to anyone who provides information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for any robbery in DC. The reward amount increases to up to \$10,000 for information in robberies that involve a life-threatening injury to the victim.

Anyone with information about an unsolved homicide, robbery, or other crime in DC is asked to call the MPD's 24-hour or the **Command Information Center (CIC)** at **(202) 727-9099**. Callers wishing to remain anonymous may call **1-888-919-CRIME (888 919-2746)**. Anonymous information may also be forwarded to the department's **TEXT TIP LINE by text messaging 50411**. And, of course, the Department continues to support the Crime Solvers program, which offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information that leads to the arrest and indictment of the person or persons responsible for other felony crimes. The Crime Solvers telephone number is **(800) 673-2777**. All calls to Crime Solvers are confidential, and callers need not provide their names.

- » Get details on rewards offered by the MPD at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/rewards>
- » Learn more about the MPD's 24/7 anonymous crime tip lines at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/tipline>
- » Flyers on unsolved homicide cases are posted on the MPD website at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/unsolvedhomicides>

RESIDENTS URGED TO GUARD AGAINST THEFT OF PORTABLE GPS DEVICES

With the growing popularity of Global Positioning Systems (GPS) in recent years, the MPD has noticed an increase in car break-ins in which portable GPS navigation devices are stolen. While many GPS devices are mounted in the dashboard of the vehicle, the MPD encourages anyone who uses a portable GPS device to take it with you, along with any other items of value, when you park the car. Remember to lock all doors and close all windows, even when the car is parked in your garage or driveway. Most thefts from vehicles can be prevented if owners take everything of value out of the car when they park (securing items in the trunk, if possible), lock the doors, and leave nothing visible inside.

KNOW WHO TO CONTACT IF YOU NEED TO REPORT IDENTITY THEFT

As our lives become more integrated with technology, keeping our private information confidential becomes more and more difficult. Your personal information is often requested, partially-completed credit card applications may be mailed to your residence often, and electronic transactions have become commonplace. Although all of this has the potential to simplify daily activities, it also makes it easy for someone to take advantage of the situation and steal your identity.

The MPD's Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit has established a list of guidelines for reporting identity theft and fraud crimes, which are investigated by that unit. Being prepared for this meeting helps reduce the stress and confusion that may arise after an identity is stolen. It will also help provide a clear direction for members of the department who are trying to assist you with your case.

A report can be made with the MPD in one of three ways. You may report the ID theft from your home by calling the Mayor's Citywide call center, 3-1-1; you may visit your local police district station; or you may make an appointment to meet with a detective in the MPD's Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit.

Remember to bring all pertinent documentation related to the report you wish to file and have it with you when you arrive for the meeting or when you call any of your creditors or any of the three credit reporting companies – Experian, Equifax and Trans Union.

If you have questions or need to report identity theft, the Financial Crimes and Fraud Unit can be reached by phone on **(202) 727-4159** or emailing mpd.fraud-unit@dc.gov.

» Get additional auto theft prevention and other safety tips at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

» Find out how to protect your private information, get examples of ID theft, and get information on how to report this information online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/identitytheft>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 2/4/11
2011: 9	
2010: 10	
% Change: -10%	
Closure Rate: % (closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 1/29/11
Total Arrests: 700	
Weapons: 8	
Robbery: 5	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 3	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 19	
Narcotics: 122	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 1/29/11
Total Arrests: 48	
Weapons: 4	
Robbery: 5	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1	
Narcotics: 5	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 1/24/11
January: 141	
2011 Total: 141	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 2/4/11
2011: 3	
2010: 4	
% Change: -25%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Street Closures. On Sunday, February 6, 2011, the Year of the Hare Chinese New Year Parade and celebration will take place in DC's Chinatown neighborhood from approximately 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm. In conjunction with this event, there will be several street closures and parking restrictions that motorists should take into consideration. Get complete details at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov>.

Hypothermia Watch. The Hypothermia

Watch Partner Program is designed to prevent hypothermia deaths among the homeless by providing a hotline number citizens 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**.

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>.

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>.

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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