

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, March 11, 2011

"FAKE POT" NOW UNDER FEDERAL CONTROL AND REGULATION

On March 1, 2011, the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) exercised its emergency scheduling authority to control five chemicals used to make so-called "fake pot" products. Except as authorized by law, this action makes possessing and selling these chemicals or the products that contain them illegal in the United States. This emergency action was necessary to prevent an imminent threat to public health and safety. The temporary scheduling action will remain in effect for at least one year while the DEA and the United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) further study whether these chemicals should be permanently controlled.

The Final Order was published in the Federal Register to alert the public to this action. These chemicals will be controlled for at least 12 months, with the possibility of a six month extension. They are designated as Schedule I substances, the most restrictive category under the Controlled Substances Act. Schedule I substances are reserved for those substances with a high potential for abuse, no accepted medical use for treatment in the United States and a lack of accepted safety for use of the drug under medical supervision.

Over the past couple of years, smokeable herbal products marketed as being "legal" and as providing a marijuana-like high, have become increasingly popular, particularly among teens and young adults. These products consist of plant material that has been coated with research chemicals that claim to mimic THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, and are sold at a variety of retail outlets, in head shops, and over the Internet. These chemicals, however, have not been approved by the FDA for human consumption, and there is no oversight of the manufacturing process. Brands such as "Spice," "K2," "Blaze," and "Red X Dawn" are labeled as herbal incense to mask their intended purpose.

Since 2009, DEA has received an increasing number of reports from poison control centers, hospitals and law enforcement regarding these products. At least 16 states have already taken action to control one or more of these chemicals. The Comprehensive Crime Control Act of 1984 amends the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) to allow the DEA Administrator to place a substance temporarily in schedule I when it is necessary to avoid an imminent threat to the public safety. Emergency room physicians report that individuals that use these types of products experience serious side effects which include: convulsions, anxiety attacks, dangerously elevated heart rates, increased blood pressure, vomiting, and disorientation.

» Read the complete news release issued by the US Drug Enforcement Administration online at:
<http://www.justice.gov/dea/index.htm>

MPD TO HOST DRUG TRENDS SEMINAR FOR THE PUBLIC

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will be hosting a Public Vice/Drug Trends Seminar on Thursday, March 31, 2011. At the seminar, representatives from the MPD will share news about the successes of the District Vice Units. Members will also discuss ongoing drug issues that affect the District of Columbia. In addition to information about successes and issues, the MPD will conduct a drug recognition session.

Please come and meet the MPD's Vice Unit officials and learn about their accomplishments in 2010. No appointments or reservations are necessary; walk-ins are welcome.

» Join the MPD for a Public Vice/Drug Trends Seminar:
March 31, 2011 // 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Transition Academy at Shadd
5601 E. Capitol Street, SE (auditorium)

» For more information about the Public Vice/Drug Trends Seminar, contact the Patrol Services and School Security Bureau at:
(202) 576-6600

NEW ISSUE OF THE RESERVE CORPS "LOOKOUT" HIGHLIGHTS MEMBER ACTIVITIES, CONTRIBUTIONS

The Metropolitan Police Reserve Corps is a volunteer program providing qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the Metropolitan Police Department in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Members of the Metropolitan Police Reserve Corps can make a volunteer public safety contribution to their community in many ways. Reserve Officer assignments are varied and range from administrative support to the broad duties of career police officers.

Reserve Officers are assigned to various units of the Department, and work in a variety of law enforcement activities. Many reserve officers are assigned to Police Service Areas (PSAs) in one of the seven patrol districts. Others may work in a specialized unit and will work in support of the patrol districts.

Reserve Officers serve the Department in many ways, depending on experience, qualifications and interests. Some Reserve Officers may work indoors in a patrol district. Others will work side by side with patrol officers performing front-line law enforcement activities. While entry level Reserve Officers (Level II) are unarmed, experienced Level I Reserves are armed with Department-issued service weapons while at work and are authorized to perform all duties and responsibilities of a sworn officer.

The latest issue of The Lookout details the Reserve Corps Focused Initiative (RCFI), a new strategy implemented to assist patrol members in their crime-fighting efforts. It also highlights many of the events that the Reserve Corps members participated in over the past few months. Finally, this issue introduces its readers to some of the new Reserve Corps members and recognizes the numerous awards, contributions and recognition our volunteer members have received.



» Download a PDF of the MPD Reserve Corps newsletter, The Lookout, online at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/lookout>

» The opportunities for public service through the all-volunteer Reserve Corps are extensive, and are limited only by the commitment an individual is prepared to make. Get more information about the MPD Reserve Corps and submit an application at:
<http://dcpolice.jobs>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

RFK-Area Traffic Advisory on 3/12.

On Saturday, March 12, 2011, from 1 pm until 9 pm, the Robert F. Kennedy (RFK) Stadium festival grounds (Lots 4 and 7) will host the National ShamrockFest. Gates open at 12:30 pm and expected attendance is over 30,000 people.

St. Patrick's Day 8K Race and Parade on 3/13. The St. Patrick's Day 8K Race is scheduled to be held on Sunday, March 13,

2011, at 9 am in Downtown Washington. Following the race, the parade will begin at approximately noon and will proceed along Constitution Avenue, NW. In order to facilitate this event there will be no vehicular traffic allowed and parking restrictions along the routes of this event.

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>.

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 3/11/11

2011: 18
2010: 16
% Change: 11.1%
Closure Rate: 83% (15 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 3/5/11

Total Arrests: 982
Weapons: 19
Robbery: 2
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 8
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 29
Narcotics: 239

Juvenile Activity week end. 3/5/11

Total Arrests: 98
Weapons: 1
Robbery: 9
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 6
Narcotics: 13

Firearm Recoveries as of 3/7/11

March: 27
2011 Total: 336

Traffic Fatalities as of 3/11/11

2011: 9
2010: 3
% Change: 66.6%

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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