

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 15, 2011

APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Sexual assault is any type of sexual activity that you do not agree to, including: inappropriate touching, vaginal, anal, or oral penetration, sexual intercourse that you say no to, rape, attempted rape, and child molestation. Sexual assault can be verbal, visual, or anything that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention. It is a reality for everyone. Anyone can be a victim regardless of gender, race, socio-economic status, or religion. Sexual assault victims include infants, elders, deaf and hearing impaired individuals, and members of the LGBT community, minorities, women, men, and disabled persons. No one is exempt. Above all, sexual assault is a crime! In light of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the following tips are just a few risk reducers to being sexually assaulted:

- **Listen to your instincts.** Normal premonition and “gut” feelings are natural indicators that something may be wrong. If you do not feel comfortable with a situation, leave.
- **Be independent.** Most sexual assaults occur between acquaintances or people you already know. You don’t want to be dependent on someone for transportation to and from social outings and if dating someone you don’t need to feel as though you “owe” something because of things done for you during the courtship.
- Avoid mixing alcohol and drugs with decisions about having sex. It is difficult to make important choices about sex if you are under the influence.
- **Be aware of date rape drugs.** These drugs are often impossible to smell, taste, or detect in beverages. If you leave your drink alone with someone, do not drink it after you return. You can choose to have a trusted friend watch your drink as well.
- Consider going with a group of people if you are meeting someone new.
- **Communicate.** It is important to clearly talk about what each person in a relationship wants to do sexually. However, understand that NO means NO. Communication can be verbal as well as physical.
- Avoid dating people who don’t listen to you, don’t respect your personal space, make you feel guilty or call you names (i.e., prude or uptight).
- **Be assertive.** Make it clear that you are not going to do anything you want to do and know that your date should stop once you have said or indicated NO.

A victim is never responsible for being sexually assaulted. You are not at fault, the perpetrator is. The aforementioned are risk reducers but know that making a poor choice or failing to use the risk reducers does NOT make it acceptable for anyone to sexual assault you.

» If you have been a victim of a sexual assault, the MPD’s Victim Specialist Unit can provide you some much needed support. Get more information on this unit at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/vsu>

» Get more information about Sexual Assault Awareness Month at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center at:

<http://www.nsvrc.org/saam>

» Some helpful links to local resources include:

RAINN: <http://www.rainn.org>

DC Rape Crisis Center: <http://www.dcrcc.org>

National Center for Victims of Crime: <http://www.ncvc.org>

La Clinica Del Pueblo: <http://www.lcdp.org>

JR. POLICE ACADEMY OFFERS YOUTH INSIDE LOOK AT THE LAW

The Metropolitan Police Department's Jr. Police Academy is a six-week summer program that offers District youth ages 14-17 an opportunity to gain an insider's perspective by learning about the criminal justice system and the internal operations of the Metropolitan Police Department. Students who are interested in the law or law enforcement, politics, and the criminal justice system get hands-on experience by meeting with MPD personnel, visiting local courthouses, seeing how the 9-1-1 Call Center works, participating in police-community outreach events, and so much more. This is a chance for young people to compare "CSI" and "Law & Order" to MPD and the District of Columbia Government.

Through the 2011 Jr. Police Academy, the MPD expects to identify up to 60 teens from the Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program and introduce them to law and the criminal justice system. Students must be registered and certified by the Department of Employment Services (DOES) Summer Youth Employment Program in order to apply and be accepted to the Jr. Police Academy. The six-week program is expected to run June 27 – August 5, 2011.

AS SPRING ARRIVES, MPD WARNS RESIDENTS TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR CON ARTISTS

While spring means the blooming of the cherry blossoms and other plants, it can also bring out con artists and other criminals seeking to profit from unsuspecting victims. Some of the most common cons and swindles this time of year are bogus home repair offers, fraudulent door-to-door charities, and individuals posing as police officers or bank investigators who claim to be investigating fraudulent tellers or counterfeit schemes. DC residents are urged to be wary of any "something-for-nothing" offers. Always ask for offers in writing, read over all contracts before you sign, and never agree to "cash-only" deals. Do not hesitate to check the credentials of anyone who comes to your door. Ask to see official identification and inspect it carefully. Legitimate organizations – especially real police officers – will not hesitate to comply. And if you have been victimized by a con artist, please call the police and report it. This is the only way that law enforcement can detect patterns and identify and apprehend offenders.

» Learn more about the MPD's Jr. Police Academy and download an application for the six-week program at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/jpa>

» In order to participate in the MPD's Jr. Police Academy, students must be registered with Mayor Vincent C. Gray's 2011 One City Summer Youth Employment Program. Learn more and register for SYEP at:
<http://does.dc.gov>

» For more information about con games and swindles, click on:
http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1237,q,543147,mpdcNav_GID,1548.asp

DATA BOX

Homicides as of 4/14/11

2011: 29

2010: 29

% Change: 0%

Closure Rate: 79% (23 closures)

Adult Arrests week end. 4/9/11

Total Arrests: 923

Weapons: 18

Robbery: 8

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 6

Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 26

Narcotics: 190

Juvenile Activity week end. 4/9/11

Total Arrests: 75

Weapons: 4

Robbery: 10

Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1

Narcotics: 6

Firearm Recoveries as of 4/11/11

April: 53

2011 Total: 502

Traffic Fatalities as of 4/8/11

2011: 12

2010: 10

% Change: 16.7%

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Street Closures. Road closures and parking restrictions for the IMF/World Bank of Governors meeting will run Friday, April 15, 2011, from approximately 7:30 pm, through Sunday, April 17, 2011, until approximately 5:00 pm. The streets surrounding the IMF/World Bank will be closed. For more details, go to <http://mpdc.dc.gov>.

Preventing terrorism is

everybody's business. If you SEE something, SAY something. Call the Metropolitan Police Department at (202) 727-9099 to report suspicious activity or behavior that has already occurred. Call 911 to report in-progress threats or emergencies. Learn more about steps you can take to help fight terrorism at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/operationTIPP>.

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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