

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 27, 2011

MPD TO BEGIN ISSUING LITTERING ENFORCEMENT TICKETS IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT ON JUNE 1

A clean city is essential to the health and safety of our residents and the economic vitality of our neighborhoods. Everyone shares responsibility for maintaining a clean and green city. That now includes the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). The Council of the District of Columbia recently enacted legislation to enable MPD to enforce anti-littering laws. The Department of Public Works and the Mayor's Office of the Clean City will continue to lead or initiate DC's litter prevention efforts, as keeping the city clean is central to their mission. However, police officers, with their round-the-clock presence on the streets, can be an important part of the routine enforcement necessary to keep our city clean by deterring people from littering.

On May 1, 2011, MPD launched a littering enforcement pilot in the Fourth Police District. Throughout May, MPD has been issuing warnings to violators as we work with community partners to educate the public about littering enforcement. Beginning June 1, 2011, anyone violating the city's littering law in the Fourth District may be issued an actual ticket or subject to arrest.

While the Fourth District pilot is in effect, MPD will continue citywide enforcement of the prohibition against disposing, causing, or allowing the disposal of litter from a vehicle upon any public or private property. Litter includes all rubbish, waste matter, refuse, garbage, trash, debris, dead animals, or other discarded materials of every kind and description. If you litter while driving, you may be issued a \$100 traffic ticket for littering from a vehicle.

CLICK IT OR TICKET CAMPAIGN TARGETS UNBELTED DRIVERS AFTER DARK

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and MPD are joining forces with other local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates across the country for the 2011 national Click It or Ticket seatbelt enforcement mobilization. The enforcement effort will continue through June 5.

During the mobilization, officers will be cracking down on motorists who fail to wear their seat belts—both day and night. However, because nighttime passenger vehicle occupants are among the least likely to buckle up and most likely to die in crashes when unrestrained, nighttime enforcement has become a priority of the Click It or Ticket mobilization. Of those who have died in nighttime crashes in 2009, 62 percent were not wearing seat belts at the time of their fatal crashes.

In 2009, 11,593 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle crashes nationwide between the nighttime hours of 6 pm and 5:59 am, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Seat belt use saves thousands of lives each year across America. In 2009 alone, seat belts saved 12,713 lives nationwide.

Remember this May 23 to June 5: Click It or Ticket. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You'll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life.

» Learn more about the Littering Enforcement Pilot Project at:

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

» Every year during the Memorial Day holiday period, law enforcement agencies join forces day and night, from coast-to-coast, in an enforcement blitz encouraging citizens to buckle up. To learn more about Click It or Ticket, visit:

<http://www.DCRoadRules.com>

» Read the complete news release about the Click It or Ticket enforcement efforts in the District of Columbia at:

<http://ddot.dc.gov>

» The MPD conducts a number of traffic safety initiatives throughout the year. Learn more about Click It or Ticket, as well as many other initiatives at:

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

PLAY IT SAFE WHEN USING YOUR VEHICLE

During this holiday weekend, and throughout the summer, many drivers will be hitting the road to reach the destinations of their choice – be it a vacation getaway or a day at a friend’s barbecue. Regardless of where you go, if you drive, remember to do so responsibly. Police will be out in force over the holiday trying to keep the streets and highways safe. They’ll be enforcing all the rules of the road, so it’s important that all drivers out there remember to obey the law. This means absolutely no drinking and driving and no aggressive driving. Everyone in the vehicle should also be properly buckled up whenever the vehicle is moving. Alcohol-related crashes result in thousands of fatalities every year. The legal limit for Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) in DC is .08 percent. It’s illegal for anyone to have a BAC over that limit; however, if a person under the age of 21 is found to be operating a motor vehicle with ANY measurable amount of alcohol, he or she will be placed under arrest and charged with Driving While Intoxicated (DWI).

Aggressive driving is described as a combination of unsafe and unlawful actions that demonstrate a conscious and willful disregard for safety, including offenses such as running red lights and stop signs; following too closely, or tailgating; changing lanes unsafely; failing to yield the right of way; improper passing; and speeding. Don’t let your anger get the best of you if you’re driving. Always allow extra travel time, because traffic congestion — and the related delays — is among the primary factors that lead motorists to drive aggressively. By leaving extra travel time, you will be less inclined to drive aggressively in order to make up for time lost in congestion.

Remember to signal your intentions, concentrate on your driving (not your cell phone, stereo, passengers, or other distractions), and extend common courtesy to other drivers at all times. Finally, keep everyone in your car safe by reminding them to wear their seatbelts. Drivers will be pulled over, ticketed, and fined for not obeying the seat belt laws. Penalties include the assessment points on your driver’s license and fines ranging from \$50 to \$150 for offenses.

- » Penalties for drinking and driving include fines, suspended licenses, and jail time. Get details on the offenses and penalties at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/dui>
- » Each year, the MPD participates in the Smooth Operator program, targeted at reducing the number of aggressive drivers on the road. Get details on the program as well as ten basic rules of courtesy and safety while driving at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/smoothoperator>
- » Every child under the age of eight years of age must be properly seated in an installed infant, convertible (toddler), or booster child seat. For details on Child Safety Seat violations and penalties go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/childrestraintlaw>

| DATA BOX | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Homicides | as of 5/27/11 |
| 2011: 43 | |
| 2010: 38 | |
| % Change: 11.6% | |
| Closure Rate: 74% (32 closures) | |
| Adult Arrests | week end. 5/21/11 |
| Total Arrests: 1,062 | |
| Weapons: 14 | |
| Robbery: 17 | |
| Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 6 | |
| Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 12 | |
| Narcotics: 199 | |
| Juvenile Activity | week end. 5/21/11 |
| Total Arrests: 70 | |
| Weapons: 3 | |
| Robbery: 13 | |
| Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 0 | |
| Narcotics: 5 | |
| Firearm Recoveries | as of 5/23/11 |
| May: 101 | |
| 2011 Total: 731 | |
| Traffic Fatalities | as of 5/27/11 |
| 2011: 14 | |
| 2010: 12 | |
| % Change: 1.4% | |

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Join the MPD Reserve Corps. The MPD Reserve Corps, a volunteer policing program is seeking new members. Applications are now being accepted at <http://dcpolice.jobs>.

Citywide Neighborhood Watch Training Set for June 13. MPD will be hosting a Citywide Neighborhood Watch Training Session in the Sixth District in partnership with the Citizens Advisory Council. For more information, visit <http://www.mpd.dc.gov/NeighborhoodWatch>.

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>.

Support the Washington DC Police Foundation. The Washington DC Police Foundation is a non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

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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