

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, September 2, 2011

YOU CAN HELP PREVENT TERRORISM IN OUR BACK YARD JUST BY PAYING ATTENTION AND SPEAKING UP

The Washington region is a special place, one that we are privileged to call home. Now, citizens can help protect our home from those who would do harm by calling attention to potential threats to our community.

Now, when you see something that just doesn't look right, you can quickly and easily make an electronic record of what you observed and report it to local police for investigation and possible action. The information you provide could be the difference in preventing an attack on one of our nation's most cherished institutions or critical functions. Making a report is free, easy, and an important element of our shared responsibility to protect our nation from harm.

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. The key to preventing terrorist incidents in our nation's capital is cooperation between law enforcement and the community. It is your awareness reported to police that can help predict and prevent attacks before they happen.

The iWATCH suspicious activity reporting tool enables users to provide detailed information about suspicious activities or behaviors that may indicate possible criminal or terrorist activity.

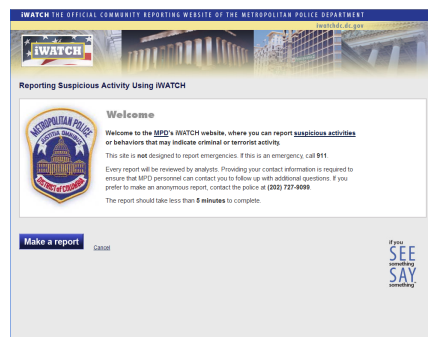
When a user logs in to www.iwatchdc.dc.gov, they are first presented with a Welcome screen (pictured at right). By clicking on "Make a Report," you will be prompted to enter your contact information (shown below) so that a member of the Metropolitan Police Department may contact you to follow up with any additional questions about what you've witnessed.

Follow the prompts, clicking on "Next" until you have completed all of the fields and pages that are applicable to the report you are making. The forms will prompt you for the basic information, such as the date and time of occurrence, the location (entered by typing a street address, cross streets, by clicking on the map), information about the subject(s), vehicle(s), and a brief narrative (description) of what you saw. You can also submit photos on the "Attachments" screen.

Once you've entered all the data, the system will provide an opportunity to review everything before you submit it.



- » Learn more about iWATCH and how to report suspicious activity at:
<http://www.mpdcc.gov/iwatch>
- » If you see something unusual or suspicious, make a report at:
<http://iwatchdc.dc.gov>
- » Learn more about Operation TIPP, MPD's anti-terrorism initiative for the business community, at:
<http://www.mpdcc.gov/tipp>
- » Watch the See Something, Say Something video from the Department of Homeland Security at:
<http://youtu.be/YtUJOAZRQ8k>



MPD EXPANDS SOCIAL NETWORKING EFFORTS WITH TWITTER UPDATES

The Metropolitan Police Department joined other District agencies this week in launching its Twitter feed for residents, businesses, visitors and others interested in keeping informed about the latest information and alerts from public safety officials in the District of Columbia. By choosing to “follow” the tweets from MPD’s account — which is “DCPoliceDept” — subscribers have access to the latest alerts and information about road closures and police activity that may affect their commute, updates and descriptions of suspects wanted for violent offenses, releases about closed cases, and more.

Chief Cathy L. Lanier launched the service “to get pertinent information out to the public quickly.” In addition to the MPD’s presence on Facebook, launched in 2009, Twitter offers the Department another means of communicating and providing timely information as necessary. Command staff have been trained in the use of the tool and have already begun using it to provide quick reports on vehicle accidents, links to boating safety information and laws, a reminder about National Night Out, and more. Join the other nearly-200 followers today!



» To stay up to date on current activities and alerts from the Metropolitan Police Department, follow us on Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/DCPoliceDept>

» If you would like to join the conversation on Facebook, become a fan at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Washington-Metropolitan-Police-Dept/41218705255>

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

Drug Free Zones in Fourth District.

The Fourth District will be holding Drug Free Zones in PSA 403 and PSA 405 on several dates in August and September. While the area is designated as a Drug Free Zone, any group of two or more persons congregating on public space for the purpose of participating in the use, purchase, or sale of illegal drugs within the boundaries of the zone, and who fails to disperse after being instructed to do so by a uniformed officer of the MPDC, will be subject to arrest. To learn more about the DFZ program, see http://mpdc.dc.gov/mpdc/cwp/view,a,1238,q,542244,mpdcNav_GID,1541.asp. For a list of current and

upcoming Drug Free Zones, visit www.mpdc.dc.gov/dfz.

FBI Launches Child ID App. A new free tool from the Federal Bureau of Investigation is designed to help parents keep a convenient electronic copy of their child’s vital information handy on their smart phone. The new app — “Child ID” — is currently available for iPhone with versions in the works for other mobile platforms soon. A child goes missing every 40 seconds in America. Help protect your child with this convenient, free tool.

MPD Celebrates 150 Years. The Metropolitan Police Department turned

150 on August 6. Look for a special decal on most marked vehicles to highlight and celebrate this landmark in the agency’s history. In addition, many of our uniformed officers have chosen to honor the sesquicentennial by wearing a commemorative badge through September 30, 2011.

In honor of the milestone, additional information about the Department’s history is being added to our website, including the biographies of every Chief of Police since 1861, a history of the badge, and more each week. To see the special section, visit www.mpdc.dc.gov/150th.



DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 9/2/11
2011: 75	
2010: 82	
% Change: -8.5%	
Closure Rate: 90.6% (68 closures)	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 8/29/11
August: 171	
2011 Total: 1,251	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 9/2/11
2011: 27	
2010: 18	
% Change: 50.0%	

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KEVIN PALMER** at kevin.palmer@dc.gov

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