

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, August 31, 2012

PLAY IT SAFE WHEN USING YOUR VEHICLE THIS HOLIDAY WEEKEND

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.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BRINGS EARLIER START TO WEEKDAY TEEN CURFEW IN DC

With students returning to school, the MPD reminds young people and their families that DC's teen curfew begins an hour earlier on weeknights. Starting Saturday, September 1 and continuing through next June, curfew for young people under the age of 17 begins at 11 pm on Sunday through Thursday nights, and continues until 6 am the following day. On weekend nights, curfew begins at 12:01 am, and ends at 6 the next morning. During the months of July and August only, curfew hours are from 12:01 am to 6 am, seven nights a week. Under DC law, persons under the age of 17 cannot remain in or on a street, park or other outdoor public place, in a vehicle or on the premises of any establishment within the District of Columbia during curfew hours, unless they are accompanied by a parent or guardian or are involved in certain exempted activities such as work, school, religious, civic or organized recreational activities. The law applies to all young people who are in the District during curfew hours, regardless of whether they reside inside or outside the city. As part of its juvenile crime prevention strategy, the MPDC has stepped up enforcement of the curfew law.

» 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 MPDC 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>

» Additional information about the District's curfew law, including penalties for violators and their parents, is available at:

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

NEW AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT LOCATIONS DEPLOYED CITYWIDE; WARNINGS TO BE ISSUED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2

On July 31, 2012, the Metropolitan Police Department announced the deployment of new automated speed enforcement locations. The deployment locations for the Photo Enforcement Units will continue to be at sites with the highest number of crashes and injuries, calls for police service, and high speed volume. MPD also



considered recommendations or requests from the Department of Transportation, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and civic or citizen associations.

The 30-day educational phase began on August 1, 2012, when violators began receiving warning citations. On Monday September 3, 2012, MPD will begin issuing live moving citations to violators. The new photo enforcement locations are as follows. Unless noted the speed limit is 25 mph:

- » 200 block 17th Street, NE (southbound)
- » 1800 block Harvard Street, NW (northwestbound)
- » 1700 block North Portal Drive, NW (southwestbound)
- » 700 block Franklin Street, NE (westbound)
- » 1400 block New York Avenue, NE (northeastbound) (35 mph)
- » 3700 block Massachusetts Avenue, SE (southeastbound)
- » 4300 block Texas Avenue, SE (southbound)
- » 4800 block Texas Avenue, SE (northbound)
- » DC295, 0.4 miles south of Burroughs Avenue, NE (southbound) (45 mph)
- » 2200 block K Street, NW (westbound)
- » 400 block Riggs Road, NE (northbound)

» Read the complete news release at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/>

» Learn more about automated traffic enforcement at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/photoenforcement>

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 8/31/12
2012: 58	
2011: 76	
% Change: -23.7%	
Closure Rate: 79% (47 closures)	
Adult Arrests	(week end. 8/25/12)
Total Arrests: 706	
Weapons: 13	
Robbery: 8	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 15	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 13	
Narcotics: 93	
Juvenile Activity	(week end. 8/25/12)
Total Arrests: 61	
Weapons: 2	
Robbery: 4	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 3	
Narcotics: 2	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 8/27/12
August: 144	
2012 Total: 1,275	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 8/31/12
2012: 11	
2011: 27	
% Change: -59.3%	

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://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>.

Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline. The Use the CyberTipline to report 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>.

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

Support the Washington DC Police Foundation. The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, 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 extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. 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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