

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, January 4, 2013*

## MAYOR VINCENT C. GRAY AND METROPOLITAN POLICE CHIEF CATHY L. LANIER ANNOUNCE HISTORIC LOW FOR 2012 HOMICIDE TOTALS

On January 3, 2013, Mayor Vincent C. Gray and Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy L. Lanier announced that the District's official number of homicides for 2012 represents the lowest number on record since 1961, with 88 murders for the calendar year.

The District's homicide total dropped well below 100 – representing a benchmark not reached in half a century and a longtime goal of city leaders. The 2012 total highlights a significant four-year drop in homicides.

No longer the nation's "murder capital," D.C.'s number of homicides is dropping at a faster pace than the national average. The figure stands in stark contrast to the number of homicides during the crack-cocaine epidemic of the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the District's annual murder total topped 400 for several years in a row.

In 2012, MPD's case-closure rate for homicides was 82 percent, which is well above the national average.

"I have always felt that having fewer than 100 homicides District-wide was an achievable goal," said Chief Lanier. "We had to get to a tipping point where it was clearly understood -- as both a city and a police department -- that we could reduce the number of homicides. We are now at that point, and our mentality has sent a clear message to the criminal population."

The community has embraced the Department's 50-411 text tip line. In 2012, MPD received 2,036 text tips, nearly six times the number of tips received since the year the system was launched in 2008. And reward payouts for violent crimes continue to increase.

MPD continues to connect with the community in a variety of ways. Approximately 16,000 residents are members of the listservs in all seven police districts. The department also uses Facebook, Twitter and YouTube accounts to publicize and solve crimes.

As overall homicides in the District declined, the city also saw notable reductions in homicides involving youth. Juvenile victims of homicides declined 85 percent, and juvenile homicide offenders declined 63 percent.

MPD's focus on robberies also had a positive impact. Similarly to other cities around the country, the District began the first couple months of 2012 with a nearly 50 percent increase in robberies compared to the same period in 2011. The department worked diligently to address this challenge through a number of initiatives.

Mayor Gray commended Chief Lanier and MPD for getting offenders off the street, shutting down illegal fencing operations and working with the cell-phone industry to reform their policies to stop allowing the reactivation of stolen phones.

"As a result, we substantially reduced the number of robberies in the last several months, so that we ended 2012 even compared to the previous year," Chief Lanier said.

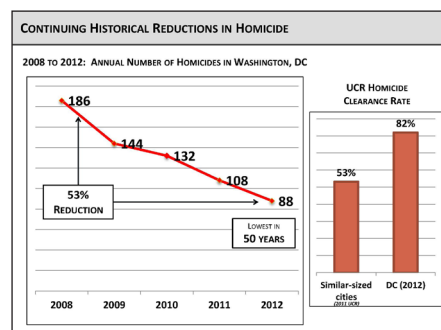
"Public safety in the District has clearly been a top priority for my administration, and this will continue in 2013 as we work with MPD to continue making this city a safe place for those who live, work and visit here," Mayor Gray said.

» Read the complete news release and download the graphs at:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov>

» MPD's detectives are some of the best in the world, but we still rely on you to help identify individuals and provide leads in difficult cases. Learn how you can help with open cases by going to:

<http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/unsolved-crimes-and-missing-persons>



## HYPOTHERMIA SEASON RUNS THROUGH MARCH 31

As the temperature drops, the concern for hypothermia increases. Hypothermia is a condition in which a person's temperature drops below what is required for normal metabolism and bodily functions.

The Department of Human Services' Hypothermia Watch Partner Program is designed to prevent hypothermia deaths among the homeless by providing District citizens with a hotline number they can call to have homeless persons who are outside in freezing temperatures picked up by a van and transported to a local shelter. For more information, call the shelter hotline 1 (800) 535-7252.

The hypothermia season runs through March 31. The Emergency Management Agency issues Hypothermia Alerts when the temperature is 32 degrees Fahrenheit or below, or when the wind chill factor creates the same effect. The hours of operation for the hypothermia alert are 7pm to 7am, but will be extended until the temperature or wind chill factor rises above 32 degrees.

Those who do not come in from the cold when hypothermia alerts are issued put themselves in life-threatening positions. The body enters into a hypothermia state when its temperature is below 95 degrees.

### Signs and Symptoms

Hypothermia usually comes on gradually. As the body temperature of a cold-exposed person decreases, impaired consciousness, confusion, or disorientation may occur. Often, people aren't aware that they need medical attention. Common signs to look for are uncontrollable shivering, which is your body's attempt to generate heat through muscle activity, and the "-umbles" — stumbles, mumbles, fumbles and grumbles.

These behaviors may be a result of changes in consciousness and motor coordination caused by hypothermia. Other signs and symptoms may include:

- Slurred speech
- Abnormally slow rate of breathing
- Cold, pale skin
- Fatigue, lethargy or apathy

Seek immediate medical care for any person who has been exposed to cold air or water and who is shivering, appears disoriented, and shows a lack of coordination, has cold and pale skin, appears tired, and is slurring speech. Try to keep the person warm and dry, preferably indoors or at least out of the wind, until help arrives.

» For more information on the signs and symptoms of hypothermia and ways to prevent hypothermia, see "Winter Plan" on the Department of Human Services Website at: <http://dhs.dc.gov/>

» The Department of Human Services' Hypothermia Watch Partner Program is designed to prevent hypothermia deaths among the homeless. For more information, call the shelter hotline at: 1 (800) 535-7252.

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Tell Us How We're Doing.** MPD is now part of Grade DC. We invite you to share your thoughts on our service — positive or negative

— through MPD's email groups, our social media, or by visiting the Grade DC website. Get more information at <http://grade.dc.gov>.

**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 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](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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