

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, November 8, 2013

## TWENTY-THREE NEW OFFICERS ARE HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 23 officers who were sworn in during a graduation ceremony on Friday, November 8, 2013, at the Metropolitan Police Academy in Southwest DC.

Training awards presented during the ceremony recognized Officer Jacqueline Lea (Academic Training Award); Officer Matthew Harman (Firearms Training Award); Officer Conor Church (Vehicle Skills Awards); and Officers Michael Lynch (Physical Skills Awards).



The new officers all completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the police academy, which includes a full program of physical, classroom, and firearms training to prepare them for the challenges of being a police officer. The subjects covered include laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal law, traffic regulations, human relations, community policing, and ethics. In addition, recruit officers receive skills training in firearms, operation of emergency police vehicles, self-defense, advanced first aid, and much more.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) is focused on building a crime-fighting partnership with the community, and developing our own promise and potential as a department. Police work requires a certain type of individual — one who has strong interpersonal skills and the motivation to work with our partners to help build strong, safe and healthy communities throughout the District of Columbia.

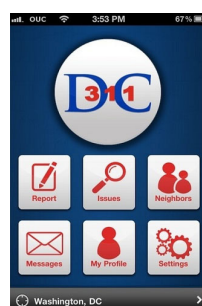
» For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPD visit the police recruiting website at: <http://dcpolicejobs.dc.gov>

» The MPD is looking for volunteers to join the MPD's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPD in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details on the Reserve Corps and other volunteer programs are available at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/page/volunteer-opportunities-mpdc>

## DC311 FREE SMARTPHONE APP OFFERS ALTERNATIVE METHOD TO REPORTING SERVICE REQUESTS

The DC311 smartphone app is a free download that allows citizens to report service requests from their iPhone or Android mobile devices. There are a large number of different service requests to choose from, including complaints about trash, potholes, graffiti and illegal dumping.

This tool, together with the Citywide Call Center and 311Online, is yet another way the community can report a problem. Information from all these sources is funneled into one database for tracking and resolution. The free app automatically pinpoints the location of the reported problem using GPS technology. Registered users can also attach a photo and provide the exact location for the service request. Once the request is submitted, users will receive an e-mail from 311 confirming receipt of the request, including the service request number. They will also receive a follow-up e-mail when the request has been closed by the servicing agency. Citizens can also track the status of their requests any time.



» Download the DC311 smartphone app at: <http://ouc.dc.gov/page/dc-311-smartphone-app>

» Request city services by calling 3-1-1 or visit the website: <http://311.dc.gov/>

## TAKE STEPS TO KEEP YOUR VALUABLES SAFE WHEN PARKING IN POPULAR NIGHTSPOTS, SHOPPING AREAS

One of the most common types of theft is theft of valuables from your automobile. Theft from auto is strictly a crime of opportunity that can be prevented if you take away the opportunity. Thieves generally won't waste their time breaking into autos that don't have valuables in plain sight.

Thefts from autos can be a recurring problem in the District because of the prevalence of fashionable stores, popular restaurants, and trendy bars. Visitors to these establishments can become the unwitting target of these crimes of opportunity. Cars parked near sporting venues when games or concerts are scheduled may also be targeted. If you plan on parking your car in a neighborhood that is known for its numerous visitors, remember thieves know these areas are popular, too. Be sure to either take valuable property with you or secure it properly. Please take the precautions listed below to help ensure your auto is not targeted by thieves:

- **Keep Your Valuables Out of Sight.** The best way to prevent theft from your auto is to always keep valuables out of sight. Never leave cell phones, briefcases, suitcases, or electronic devices (smart phones, tablets, GPS, etc.) in your car in plain view. Take these items with you, or secure them—all the time, every time.
- **Secure Your GPS Device.** While many GPS devices are mounted in the dashboard of the vehicle, the MPD encourages anyone who uses a portable GPS device to take it with you, along with any other items of value, when you park the car.
- **Use Your Trunk.** If your car has a trunk, use it. Put valuables in there or in a locked glove compartment. Hiding items under seats is better than leaving them in plain view, but securing them inside the glove compartment or trunk is a far better deterrent.
- **Don't Tempt Thieves with New Purchases.** Any time you're shopping, place packages in the trunk, not on the passenger seats or floors.
- **Lock It Up.** Also, keep your car doors and windows locked—all the time!

Remember: "Outta sight, outta mind"—if thieves can't see your valuables, they're less likely to waste their time targeting your auto. Take the time to secure your valuables; it makes a difference.

» See these tips and more online at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/autotheft>

» Take precautions when pumping gas. Learn steps you can take in a brief video on our YouTube channel at:  
<http://youtu.be/H4r2v3MhU-s>

» Download a brochure on "Protecting Your Vehicle from Theft and Tampering" at:  
[http://mpdc.dc.gov/protectingyourvehicle\\_pdf](http://mpdc.dc.gov/protectingyourvehicle_pdf)

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Remembering Homicide Victims on 12/7.** MPD's Victim Services Branch, in collaboration with other community service providers, will host the Sixth Annual Tree of Remembrance event on December 7, 2013, from

11am-5pm at 101 M Street, SW (First District Community Room). This Holiday Remembrance Event is dedicated to honoring the lives of loved ones lost in the District of Columbia. For more call Dawn Christie (202) 727-7139 or Carla Okonkwo (202) 645-6363.

**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>.

#### 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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