

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 11, 2014

## FOLLOW THAT DOG! SAM THE BLOODHOUND NOW ONLINE

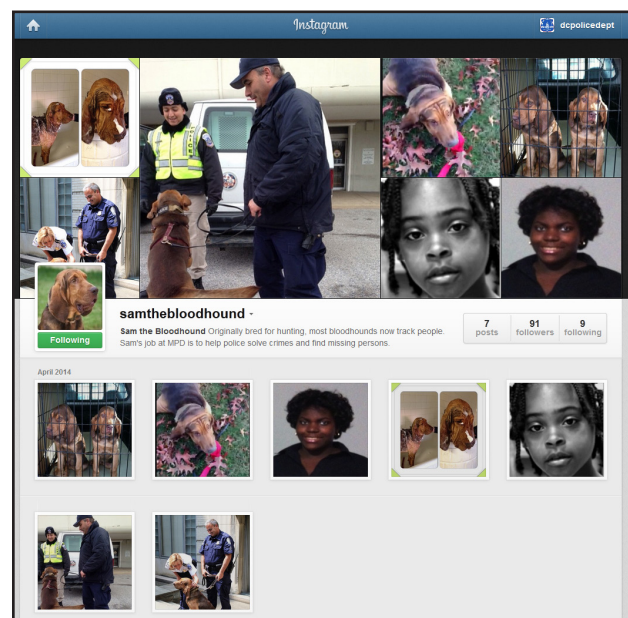
On Thursday, April 10, 2014, Sam – the only bloodhound in the Metropolitan Police Department's Canine Unit – started following something new: friends on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram! Sam is excited to start sharing news on cases he is helping the Department investigate, details about his fellow MPD canines, photos from his day-to-day activities and other pictures that make him happy.

Sam the Bloodhound joined the MPD in August 2013. He has been trained to follow the scent of humans when presented with an article of clothing or any object that a subject has touched. Part of his training includes discrimination, which means he has the capability to follow a scent through areas that are contamination by others, including animals and other humans. Sam has also successfully trained on scents that are several days old. While the MPD has several dogs that are trained to conduct human tracks, Sam's sole purpose is to track people – even over long distances. This is especially helpful for investigating critical missing person incidents, such as the ongoing search for Relisha Rudd.

Since he got online, this tech-savvy pooch has posted photos of his first day on the job, an unwanted bath from his handler, and his favorite toy. He will also regularly post photos of critical missing persons and other news of his friends and colleagues in the animal world. Like or follow Sam today!

» Follow Sam the Bloodhound on your favorite social media:

- o Facebook: @samthebloodhound
- o Twitter: @MPDsam
- o Instagram: @samthebloodhound



## NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH GEARED TOWARD RAISING AWARENESS OF CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

Child abuse and neglect awareness activities are being promoted across the country during the month of April. Detectives in the Youth Investigations Division (YID) have received intensive training in recognizing and investigating child abuse. They work in conjunction with the United States Attorney Office, the Attorney General Office for the District of Columbia, the Children's National Medical Center, the Child & Family Services Agency, and the Child Advocacy Center to determine the best recourse for suspected cases of child abuse.

Not all injuries to a child are considered "child abuse," which occurs when a parent, guardian, or custodian intentionally injures a child. Physical discipline on a child – provided that discipline is reasonable in manner and moderate in degree – is permissible.

Child neglect occurs when a child has been abandoned or abused by his/her parent, guardian, or custodian. A child is entitled to a certain level of parental care or control, subsistence, education as required by law, or other care or control necessary for his/her physical, mental, or emotional health. A child regularly exposed to illegal drug-related activity in the home or who is born addicted or dependent on a controlled substance is also a victim of neglect.

» If you have concerns about a youth who may be abused or neglected, contact the Youth Investigations Division on:  
(202) 576-6768

» Meet members of the Youth Investigations Division during its open house:  
Saturday, April 19, 2014  
11 am – 4 pm  
1700 Rhode Island Avenue, NE

» Get more information on National Child Abuse Prevention Month and download the 2014 Prevention Resource Guide at:  
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>

All sworn members of the MPD are required to report child abuse and neglect. In addition to medical and school personnel, law enforcement officers are required to notify the YID or the Child CFSA if the member has reasonable cause to suspect that a child known to him/her in his/her professional or official capacity has been or is in immediate danger of being a mentally or physically abused or neglected child.

The best way to prevent child abuse and neglect is to get involved by promoting healthy families. As part of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, the Youth Investigations Division will host an Open House on Saturday April 19, from 11 am – 4 pm. Guests can meet members of the MPD while enjoying food, games, and entertainment. They can also learn about protective factors that can reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect, find information on parenting resources and different ways to support families, and learn how service providers can partner with parents to improve outcomes for children, youth, and families. Presentations from various DC Agencies will be held during the event.



## POLICE RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM OFFERS COMMUNITY MEMBERS INSIGHT INTO THE DAILY OPERATIONS OF THE MPD

The Metropolitan Police Department's Police Ride-Along program allows residents to accompany officers during their tour of duty in a police vehicle. "Ride-Along" means to be an official passenger in a patrol vehicle, accompanying a police officer during part of a normal tour of duty. The primary purpose of a police Ride-Along is to provide an opportunity for the community to see firsthand the day-to-day workings of law enforcement in the District of Columbia. The Ride-Along participant receives important insight into what it means to be a police officer. Criminal Justice students and individuals interested in law enforcement careers have found it particularly useful. The Ride-Along program fosters a better understanding of the challenges, hazards and rewards of the police officer's role in the community. Other Ride-Along goals are to:

- provide citizens the opportunity to get to know their police officers.
- offer citizens interested in a career in law enforcement an opportunity to examine the job.
- educate the community about the responsibilities of police officers.
- provide an opportunity for police officers to get to know their community.

» For additional contact information and to download an application to participate in the MPD's Police Ride-Along program, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/ridealong>

### 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>.

**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>.

#### 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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