

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, May 16, 2014

CLICK IT OR TICKET NATIONAL SEAT BELT ENFORCEMENT TO BEGIN MONDAY

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and MPD are joining forces with other local and national law enforcement officers and highway safety advocates across the country for the 2014 national Click It or Ticket seatbelt enforcement mobilization. The enforcement effort will run May 19 – June 1, 2014.

During the mobilization, officers will be cracking down on motorists who fail to wear their seat belts—both day and night. In 2012, approximately 21,000 passenger vehicle occupants died in motor vehicle crashes in the United States; 52% were unrestrained at the time of the crash. An additional estimated 2.6 million nonfatal injuries from motor vehicle crashes were treated in emergency departments. Seat belt use in the United States reached 86% in 2012, but millions of US residents continue to travel unrestrained. Using a seat belt is one of the most effective ways to prevent serious injury or death in the event of a crash. Seat belts saved an estimated 12,174 lives in 2012. If everyone had been buckled up, an estimated 3,031 additional lives could have been saved – that's nearly twice the lives lost on the RMS Titanic.

Remember this May 19 to June 1: Click It or Ticket. Buckle up and encourage your loved ones to do the same. You'll save the cost of a ticket and may even save a life.



» Every year during the Memorial Day holiday period, law enforcement agencies join forces day and night, from coast-to-coast, in an enforcement blitz encouraging citizens to buckle up. To learn more about Click It or Ticket, visit: <http://www.DCRoadRules.com>

» The MPD conducts a number of traffic safety initiatives throughout the year. Learn more about Click It or Ticket, as well as many other initiatives at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/traffic>

» Click It or Ticket is coordinated annually by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to increase the proper use of seat belts. Learn more at: <http://www.nhtsa.gov/nhtsa/ciot/stats.html>

» Additional information on preventing motor vehicle crash related injuries is available from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at: <http://www.cdc.gov/motorvehiclesafety>

STREET CLOSURES FOR CAPITOL HILL CLASSIC ON 5/18

The Metropolitan Police Department and the Department of Transportation would like to inform the public of street closures in conjunction with the 2014 Capitol Hill Classic, a 10K race through the Capitol Hill neighborhood in Washington, DC. The race is scheduled for Sunday, May 18, 2014. C Street, NE, will remain closed from 5 am until 12 pm. The race will start on the South side of Stanton Park at 5th and C Streets, NE. The course wraps behind the Library of Congress, along East Capitol Street, around Lincoln Park, and RFK Stadium onto the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail. After a circle along the trail, runners head back in along East Capitol to return to the finish at Peabody. The race will start at 8:30 am; all streets will reopen at 11:30 am.

All street closures and listed times are subject to change based upon prevailing or unexpected conditions.

Motorists could encounter possible delays if operating in the vicinity of this event and may wish to consider alternative routes. The Metropolitan Police Department and the DC Department of Transportation also wishes to remind motorists in the vicinity of this event to proceed with caution as increased pedestrian traffic can be anticipated.

» For a complete list of street closures, read the news release at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov>

» Get more information about the Capitol Classic, including a course map with road closures at: <http://www.capitolhillclassic.com/>

MAY IS MOTORCYCLE SAFETY AWARENESS MONTH

During “Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month,” all motorists are reminded to safely share the road with motorcycles and to be extra alert when driving to help keep motorcyclists safe.

With warmer weather here, more motorcycles are back on the roads. Drivers of all vehicles need to be extra alert. Motorcycles are some of the smallest vehicles on the road, so folks in other vehicles need to really look out for them—and to take extra care to safely share the road. Because of their smaller size, motorcyclists are often hidden in a vehicle’s blind spot. It’s crucial that motorists and bicyclists always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections.

Motorcyclists are much more vulnerable than passenger vehicle drivers in the event of a crash. Research shows that approximately 80 percent of motorcycle crashes injure or kill a motorcycle rider, while 20 percent of passenger car crashes injure or kill a driver or passenger in their vehicle.

Drivers can follow these tips to help keep motorcyclists safe on our roadways:

- Remember the motorcycle is a vehicle with all of the rights and privileges of any other motor vehicle on the roadway. Always allow a motorcyclist the full lane width—never try to share a lane;
- Always make a visual check for motorcycles by checking mirrors and blind spots before entering or leaving a lane of traffic and at intersections;
- Always signal your intentions before changing lanes or merging with traffic;
- Don’t be fooled by a flashing turn signal on a motorcycle – motorcycle signals are often not self-canceling and riders sometimes forget to turn them off. Wait to be sure the motorcycle is going to turn before you proceed;
- Remember that road conditions which are minor annoyances to other vehicles pose major hazards to motorcyclists;
- Allow more following distance, three or four seconds, when following a motorcycle, so the motorcyclist has enough time to maneuver or stop in an emergency. And don’t tailgate. In dry conditions, motorcycles can stop more quickly than cars.

Motorcyclists have responsibilities, too, by following the rules of the road, being alert to other drivers, and always wearing DOT-compliant helmets and protective gear.

» Get more information on motorcycle safety at:

- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
<http://www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Motorcycles>
- Motorcycle Safety Foundation
<http://www.msf-usa.org/>

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>.

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>.

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>.

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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