

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, August 29, 2014

AS STUDENTS RETURN TO COLLEGE, THE MPD STRESSES CAMPUS SAFETY

In the past few weeks, DC's colleges and universities have been welcoming tens of thousands of students for the 2014-2015 academic year. While college campuses in general are among the safest communities, no campus is immune from crime. That is why the MPD has offers a comprehensive "Campus Safety" guide containing safety tips and other important resources. Promoting safety on campus is the responsibility of students, faculty, staff, campus and MPD officers, and other members of the campus community. An important part of everyone's education is learning how to be alert, use common sense, and prevent unnecessary threats to the safety of themselves and others. Most campus crimes occur when criminals are given the opportunity to commit them. By taking away the opportunity, students and others can help prevent crime before it happens. This is especially true in the case of property crimes such as burglary and theft, especially theft of laptop computers, electronic devices and bicycles. These are among the most common of campus crimes. However, students also need to know how to protect themselves from violent crimes such as robbery, assault and sexual assault. And they need to know and understand the role that alcohol and drug abuse often plays in campus crime.

» For a detailed list of campus safety tips and resources, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/campusafety>

MPD POLICE CADET PROGRAM PROVIDES REAL-LIFE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE TO DC STUDENTS INTERESTED IN POLICING

The Police Cadet Training Program provides training and experience in the field of law enforcement to qualified individuals between the ages of 17 to 21 who have the desire to pursue a career with the Metropolitan Police Department. The program is designed to prepare candidates for entrance into the Metropolitan Police Officer Recruit Program.

The comprehensive benefits package includes a starting salary of \$25,315–\$33,055 per year; full college tuition through the University of the District of Columbia; dental and health benefits; and annual and sick leave. In addition, cadets will gain familiarization with the daily operations of the department and its rich history through temporary assignments throughout the department's police districts and specialized units. Cadets will participate in community policing activities, and interface with citizens and visitors of the District of Columbia.

In order to enter the Police Cadet Training Program, candidates must be enrolled in a District of Columbia high school or have graduated from high school and received their diploma or a GED issued by the District of Columbia. Candidates must also pass a comprehensive background investigation that includes a medical examination, drug screening and a psychological evaluation; meet certain academic requirements and conform to Physical Fitness Standards.



» For more information on joining the MPD Cadet Program, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/cadet>

» Ever wonder what it takes to join the MPD? Check out the MPD's Physical Ability Test Video to see what's required:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/multimedia/physical-ability-test-video>

MPD OFFERS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND YOUTH ON UNDERSTANDING AND AVOIDING GANGS

Joining a gang or crew can give you a sense of belonging and acceptance, but often being associated with one can lead to dangerous consequences. The MPD has developed a brochure that offers some ways to explore alternatives to gang membership and how to safely “leave” a gang if you’re already involved. Some of these steps take time, but with dedication and the support of your family, you can change your life.

A gang is a group of individuals that band together for a common cause and are involved in criminal activity. Many gangs are highly organized and operate across state lines. A crew is a more loosely-knit group, often based on a neighborhood. These are usually individuals who grew up in or who have family roots in that neighborhood. Regardless of gang or crew affiliation, both groups are often associated with a variety of crimes, including narcotics trafficking, gun violations, assaults, and even homicides. Female gangs or crews are growing in DC as well. Gang violence is a community problem.

The MPD’s webpage on gangs helps explain who joins these groups and why and provides signs of possible gang involvement. It also offers suggestions for what parents can do to protect their children and how young people can avoid getting involved.

» For more information and to download a printable version of the brochure, go to:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/gangs>

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

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

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