

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, October 16, 2015*

## EMAIL LIST GROUPS HELP STRENGTHEN ONLINE COMMUNITY

The MPD police-community Yahoo discussion groups were created for members of the community so they could share public safety information in an effort to help reduce crime and the fear of crime.

Information shared on the email list groups include community announcements, meeting dates, crime statistics, safety concerns and ideas, crime reports, and safety tips. The listserv also acts as a virtual community, which helps strengthen partnerships between the local police and the communities they serve. It provides yet another means of visibility and accessibility for the community.



» For more information or the to get the Yahoo group name of your district email list group, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/emailgroups>

The listserv discussion groups are designed to attract area residents, employees, students, business owners, elected officials, and government agency representatives interested in coming together to solve problems and share public safety-related information that will improve the quality of life in each police district. It provides an opportunity for all stakeholders and DC service providers to engage in ongoing online interaction with police, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, holidays and weekends.

Information posted to the groups is intended to benefit members of a specific police district. If you don't know your police district, you can find out by visiting access the DC Guide to easily locate a PSA and other resources within a geographic area.

Successes of the police listserv include:

- Faster dissemination of information, especially community meetings and events.
- Assistance with identifying and taking action against nuisance properties.
- Successful collaborations among community groups, elected officials and police.
- Greater assistance with lookouts — from missing persons and pets to found property
- Recognizing good work and identifying areas of service that need improvement.
- Gauging the community's concerns.
- Developing relationships, especially when a police district gets a new commander or new patrol officers
- Identifying community leaders and activists, who are eager to join the group to let their voices be heard.
- Sharing information between districts.
- Listserv-to-Listserv communications (MPD postings are regularly shared with other large community online groups, with the potential of reaching 20,000 online users in one day.)

## HELP KEEP DC STREETS SAFE AND FREE OF OFF ROAD VEHICLES THROUGH THE BONU\$ TO PHONE US PROGRAM

All-Terrain Vehicles and Dirt Bikes don't belong on city streets. Minibikes, dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles, and other motorized bikes and multi-wheeled vehicles pose a danger to pedestrians and other motorists and are illegal to operate on DC's streets. If you see—or know the identity of—someone riding a dirt bike or ATV recklessly on DC streets, call or text the police. Help us keep our city safe. You could be eligible for a reward of \$250 for your information. Call (202) 727-9099 or text 50411 with your information.

**Riders of ATVs and dirt bikes are openly breaking the law on DC streets.** These riders do all kinds of tricks such as wheelies and riding on the sidewalks. ATVs and dirt bikes are illegal to ride on public streets in the District of Columbia, but MPD's chase policy prohibits officers from pursuing the vehicles. In fact, those familiar with the problem say that some riders come from other areas on stolen dirt bikes and ATVs because DC is known for its no chase policy.

**What Dangers Do ATVs and Dirt Bikes Pose?** A 25-year-old DC woman was with her 23-year-old cousin and a group of others as they crossed Alabama Avenue, SE, around 8 pm. The pedestrians had the right of way. A moment later, two dirt bikes came speeding toward the group. At least one of them popped a wheelie. The woman soon realized her younger cousin had never made it to the curb along with the rest of the group. The rider of the dirt bike popped a wheelie and caught the younger cousin's shirt in the handlebars of the bike. The impact threw the young woman into the path of an oncoming vehicle, partially pinning her under the tires. The woman suffered extensive injuries.

**You can help MPD fight these riders who are breaking the law.** "Bonu\$ to Phone Us: Off Road" is a program that offers DC residents the ability to call (202) 727-9099 when they know the location of an ATV or dirt bike being operated illegally on public space in Washington, DC. If the information results in the confiscation of the dirt bike or ATV, the caller will be authorized to receive a \$250 reward.

If you see an ATV or dirt bike being operated illegally in the District of Columbia, call the MPD's Command Information Center at (202) 727-9099 to report the incident and provide a description of the vehicle, its operator, and the location where it is being driven. Police respond, stop the operator, and confiscate the vehicle.

If your tip leads to a successful removal of an illegally-operated ATV or dirt bike, the CIC will provide you a Tip Tracking Number which you can use to follow up in a few days. Upon follow-up, the CIC staff will provide you with further instructions for collecting your reward.

If the tip leads to a successful confiscation, you will be eligible for the \$250 reward. The reward and payment collection instructions will be provided to you by the CIC staff.

Tips that do not lead to a successful confiscation will not be eligible for payment.

» Learn more about "Bonu\$ to Phone Us: Off Road" online at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/b2pu>

» If you see someone operating a minibike, dirt bike or ATV, let the MPD know:  
o Call (202) 727-9099  
o Text 50411



### 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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