

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



*Friday, June 17, 2016*

## TOWARD ZERO DEATHS: MPD TARGETS AGGRESSIVE DRIVERS THROUGH "SMOOTH OPERATOR" PROGRAM

Speed is a primary factor in aggressive driving behavior – and also a factor in nearly one-third of all fatal crashes. The probability of death and debilitating injury grows with impacts at higher speeds – doubling for every 10 mph over 50 mph that a vehicle travels. The Federal Highway Administration found that, on average, 70 percent of motorists exceed the posted speed limits.

Aggressive driving is one of the most dangerous problems on our roads today – a factor in an estimated one-third of all crashes, injuries, and fatalities nationally. In 2013, close to 10,000 people were killed in crashes involving speed, according to NHTSA. Speeding:

- Reduces your ability to steer safely around curves or objects in the roadway.
- Extends the distance necessary to stop a vehicle.
- Increases the distance you travel while you react to a dangerous situation.
- Increases the probability of serious injury or death when involved in a crash.
- In 2010, 10,395 people were killed nationally in speed-related crashes.
- Speed limits are designed to protect everyone – drivers, passengers and pedestrians.

The District of Columbia was one of the first jurisdictions in the area to join the Smooth Operator Program, a regional anti-aggressive driving initiative that today involves more than 50 law enforcement agencies in Maryland and the District of Columbia. Each year, dozens of law enforcement agencies from the District, Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania cooperate in intensive, one- to two-week aggressive driving enforcement "waves" - one each month from June through September. The first wave of the Smooth Operator program began on June 9, 2016, with a kick-off event on June 14. These special enforcement waves are in addition to their everyday traffic safety efforts and will focus primarily on:

- **Speeding:** going faster than the posted speed limit or too fast for weather conditions.
- **Running red lights** and running stop signs.
- **Tailgating** or following other vehicles too closely.
- **Making frequent lane changes**, unsafe lane changes or weaving in and out of traffic to get ahead.
- **Failing to yield the right of way;** not allowing other drivers to merge or cutting other drivers off.
- **Passing improperly:** passing on the right, passing on the shoulder of the road, or failing to use turn signals when changing lanes.



- » Get more information about MPD's participation in Smooth Operator enforcement at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/node/208412>
- » Learn more about the risks and consequences of speeding and aggressive driving – and watch a powerful video featuring the people in DC who investigate and treat the victims – at:  
<http://www.towardzerodeathsdcc.com/speeding-and-aggressive-driving>
- » The Smooth Operator program is a public safety initiative providing solutions for the problem of aggressive drivers. Learn more about Smooth Operator at:  
<http://www.smoothoperatorprogram.com/>

## SECURE YOUR BICYCLE TO REDUCE THE RISK OF THEFT

Bicycling is a great form of exercise and it helps reduce pollution. It's fun for both adults and children. Weather you use a bicycle to get to and from school, for your daily work commute, or for exercise, it is important that you always secure it when it's not being used. Recently, the Metropolitan Police Department has seen an increase in the number bicycle thefts in the city. In an effort to prevent thefts and to aid in the recovery of stolen bicycles, the MPD offers the following simple suggestions.

- Invest in a quality lock and use it whenever you are not riding the bicycle.
- Lock your bicycle in an area that is well-lit.
- If you are not going to use your bicycle for a significant period of time, locate a place (preferably inside) where you can safely secure it.
- Document the following information about your bicycle: make, size and serial number. Store this information in a safe place. The serial number is found underneath the bicycle between the crank arms and the bottom bracket. Keep all receipts for your bicycle, including the purchase receipt and repair receipts; these will help provide proof of ownership if your bicycle is stolen.
- Register your bicycle with the National Bike Registry.

While bicycle registration is no longer required in the District of Columbia, the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) and the MPD strongly encourage residents to register their bicycles with the National Bicycle Registry (NBR). NBR is a service that allows you to register your bicycle by serial number in a national database. If your bike is ever stolen, it can be identified and you can prove ownership. Law enforcement anywhere can access this database. NBR also guarantees your registration. If your bike is stolen and not recovered by police within six months, NBR will register your next bike for free and the stolen bike information will remain in the database until the bike is recovered no matter how long it takes.

- » Read the MPD's frequently asked questions on registering your bike in the District of Columbia at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikereg>
- » Get details on the bike helmet law in DC at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/bikesafety>
- » The MPD offers theft prevention tips as well as a variety of other tips on ways to protect yourself and your property. Check out all of our safety tips online at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/safety>

### 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>.

**Report Crimes Against Children through the CyberTipline.** The CyberTipline is a Congressionally-mandated means for reporting crimes against children. Report crimes 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-843-5678 or reporting crimes online at <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

**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.**

**Support the Washington DC Police Foundation.** The Washington DC Police Foundation is a tax-exempt, non-profit organization that brings together the business, civic, and other professional communities to promote public safety by providing financial and in-kind resources to the MPD, expanding public safety awareness, and advancing public safety policy and initiatives. Learn more about the extraordinary support the Washington DC Police Foundation provides to the MPD. Learn more about the Foundation at <http://www.dcpolicefoundation.org>.

#### 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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