

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, July 1, 2016

ENSURING A SAFE 4TH OF JULY CELEBRATION MEANS KNOWING THE LAW ON FIREWORKS IN DC

July 4th is traditionally a time for parades, backyard barbecues and the spectacular fireworks display on the National Mall. Unfortunately, the Independence Day holiday is also a time when serious injuries associated with illegal fireworks are all too common. Nationwide,



nearly 10,000 people a year are treated in hospital emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries; more than 40 percent of the victims are ages 14 and younger. So again this year, the MPD is joining with other public safety organizations in advising the public to know the law on fireworks in DC. District law prohibits all firecrackers, as well as any fireworks that explode (including cherry bombs, salutes, Roman candles, floral shells, and artillery shells) and any fireworks that launch after being lit (such

as bottle rockets, parachutes, buzz-bombs, pinwheels, helicopters, and jumping jacks). Fireworks that have a side fuse or that contain mercury, arsenic or other dangerous materials are also prohibited. Among the fireworks that are allowed in the District are small sparklers, fountains, torches and other novelty items.

» For detailed information on fireworks laws in DC, as well as useful links to fireworks safety tips, click on:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/fireworks>

Characteristics of *Illegal* Fireworks

An illegal firework as defined in Article 27 of the DC Official Code may have any of the following traits:

- It moves;
- It explodes;
- It emits a spark or flame greater than 12 feet;
- It has a side-mounted fuse or a fuse inserted at any point along the length of the product's surface;
- It contains mercury, arsenic, magnesium, phosphorus, or any other highly-oxidizing agent;
- The Fire Marshal considers it to be dangerous to the safety of any person or property.

THE MPD HARBOR PATROL STRESSES SAFETY ON INDEPENDENCE DAY AND THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER

This weekend, many captains and their crews will hit local waters for a little fun in the sun – and on the water – to celebrate Independence Day. The MPD's Harbor Patrol Unit is reminding boaters to respect the water and to practice important safety measures. In particular, boaters are being warned that boating while under the influence is strictly prohibited on DC's waterways. Harbor Patrol officers will be out this holiday weekend – and throughout the summer – looking for impaired boaters and other safety violations. Boat owners and guests are also reminded of the critical importance of personal flotation devices – or "PFDs," for short. US Coast Guard regulations require that all boats have a wearable type PFD for each person on board or being towed. Each PFD must be in good condition, readily available, and the proper size for the intended wearer. Boaters need to ensure that there are properly fitting PFDs for all children who may be aboard their vessels. In addition, boats 16 feet in length or longer must carry a Type IV throwable device. Most adults need an extra 7-12 pounds of buoyancy to keep their heads above water. A PFD can provide that "extra lift" to keep you afloat until help comes. Your weight isn't the only factor in how much extra lift you need. A person's body fat, lung size, clothing, and water conditions are also important.



» For more information about PFDs and their use and care, as well as other safety and equipment requirements, visit:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/harborpatrol>

» The Harbor Patrol offers boating safety courses that are required of anyone who operates a boat in DC. Get the 2015 schedule at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/boatingsafety>

» Harbor Patrol wants you to have a safe and fun boating season. Wear a lifejacket, boat sober, and use common sense. Watch the Harbor Patrol PSAs at:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3VJpj_Fg5BA

CHIEF LANIER HONORS DPW ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES UNIT WITH CHIEF OF POLICE SPECIAL AWARD

Metropolitan Police Chief Cathy Lanier recently presented the Chief of Police Special Award to Department of Public Works Environmental Crimes Investigators Nathaniel Mines and Michael Vanison and Program Analyst David Williams for their successful partnership with MPD's Sixth District Environmental Crimes Unit resulting in six arrest warrants for illegal dumping and approximately \$15,000 in fines. At the June 16 awards ceremony, Chief Lanier awarded Investigator Mines the Medal of Merit for preventing two people from committing assaults with weapons.

"Our Environmental Crimes Unit handles some of the most dangerous sanitation situations, especially those related to illegal dumping and it's reassuring to know our MPD partners have our back," said DPW Director Christopher J. Shorter. "Together, we have done great work to protect District neighborhoods from harmful materials being dumped and to bring to justice those who endanger our residents. I also want to acknowledge the courage Investigator Mines displayed to protect children from potential harm." Director Shorter also noted David Williams for his participation in this work as a special assignment.

The MPD/DPW partnership has issued hundreds of littering infractions, deployed cameras, and collected evidence that has proved beneficial in obtaining successful prosecutions of illegal dumping cases. On April 12, 2016, the team joined forces with more than 30 students from Idea Public Charter School and several members of the Ward 7 community to remove approximately 3.2 tons of construction debris and trash from the community.

In addition to honoring the MPD/DPW Environmental Crimes team, Chief Lanier also recognized DPW Investigator Mines whose actions resulted in the arrest of two individuals with weapons and prevented them from assaulting each other as well as injuring the 15-20 school children who were nearby.



Chief Lanier recognizes superlative teamwork of MPD and DPW to combat environmental crimes in the Sixth District. Pictured (l-r) MPD Chief Cathy Lanier, MPD Officers Jason Medina, William Smith and Robert Underwood; DPW Investigator Nathaniel Mines, Program Analyst David Williams, and Investigator Michael Vanison, and Sixth District Commander David Taylor.

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>.

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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