

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, October 21, 2016

## MPD'S VICTIM SPECIALISTS UNIT OFFERS SAFETY TIPS FOR EXITING AN ABUSIVE SITUATION AT HOME

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a nationally-recognized event that highlights the dangers of domestic violence. Through grassroots outreach efforts, media events, and client advocacy the domestic violence movement is able to use the testimony of victims to educate the public. Throughout the month, coalitions and agencies host programs and events within the community to inform people about domestic violence. Stakeholders use that time to explain what domestic violence is, who it affects, and available resources.

In an effort to raise awareness about the issues and empower anyone who may be caught in a violent relationship, the Metropolitan Police Department's Victim Specialist Unit offers these tips for exiting an abusive situation at home.

Safety when preparing to leave can be the most dangerous time for domestic violence victims and survivors! The following tips outline some basic safety planning suggestions when planning or exiting an abusive situation:

- Prepare an emergency exit kit with extra cash, keys, clothing, important documents and contact numbers .
- Keep the kit hidden in a handy place in order to leave quickly, or leave the bag elsewhere in case the abuser searches your home.
- Try to maneuver away from areas that may have sharp objects or items that can be used as weapons, such as the kitchen.
- Plan where you will go in advance if you have to leave home, even if you don't think you'll need to. Do not disclose your safe location to anyone.
- Visualize your escape route. Practice how to get out of your home safely.
- Devise a code word or signal. Tell your children, grandchildren or neighbors so you can communicate to them that you need the police.
- Change your routine to and from work and home. Become unpredictable.
- Call a domestic violence victim service program. Find out which services and shelters are available as options if you need them. Keep their address and phone number close at hand at all times.
- Find someone you trust to offer support during this critical time.



- » For additional information on creating a safety plan or exit strategy, you may visit:
  - » [www.pcc.edu/resources/illumination/documents/safety-plan-for-victims.pdf](http://www.pcc.edu/resources/illumination/documents/safety-plan-for-victims.pdf)
  - » [www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1090-safety-plans.html](http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1090-safety-plans.html)
- » A list of organizations and telephone numbers to contact for help and support is provided in the domestic violence resources section, at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/domesticviolence>
- » Printable PDFs of all the MPD's Domestic Violence brochures are available online at: [http://mpdc.dc.gov/dv\\_brochures](http://mpdc.dc.gov/dv_brochures)
- » The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides a number of resources for victims of domestic violence and suggestions on how to raise awareness. Get details online at: <http://www.ncadv.org/takeaction/DomesticViolenceAwarenessMonth.php>
- » The National Domestic Violence Hotline provides 24-hour assistance for shelter, counseling programs and resources across the country and can be reached at: 1-800-799-SAFE

## MAYOR BOWSER ANNOUNCES SUCCESS AND EXTENSION OF THE PRIVATE SECURITY CAMERA INCENTIVE PROGRAM

On Monday, October 17, 2016, Mayor Muriel Bowser, along with the Director of the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants Michelle M. Garcia, reported on the success and expansion of Washington, DC's Private Security Camera Incentive Program. The program provides rebates for the purchase, installation, and registration of a security camera system on the exterior of a building owned or leased by a resident, business, nonprofit, or religious institution.

Mayor Bowser originally introduced legislation to create the program in 2015 as part of her comprehensive public safety agenda, "Safer, Stronger DC." Since the program was launched in February, over 1,000 applications for rebates have been approved, funding over 2,500 cameras across all eight wards.

"The Private Security Camera Incentive Program is an example of how we can work together with the community to create a safer, stronger DC," said Mayor Muriel Bowser. "I am thrilled that so many people have taken advantage of the program. On multiple occasions since the program was launched, MPD has used camera video to aid in criminal investigations and the apprehension of suspects. I thank the Council for their support of the program, and recognize Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen for his leadership on this issue."

Installed cameras must be registered with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), providing officers with the ability to request the video footage while investigating criminal activity that may have occurred in the vicinity of the camera.

The program provides a rebate of:

- Up to \$200 of the purchase price per camera installed on the exterior of a residential building, with a maximum rebate of up to \$500 per residential address; and
- Up to \$200 of the purchase price per camera installed on the exterior of a business, commercial, nonprofit, or religious institution with a maximum rebate of up to \$750 per address.



» For more information about the program, residents can contact the Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants at [security.cameras@dc.gov](mailto:security.cameras@dc.gov) or (202) 727-5124 or visit: <http://www.ovsjg.dc.gov>

### 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](mailto:kaylin.castelli@dc.gov)

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