



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors,

The Committee Chairmanships have been announced for Council period 18 and I have been assigned Chairman of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. The Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs is responsible for matters related to consumer and regulatory affairs, public utilities, the regulation of banks and banking activities, and securities and insurance. The Committee has oversight of the following agencies and commissions: Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs, Board of Consumer Claims Arbitration for the District of Columbia, Office of Energy, Office of the People's Counsel, Public Access Corporation, Public Service Commission, Office of the Tenant Advocate, Department of Insurance, securities, and Banking, and Professional Licensing Boards.

Since my Chairmanship assignment, I have scheduled meetings with agency heads and commissioners of which the committee has jurisdiction. To date I've had introductory meetings with the Commissioner for the District of Columbia Department of Insurance Securities and Banking (DISB) Thomas E. Hampton, Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs Director (DCRA) Linda Argo, and the Executive Director of the Public Service Commission, Dr. Phylcia Fauntleroy Bowman. Over the next couple of weeks I will discuss ways that we can improve the quality of life for the residents of the District of Columbia with greater oversight and working with the agencies and commissions.

Yesterday, I met with the former Mayor of Bogota, Columbia, Mayor Enrique Penalosa along with my colleagues on the Council Chairman, Vincent C. Gray, Councilmember Tommy Wells, and Councilmember Phil Mendelson. During Mayor Penalosa's term he led many progressive reforms to transportation and public spaces. Currently he is a visiting scholar at New York University and lectures on topics such as transportation, land use and housing for the poor, pollution abatement, and public spaces.

Our conversation with Mayor Penalosa was around making public transportation work in urban areas, which will better serve the needs of the residents of the District of the Columbia.

Muriel

DC Launches New Inauguration Website

The District has created a new comprehensive website which contains information to help residents, workers and visitors plan for Inauguration Day. The address is www.gettingthere.dc.gov. There are useful links for everyone who is planning to drive, walk, bike or take mass transit on January 20 including a complete list of road closures and parking restrictions, as well as links for more information about the Inaugural events. We hope this information will help you prepare for this historic event and make it a memorable experience.

Holiday Trash Pick-up

In observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday the Department of Public Works (DPW) has released the following: "In once-a-week collection neighborhoods, Monday's collections will be made Tuesday and the remaining collections that week will "slide" to the next day so that Friday's collections will be made Saturday. In twice-a-week neighborhoods, collections also will "slide" one day. Monday's collections will be made Tuesday and Tuesday's collections will be made Wednesday. Thursday's and Friday's collections will be made Friday and Saturday, respectively". For further information visit www.dpw.dc.gov.

Ft. Totten is Moving Forward

Today Councilmember Bowser along with our Mayor Adrian M. Fenty announced that the District will sell a small city-owned site at Riggs Road and South Dakota Avenue NE to a team of developers who are planning to build a million square feet of housing and retail on nine acres of land surrounding the District property. Later this year, the team will break ground on Ft. Totten Square, on the former Tiger Mart site. The project will include 468 units of housing (94 units reserved as affordable), 71,000 square feet of retail including a full-service grocery store and almost 500 parking spaces.

The following year, the team expects to begin construction on a second phase, Dakota Pointe, which will include about 170 units of housing and 87 parking spaces. The final phase, which includes the District's triangle parcel, is called the Dakota Flats. It will include about 260 apartments (52 affordable units), 23,000 square feet of retail and 150 underground parking spaces.

Muriel Bowser's Day of Service- 1-19

In honor of the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Councilmember Muriel Bowser is proud to support the District of Columbia's 2009 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service by cleaning the Raymond Recreation Center and surrounding neighborhood, Monday, January 19, 2009, 8:00 am-12:00 pm, 915 Spring Road NW (Raymond Recreation Center).

So join Councilmember Bowser and the Ward 4 Cares committee for a day of service at the Raymond Recreation Center. Volunteers will assist with cleaning in and around the recreation center, so that our youngsters can have a clean and safe environment to work and play. If possible, it is suggested that you bring a pair of plastic gloves. NOTE: Please e-mail Brandon Todd at btodd@dccouncil.us if you plan to attend (so that we can have enough Muriel and Obama T-Shirts on hand!). On the day of the event, if needed - please call Brandon Todd at (202) 664-7594.

Digital TV Conversion Workshop- 1-27

Join Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the Office of the Peoples Counsel (OPC) for a Digital TV Conversion workshop on Cable Television and FiOS. Tuesday, January 27, 2009, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm, Shepherd Park Elementary School, 7800 14th Street, NW (Auditorium). Invited speakers include: Verizon, Comcast, The Digital Dynamo, Dish Network, Federal Communication Commission, Office of Cable Television and RCN. For more information about the consumer workshop, please contact OPC at 202-727-3071.

