



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Muriel Bowser

Councilmember, Ward 4

Council of the District of Columbia

1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 406

Washington DC 20004

202-724-8052-voice

202-741-0908

mbowser@dccouncil.us

Dear Neighbors:

The Council of the District of Columbia has announced the upcoming public hearings schedule for both the agency performance budget oversight hearings and also the Fiscal year 2009 Budget Request Act of 2008 hearings. Please visit the DC Council website for a complete listing of both sets of hearings at www.dccouncil.us.

I would like to hear from individuals and community groups about your priorities as I approach the FY09 budget process. Please send your priorities to Joy Holland, my Chief of Staff, at jholland@dccouncil.us. There will be opportunities to comment on the Mayor's budget during the Council's hearings.

Muriel

Councilmember Bowser continues to urge residents to install and test smoke detectors

"In my tenure on the DC Council, I've been called to the scene of three fires, where we've suffered double fatalities. Six people in eight months have perished in house fires in our Ward. It is so very important that all residents have working smoke detectors," said Councilmember Bowser.

Councilmember Muriel Bowser held a Smoke Alarm Verification and Utilization "SAVU" event on the 500 and 600 blocks of Quintana Place, NW last Saturday, January 19, and together with the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department (FEMS), went door to door and tested existing smoke detectors and installed 23 new combination carbon monoxide/smoke detectors in the homes on those blocks.

"Smoke detectors are the single most important appliance in your home, said Councilmember Bowser. "I encourage all residents to call 727-1600 or visit www.fems.dc.gov to schedule the installation of a FREE smoke detector," she added.

Councilmember Bowser and the Ward 4 Cares Committee kick off Martin Luther King, Jr. Day at Roosevelt High School

Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the Ward 4 Cares Committee would like to thank all the neighbors who came out to dedicate their time and energy on Monday for the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service at Roosevelt Senior High School. There were 20 members of Ward 4 Cares Committee who joined with LaSalle Elementary students and 500 City Year volunteers, for painting inspirational quotes and murals throughout the school (including a mural dedicated to Washington Redskins player Sean Taylor), building benches and bookshelves, and transforming multiple classrooms and lounges.

This project was in collaboration with City Year Washington's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service. Please visit their website for more information: www.cityyear.org.

This celebration of Dr. King's legacy was a great example of how we can turn community concerns into citizen action. Thanks for helping to make Martin Luther King, Jr. Day "a day ON, not a day OFF!"

Hearing on the Ward 4 Single Sales Ban - February 8

After surviving a legal challenge, on August 1, 2007, the Ward 4 Moratorium on Single Sales of Alcohol went into effect. This meant that all holders of Class A and B licenses, located within Ward 4, were prohibited from dividing a manufacturer's package of more than one container of beer, malt liquor, or ale, to sell an individual container of the package if the container is less than 70 ounces or less. This law enacting the Ward 4 moratorium zone will sunset on September 30, 2008 (four years after the enactment).

"I will strongly move to have this law, as championed by Ward 4 activists and then Councilmember Adrian Fenty, extended for Ward 4," Councilmember Bowser said. "I will introduce a measure to extend the bill this Spring," she added.

The Council members from Wards 7 and 8 are following our lead and have introduced legislation to ban single sales in their wards modeled after the Ward 4 moratorium. On Friday, February 8, 2008, Councilmember Jim Graham, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Works and the Environment, will hold a public hearing on the two bills that would prohibit the sale of single containers of alcoholic beverages by off-premises retailers located in Wards 7 and 8. The Committee is also required to hold a hearing on the "the present need and appropriateness" of the Ward 4 moratorium prior to expiration. Therefore, the Committee will also hear testimony on the Targeted Ward 4 Moratorium Zone on February 8.

The public hearing will be held beginning at 10 am in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW. The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony, which will be made a part of the official record. Those who wish to testify should contact Mrs. LaDorsa Willis at (202) 724-8195 before 5 p.m. on Wednesday, February 06, 2008. Witnesses should bring 16 copies of their testimony to the hearing. Individuals will be permitted 3 minutes for oral presentation; individuals representing organizations or groups, 5 minutes.

If you are unable to testify at the public hearing, written statements are encouraged and will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to Mrs. LaDorsa Willis, Committee on Public Works and the Environment, Room 116, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC, 20004, by close of business Friday, February 8, 2008.

311 replaces 727-1000 to reach the Mayor's Citywide Call Center

Mayor Adrian Fenty announced this week that 311 will be the phone number to call for all DC government service requests. Calling 311 will replace 727-1000 as the number to reach the Mayor's Citywide Call Center.

311 and 911 are now the only two phone numbers any resident needs to know to get in touch with the DC government. The 311 and 911 phone numbers are available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. With this change, there are now increased staff dedicated to handling 911 calls exclusively, allowing them to better prioritize calls as they come in. Previous to the switch to two numbers, 911 operators answered both 911 and 311 calls.

911 will remain the number to call for all situations that require response from the Metropolitan Police Department or FireEMS.

311 is the number to call to reach the Mayors' Citywide Call Center and contact any agency in the DC government. Use this to request services such as trash pickup or smoke detector installation and connect directly to agency call centers such as the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Ward 4 schools to host 'Saturday Scholars' program

Mayor Fenty and DCPS Chancellor Michelle Rhee announced the launch of "Saturday Scholars" an academic intervention initiative designed to assist students in grades 3 through 6 to prepare for the Spring 2008 District of Columbia Comprehensive Assessment System (DC-CAS). Five Ward 4 schools will host the program. These schools include: Rudolph Elementary, Brightwood Elementary, Clark Elementary, LaSalle Elementary, and Truesdell Elementary. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to take advantage of this free program.

True to its name, Saturday Scholars will take place each Saturday from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm at schools across the District, beginning Jan. 26 and continuing through April 26. Approximately 7,500 students from 91 schools have been asked to participate in the 14-week program. Academically, the targeted students are on the cusp of proficiency in reading and math and are all attending DC public schools that are currently classified as either "needs improvement", "corrective action" or "restructuring" schools as defined by federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) standards.

The 47 Saturday Scholar sites will be staffed with 331 teachers, 47 coordinators, 47 security guards, 47 custodians and 34 engineers. Each weekend, students will receive 90 minutes of literacy instruction; 60 minutes of math instruction; and 30 minutes of skill building testing. Awards will be given to students with perfect attendance, and their parents will be recognized for their commitments and efforts during the End-of-Program Ceremony. For more information please contact: Ximena Hartsock at ximena.hartsock@dc.gov or 202-442-5070.