

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, April 6, 2007

## COUNCIL APPROVES CONFIRMATION OF CATHY L. LANIER AS CHIEF OF THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

On April 3, 2007, during the Council of the District of Columbia's Public Hearing, Cathy L. Lanier was unanimously approved for confirmation as the new Chief of Police of the Metropolitan Police Department. This vote by Council follows the March 16, 2007 testimony in which Chief Lanier shared her vision for the future of the MPDC as a well-staffed, well-trained, and well-equipped department that is responsive to the needs of the community. Stressing the importance of Customized Community Policing, Lanier said she wants offices in DC neighborhoods working smarter and focusing on community priorities. One of her priorities is for the department to take a more strategic approach to crime prevention and crime fighting by using an analytical approach that includes crime prediction modeling and strategic deployments of our officers and resources. Another important component of her strategy will involve a strong focus on youth, creating collaborative partnerships and taking a more holistic approach to reducing youth violence and keeping youth safe. Chief Lanier intends to build on the fine work of the members, striving to increase the department's performance and professionalism. She thanks all the sworn and civilian members of the MPDC and the dedicated residents of the community for their support in her endeavors, and she looks forward to working with the community to help prevent crime through Customized Community Policing strategies.

- » Watch this and other Council hearings online through the DC Office of Cable Television & Telecommunications (OCTT) Video On-Demand at [http://octt.dc.gov/services/on\\_demand\\_video/channel\\_13.asp](http://octt.dc.gov/services/on_demand_video/channel_13.asp)
- » Read the testimony presented by Chief Lanier before Council that details her vision for the Metropolitan Police Department at: <http://newsroom.dc.gov/show.aspx/agency/mpdc/section/4/release/10769/year/2007>

## REDUCING THEFTS FROM AUTOS AT LOCAL GAS STATIONS

In the past few months, there has been increased media coverage about a recent crime tactic perpetrated by thieves. These thieves target unsuspecting vehicle owners when they are pumping gas or paying the tab in the station. Purses and other valuables, which are often visible or easily accessible from the passenger side of a vehicle, are the main targets. To simplify things for the thief, the vehicle is often left unlocked. The thefts normally take place when the victim is most distracted – when he or she is pumping gas or going into the station to pay for a purchase. A suspect vehicle will drive up next to the victim's auto, quickly open the unlocked door, and grab any easily-accessible items. Then they will just as quickly drive off. It happens in a matter of seconds. These sorts of thefts can be prevented when the appropriate precautions are taken. Next week, Chief Cathy Lanier will be meeting with a team of officers, crime prevention specialists and business owners to aggressively target this crime. In the meantime, take safety precautions such as locking your doors and keeping any valuables in your vehicle tucked away in a safe place.

- » Some additional tips on how to reduce the risk of a theft from your auto is included on MPDC website at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/theftfromauto>
- » Al McComber, of Code Red Radio Show shared a link of a very helpful video clip produced by the Broward County, Florida Sheriff's Office. The video offers tips on how to avoid becoming a victim of theft at a gas station. View the complete video online at: [http://video.sheriff.org/psa\\_cartheft.shtml](http://video.sheriff.org/psa_cartheft.shtml)

## VIOLENT, PROPERTY CRIMES DECREASE IN MARCH

Reported crime in DC was down compared to March 2006, according to preliminary statistics from the MPDC. Of the seven police districts, all but one registered decreases in violent crime, which contributed to a citywide decline in violent crime of 11 percent. There was one less homicide than last year, eight fewer sexual assaults, and decreases in Robbery (-7%) and ADW (-15%), as well. Property crimes also decreased citywide, by three percent. Three of the seven police districts saw

- » View the latest preliminary crime statistics for each of the seven police districts and the city as a whole by going to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/prelimdata>

decreases. Overall, citywide crime during the month of March was down 13 percent. Compared to March 2006, there were decreases in every crime category, but Homicide and Arson which both remained unchanged. The most significant decreases were seen in Robbery (-18%), ADW (-21%), and Stolen Auto (-22%). Only the Seventh District had a higher total number of crimes than this month last year. The remaining six districts saw decreases, with those decreases being double-digit in the 1st District (-29%), 4th District (-16%) and 6th District (-11%).

## APRIL IS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

Sexual assault is any type of sexual activity that you do not agree to, including: inappropriate touching, vaginal, anal, or oral penetration, sexual intercourse that you say no to, rape, attempted rape, and child molestation. Sexual assault can be verbal, visual, or anything that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention. It is a reality for everyone. Anyone can be a victim regardless of gender, race, socio-economic status, or religion. Sexual assault victims include infants, elders, deaf and hearing impaired individuals, and members of the LGBT community, minorities, women, men, and disabled persons. No one is exempt. Above all, sexual assault is a crime! In light of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the following tips are just a few risk reducers to being sexually assaulted:

- **Listen to your instinct.** Normal premonition and “gut” feelings are natural indicators that something may be wrong. If you do not feel comfortable with a situation, leave.
- **Be independent.** Most sexual assaults occur between acquaintances or people you already know. You don't want to be dependent on someone for transportation to and from social outings and if dating someone you don't need to feel as though you “owe” something because of things done for you during the courtship.
- Avoid mixing alcohol and drugs with decisions about having sex. It is difficult to make important choices about sex if you are under the influence.
- **Be aware of date rape drugs.** These drugs are often impossible to smell, taste, or detect in beverages. If you leave your drink alone with someone, do not drink it after you return. You can choose to have a trusted friend watch your drink as well.
- Consider going with a group of people if you are meeting someone new.
- **Communicate.** It is important to clearly talk about what each person in a relationship wants to do sexually. However, understand that NO means NO. Communication can be verbal as well as physical.
- Avoid dating people who don't listen to you, don't respect your personal space, make you feel guilty or call you names (i.e., prude or uptight).
- **Be assertive.** Make it clear that you are not going to do anything you want to do and know that your date should stop once you have said or indicated NO.

A victim is never responsible for being sexually assaulted. You are not at fault, the perpetrator is. The aforementioned are risk reducers but know that making a poor choice or failing to use the risk reducers does NOT make it acceptable for anyone to sexual assault you.

- » If you have been a victim of a sexual assault, the MPDC's Victim Specialist Unit can provide you some much needed support. Get more information on this unit at:  
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/vsu>
- » Get more information about Sexual Assault Awareness Month at the National Sexual Violence Resource Center at:  
<http://www.nsvrc.org/saam/index.html>
- » Some helpful links to local resources include:  
Men Can Stop Rape: <http://www.mencanstoprape.org>  
RAINN: <http://www.rainn.org>  
DC Rape Crisis Center: <http://www.dcrcc.org>  
National Center for Victims of Crime: <http://www.ncvc.org>  
La Clinica Del Pueblo: <http://www.lcdp.org>

## DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 4/6/07
2007: 43	
2006: 42	
% Change: +2.4%	
Closure Rate: 30.2% (13 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 3/31/07
Total: 917	
Weapons: 24	
Robbery: 16	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 6	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 16	
Narcotics: 127	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 3/31/07
Total Arrests: 62	
Weapons: 6	
Robbery: 4	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 1	
Narcotics: 6	
Curfew Violators: 114	
Truancy Violations: 146	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 4/4/07
April: 17	
2007 Total: 581	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 4/6/07
2007: 16	
2006: 11	
% Change: +45.5%	

### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**New Civilian Position.** File Clerk (DS-04/05) has been added to the list of civilian positions currently open in the MPDC; get complete details on this new position and other open positions, including how to apply, at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/civilianemploy>.

**Summer of Safety (SOS) Meeting 4/12.** The MPDC is looking for free, supervised events to add to a comprehensive calendar of events that will be given to students in the District before the last day of school. The next SOS meeting will be held on April 12, at 1 pm. If you are interested, please contact **yvonne.smith@dc.gov** or (202) 727-8809.

**Summer Employment Opportunities for Youth.** The Department of Employment Services' (DOES) 2007 Passport-to-Work Summer Youth Program is accepting applications for children between the ages of 14–21 interested in summer employment with the DC Gov't. Applications must be submitted by 4/27. Be sure to notify someone at the MPDC. To register, please call (202) 698-3991 or visit <http://www.does.dc.gov>.

**Information, ideas, or comments about this service?** Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN JUNGE**, in MPDC's Office of Corporate Communications, at [kaylin.junge@dc.gov](mailto:kaylin.junge@dc.gov). Would you like to have this information e-mailed to you? Just go to our Website and register with **Crimereports.com**.

LEARN MORE AT  
**mpdc.dc.gov**