

WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, October 24, 2008

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ARMS PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICERS WITH NEW TECHNOLOGY

On October 21, 2008, District of Columbia Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, District Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Vivek Kundra, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Chief Cathy L. Lanier and Fire Department Chief Dennis Rubin announced the deployment of 1006 mobile data computers to fire, emergency medical, and police officers in the field.

“Our public safety officers work hard to keep District residents safe,” said Mayor Fenty. “We’re always pursuing new methods to make their work more efficient and keep them in the field helping people, not in the office shuffling paper.”

The deployment represents the latest step in MPD’s ongoing campaign to incorporate technology into its operation and to improve public safety. Law enforcement personnel are now equipped for the first time with mobile technology that will allow them to automatically generate electronic reports. This electronic reporting function will greatly improve the timeliness and accuracy of data.

Recently, MPD deployed 812 units mounted in police cruisers and assigned to specialized units. With the new laptops, police officers can perform real-time inquiries on wanted persons, drivers, stolen property, weapons and vehicles.

In the future, MPD and the District will issue hand-held personal digital assistants (PDAs) providing the same functions as the mobile laptops to officers on foot patrol, Segways, bicycles and motorcycles.

“This technology makes us more efficient. Our officers are able to spend more time patrolling our neighborhoods and communities,” said Chief Lanier.

OUC, which is responsible for 911 and 311 operations, is also responsible for the District’s radio division. The radio division provides system maintenance and support for the 9,000 radios across 18 agencies with primary users being MPD and the Fire Department. OUC will also provide system maintenance and support for the mobile data computers initiative.

The District has deployed the remaining 194 mobile data computers to the Fire Department’s trucks and ambulances. With their new vehicle-mounted laptops, firefighters and ambulance will receive not only dispatch orders, but also maps from the District’s GIS system to direct them to the exact locations identified in 911 calls. In addition, the computers in command vehicles utilize GIS technology to map the location of fire hydrants, along with the most current data from the Water and Sewer Administration (WASA) about which hydrants are working. PDAs, complete with maps, help firefighters and WASA crews manage the hydrant inspections.

In the future, the Fire Department computers will be equipped with additional software, including patient care data and floor maps of the locations of fire emergencies.

- » Read the complete news release in the Mayor’s news room at:
<http://dc.gov>
- » To learn more about DC Government technology initiatives, visit:
<http://octo.dc.gov>.

THIRTY-EIGHT NEW OFFICERS HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 38 officers who were sworn in during a graduation ceremony on Friday, October 24, 2008 at the MPD's Maurice T. Turner, Jr. Metropolitan Police Academy in Southwest. The new officers all completed approximately 24 weeks of training at the police academy, which includes a full program of physical, classroom, and firearms training to prepare them for the challenges of being a police officer. The subjects covered include laws of arrest, search and seizure, criminal law, traffic regulations, human relations, community policing, and ethics. In addition, recruit officers receive skills training in firearms, operation of emergency police vehicles, self-defense, advanced first aid, and much more. Of the 38 new officers, six are lateral transfers who have previous experience policing with the US Capitol Police; Beecher Police Department (Illinois); Abilene Kansas police Department; US Park Police; US Navy Military Police; and the Department of Defense Police.

SPECIAL LIAISON UNIT HOSTS ADL'S YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

On Thursday evening, October 16, members of the Special Liaison Unit (SLU) hosted the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Young Professionals at the Joint Operations Command Center for a presentation about the work of the SLU and discussion about hate crimes. Acting Lieutenant Brett Parson moderated the discussion during which SLU members Sergeant Carlos Mejia (LLU), Officer Goldie Easterlin (DHHU), Officer Steven Nguyen (ALU), Officer Nicole Ha (ALU) and Officer Juanita Foreman (GLLU) educated the group of young leaders about the work done by each unit within the SLU, as well as the unique issues present in dealing with the marginalized communities they serve. The group also discussed the impact of District of Columbia v. Heller and how MPD officers are coping with the changes brought by the Supreme Court's landmark ruling, as well as other issues in urban policing. They finished the discussion with a debate regarding Hate Crimes legislation, the DC laws regarding Hate/Bias offenses and how different communities are being impacted by these crimes.

The Special Liaison Unit was honored to host this distinguished group of young people and continue MPD's tradition of a strong partnership between ADL and MPD. Members of the SLU will be attending ADL's Annual Concert Against Hate at the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts on November 17, during which ADL honors individuals who have demonstrated their ability and willingness to fight hatred, bias, and prejudice. During the event, the National Symphony Orchestra performs and each honoree is profiled in a dramatic presentation of their accomplishments.

- » For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPD visit the police recruiting website at:
<http://dcpolice.jobs>
- » The MPD is looking for volunteers to join the MPD's Reserve Corps, which provides qualified civic-minded individuals with the opportunity to assist the MPDC in carrying out its policing responsibilities. Details at:
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/reservecorps>

- » Get more information about the MPD's Special Liaison Units at
<http://mpdc.dc.gov/specialliaisonunits>
- » Individuals interested in getting more information about the Anti Defamation League's Annual Concert Against Hate can visit:
<http://www.adlconcert.org>.

DATA BOX

Homicides	as of 10/24/08
2008: 155	
2007: 150	
% Change: 3.3%	
Closure Rate: 62.6% (97 closures)	
Adult Arrests	week end. 10/22/08
Total Arrests: 812	
Weapons: 16	
Robbery: 7	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 9	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 24	
Narcotics: 157	
Juvenile Activity	week end. 10/22/08
Total Arrests: 77	
Weapons: 4	
Robbery: 5	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7	
Narcotics: 4	
Curfew Violators: 157	
Truancy Violations: 68	
Firearm Recoveries	as of 10/21/08
October: 154	
2008 Total: 2,120	
Traffic Fatalities	as of 10/24/08
2008: 36	
2007: 47	
% Change: -23.4%	

NEWS & NOTES

Also Noteworthy

MPD Seeks Candidates for Civilian Jobs. The MPD continues to accept applications for a number of civilian positions within the department. For position

descriptions and well as details on how to apply, visit <http://mpdc.dc.gov/career>.

Drug Free Zone in Effect in 6D. Metropolitan Police are enforcing DC's anti-loitering law in designated areas of PSA 602 in Northeast DC. Get more information at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/dfz>.

Street Closures for Marine Corps Marathon. Streets will be closed and parking restrictions will be in effect for the Marine Corps Marathon on Sunday, October 26. Get complete details at <http://ddot.dc.gov>.

Information, ideas, or comments about this service?

Send an e-mail to **KAYLIN CASTELLI**, in MPDC's Office of Communications, at kaylin.castelli@dc.gov

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