



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:

I introduced legislation on Tuesday, January 15, called the “Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detector Program Amendment Act of 2008,” which, if passed, will amend the Smoke Detector Act of 1978 to require the Mayor to develop an annual program to educate, test and install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and batteries in the homes of District residents without working detectors, and to authorize the Mayor to accept gifts and grants of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, batteries and funds to assist those who cannot afford smoke detectors or batteries.

On Wednesday, Councilmember Mary Cheh, Chairperson of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs, and I hosted a hearing on Bill 17-492, the “Pesticide Consumer Notification Amendment Act of 2007” that I authored and she co-introduced. This bill will require pesticide applicators to provide information to prospective customers concerning the type of pesticide to be used and also to provide safety information concerning those pesticides. This bill strengthens the November 1977 “Pesticide Operations Act of 1977,” which provided for the safety of the handlers of pesticides but did not include the rights of the customer to be notified of the chemical agents being used in their home.

During the hearing we heard from about a dozen witnesses, who confirmed the need for this important legislation to protect consumers from injury. Suggestions were made to improve the pesticide product labeling, for even when consumers are able to glean some toxicity information from a product’s label, the information about long term or chronic effect are not commonly found on a pesticide label. The bill has now been referred to the committee who will take all of the suggestions made during the hearing into account when issuing their report to the Committee of the Whole.

As a member of the Human Services Committee, I also attended the hearing on Tuesday about the death of Banita Jacks’ four children to question the representatives of the five government agencies who had contact with the Jacks family. This case reflects system-wide failure to protect these children. I, along with my fellow members of the committee, will continue to strictly enforce oversight of the DC Child and Family Services Agency to prevent another tragedy like this from ever happening again. Here is a link to the time line of contacts with the administration: <http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=1204&mon=200801>.

Muriel

Councilmember Bowser hosts smoke detector installation event on January 19

Councilmember Muriel Bowser has scheduled a Smoke Alarm Verification and Utilization “SAVU” event for the 500 and 600 blocks of Quintana Place, NW on Saturday January 19, at 10 a.m. beginning at 614 Quintana Place, NW with the installation of a smoke detector in that home by the DC Fire and Emergency Medical Service Department (FEMS).

During the SAVU event on Saturday, Councilmember Bowser will join FEMS staff to go door-to-door in the blocks mentioned above to test and install FREE smoke detectors. These smoke detectors also detect carbon monoxide, another toxic gas.

“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. “Smoke detectors are the single most important appliance in your home. 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.

Come volunteer with Councilmember Bowser and the Ward 4 Cares Committee on January 21!

Councilmember Muriel Bowser and the Ward 4 Cares Committee would like residents to volunteer with us on Martin Luther King Day – Monday, January 21 – at the Roosevelt Senior High School at 4301 13th Street, NW from 8:30 am to 12 noon to help with painting inspirational quotes and murals throughout the school (including a mural dedicated to Washington Redskins player Sean Taylor), building benches and bookshelves, transforming multiple classrooms and lounges and other projects.

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

Even if you aren’t a carpenter or painter, please come join us for this celebration of Dr. King’s legacy by turning community concerns into citizen action. Please let us know if we can count on you that day by calling Lisa Adams, Constituent Services Coordinator at 724-8052 or by email ladams@dccouncil.us.

Community update on Petworth development projects – February 5

On Tuesday, February 5, Councilmember Muriel Bowser will host a meeting at 7 PM at the Israel CME Church at 557 Randolph Street NW, to update the community on the status of a number of development projects in the Petworth neighborhood. Representatives from Safeway will be there to present and discuss their plans for construction of a new store at their Petworth location. Other updates will include the Park Place project above the Petworth Metro Station, the Residences at 3910 Georgia Avenue and others. There will be representatives available from all the development teams and DC government agencies. For more information please call Brandon Todd at 202-724-8052.

Hearing on the present need and appropriateness of the Ward 4 Single Sales Ban - February 8

After surviving a legal challenge, on August 1, 2007, all holders of off-premises retailer liquor licenses, Class A and B licensees, 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 expire on September 30, 2008 (four years after the enactment).

Councilmember Muriel Bowser will soon be introducing legislation to extend this moratorium in Ward 4. The Councilmembers 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 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 will also hear testimony on the “On the Present Need and Appropriateness of the Targeted Ward 4 Moratorium Zone”. The “Omnibus Alcoholic Beverage Amendment Act of 2004” created the moratorium zone in Ward 4. The law further required that this Committee hold a public hearing on the present need and appropriateness of the restriction no later than 60 days prior to that expiration.

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.

DC Chamber of Commerce Business Resource Center – upcoming seminar

DC Chamber of Commerce Business Resource Center located at 7059 Blair Road, NW, Suite 203, Washington, DC 20012 is offering a series of FREE seminars for small business owners. The next seminar will be Business Planning 101 on Thursday, January 24, 2008 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. This seminar will be held in the Takoma Park Branch (Public Library) 416 Cedar St, NW, Washington, DC 20012. To RSVP please contact Daisy Hicks at the Business Resource Center, by phone: 202-545-0220 or email: dhicks@dcchamber.org. Please also visit their website at www.dcchamber.org.

Meeting on “daylighting” of Broad Branch Tributary of Rock Creek – January 27

There will be a public meeting on Sunday, January 27th from 2pm to 4pm on the potential for “daylighting” or uncovering a buried portion of the Broad Branch tributary of Rock Creek, near the intersection of 36th St. and Nevada Ave. NW. This project could be a small but significant step in the effort to improve the health of Rock Creek.

The meeting will be held in the small sanctuary of Temple Sinai at 3100 Military Rd. NW, and is sponsored by the Friends of Rock Creek's Environment (FORCE) – www.friendsofrockcreek.org - and the Temple's environmental committee. This meeting is a very early step in a process led by the DC Department of the Environment, which is studying the "daylighting" proposal. Based on the outcome of this meeting, DDOE will send out a statement of work to contractors for the design phase of this project.

Questions regarding the process should be directed to: Steven Saari, Watershed Protection Specialist, D.C. Department of Environment, Phone: 202-535-2961, Email: steve.saari@dc.gov,