



WARD 4
MURIEL
BOWSER COUNCILMEMBER

FOCUS ON



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Dear Neighbors:

Here are some highlights from the legislative meeting held on June 3:

- ★ **Wards 4, 7, and 8 Anti-Sale of Single Containers of Alcoholic Beverages Amendment Act of 2008**, Bill 17-0532, passed on its final reading. This legislation makes the moratorium permanent for the sale of individual containers of beer, malt liquor or ale in Ward 4.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser introduced legislation to **expand the boundaries of the Neighborhood Investment Fund (NIF)** targeted area in the Brightwood and Upper Georgia Avenue neighborhoods. This legislation will enable a larger cross-section of community organizations to be eligible to apply for matching grant funds to assist in strengthening the social network of their community. The NIF Grants are intended to improve the quality of life of each neighborhood through civic action and resident involvement.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser introduced legislation to require the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs to **add signage in front of structures where raze or demolition permits have been requested** to their public notification requirements. Currently, only affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions are notified of raze/demolition permits. This bill would require a property owner to placard a property for a minimum of 30 days before a raze or demolition permit could be issued.
- ★ **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Support Act of 2008**, Bill 17-0678 passed on its final reading. This budget includes \$5.7 billion in proposed local funds and \$8.7 billion in total funds.
- ★ Councilmember Bowser voted to support the **Nuisance Properties Abatement Reform and Real Property Classification Amendment Act of 2008**, Bill 17-0086, which passed on its final reading. This legislation speeds up the process by which a property can be declared vacant. It also doubles the vacant property tax rate from \$5 per \$100 of assessed value to \$10 per \$100 of assessed value.

I hope this is helpful information and please visit the DC Council website for more details at: www.dccouncil.us.

Muriel

Reminder: Riggs Park Community Day – June 7

Please join Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Lamond Riggs Community Association, Metropolitan Police Department, DC Fire and EMS and DC Parks and Recreation for the Riggs Park Community Day on Saturday June 7, 2008 from 11 AM to 4 PM at the Riggs LaSalle Recreation Center, 501 Riggs Road, NE. There will be a moon bounce, games, raffles, prizes, bingo, a DJ, face painting, food and fun for all ages. DC Fire and EMS will have a health station and MPD will fly their helicopter onto the field and show kids all the operational gears and switches. MPD will also have their K9 and horse units available to greet residents. The Lamond Riggs Community Association will have their annual bazaar too. For more information please contact Officer Wilson or Straker at 202-715-7418 and for information about renting tables for the bazaar please call 202-290-3671.

DC Council holds hearing on Upper Georgia Avenue and Kennedy Street plans - June 10

Over the past year, Councilmember Muriel Bowser has worked closely with the Office of Planning and neighborhoods surrounding the Upper Georgia Avenue and Kennedy Street corridors to develop strategic land use plans that will help guide development and growth in these areas over the next 5-10 years. These plans suggest a vision for these commercial corridors that will make them destination places that are pedestrian friendly and provide for the density where businesses can thrive. Both plans were developed in collaboration with community stakeholders and District government agencies and provide guidance on land use, zoning, transportation, housing and economic development strategies for revitalizing these corridors.

This Tuesday, June 10th the DC Council will hold a hearing on both the “Kennedy Street Revitalization Plan Approval Resolution of 2008”, PR 17-781, and the “Upper Georgia Avenue Great Streets Redevelopment Plan” at 11:30 AM in the Council Chambers on the 5th Floor of the John A. Wilson Building at 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW.

Councilmember Bowser encourages affected community stakeholders to review each draft plan and prepare written testimony for the hearing. The respective land use plans can be downloaded at www.planning.dc.gov under the ‘Neighborhood and Revitalization Plans’ and then get further information about each planning process and download the plans under the Ward 4 link.

Individuals and representatives of organizations who wish to testify at the public roundtable are asked to call Aretha Latta, Administrative Assistant to the Committee of the Whole, at 202-724 8196, or send e-mail to: alatta@dccouncil.us and furnish their names, addresses, telephone numbers and organizational affiliation, if any. They should also bring with them 20 copies of their written testimony. Persons presenting testimony may be limited to 3 minutes in order to permit each witness an opportunity to be heard.

Citywide Soccer Championship at Takoma Community Center - June 7

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) will end its spring soccer season by hosting the Citywide Spring Soccer Championship this Saturday, June 7, 2008 at the Takoma Community Center, 300 Van Buren Street, NW. Games will run throughout the day beginning at 10 am; championship games for the tournament will begin at approximately 2 pm.

This season over 400 young athletes on 55 teams participated in DPR’s Spring Soccer League. During Saturday’s championship games, 35 soccer teams in five divisions – Ages 5 and 6, Ages 7 and 8, Ages 9 and 10, Ages 11 and 12, and Ages 18 and Under – will participate, featuring players from all eight Wards. Trophies will be awarded to both the winner and runner-up of each age group. For more information please contact: DPR Athletic Programs Administration at (202) 671-1700.

Meridian Restaurant closes

Councilmember Bowser is very disappointed that the Meridian Restaurant at Georgia and Missouri Avenues closed its doors earlier this week. The restaurant opened to much fanfare in January 2008 and the owners hope to have a new restaurant in the same location by September 2008. Please know that every effort has and will be made to bring quality dining to this corner. The City made a commitment to this business and the Brightwood community and we will continue to work with the owner on next steps. Please stay tuned.



Carter Barron Summer 2008 Schedule

Councilmember Bowser and her staff hope that everyone enjoyed the Ward 4 picnic and Shakespeare "Free for All" at the Carter Barron Amphitheater last weekend at 16th Street and Colorado Avenue, NW.

There are many other programs happening at Carter Barron throughout the summer. Please visit:

www.nps.gov/rocr/cbarron for a complete list of events. There are many options and we think you'll find something for everyone in the program schedule.