

# WHAT'S *New*

IN THE METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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



Friday, October 26, 2007

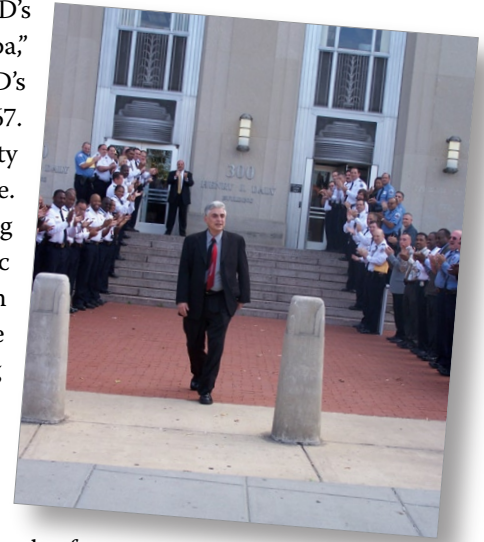
## DEPARTMENT BIDS FAREWELL TO SERGEANT JOSEPH GENTILE AFTER 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

Earlier this week, dozens of members of the Department lined the steps of MPD's Headquarters building to honor Sergeant Joseph Gentile (alternately known as, "Grandpa," "Uncle Joe," "The Godfather," and "Papa Joe," among others) on his last day as MPD's Public Information Officer (PIO). Sergeant Gentile joined the MPD on October 10, 1967.

After serving as a patrol officer for a few years, he took an assignment in the community relations office because of his journalism experience. Gentile served as a PIO for almost 40 years, bearing witness to many of the Department's most historic moments, including the assassination attempt on President Ronald Reagan, the tragic shooting of three law enforcement officers at the Municipal Building (since renamed the "John Daly Building"), IMF protests, inaugurations, and many more. Some have joked that he was there to report on Lincoln's assassination as well, but this has not yet been confirmed. Gentile was always ready with salty words of



wisdom and his wit is legendary. But many will remember Joe for his generosity and giving spirit — especially the candy bowls that he kept around his office. As he walked from the front door to a waiting unmarked cruiser, Gentile was visibly moved by the gathered crowd. He got in the vehicle, took a call from Chief Lanier, then rolled down the window to say just four words: "God bless you all!"



## MPD STRESSES SAFETY, OFFERS ACTIVITIES AT DISTRICT STATIONS THIS HALLOWEEN

To help ensure that youngsters across DC have a safe and fun place to celebrate Halloween, many of the MPDC police districts are holding special Halloween events on October 31. The festivities include parties, haunted houses and Halloween celebrations at many of the seven police stations. All of the events are free and designed to provide an opportunity for Halloween fun for young people and parents who might want an alternative to trick-or-treating in the community. For those who will be out and about on Halloween, the MPD offers a number of common-sense safety tips to help keep young ghosts and goblins safe. For example, in selecting costumes, bright, reflective and flame-retardant materials are a must, as are comfortable, well fitting shoes. Instead of masks, which can restrict vision, youngsters are encouraged to get creative with face paints. To promote their safety while walking, trick-or-treaters are reminded to stay on the sidewalk and to cross only at the corner (never between cars). Motorists need to slow down and be on the lookout for children. Homeowners are encouraged to turn on exterior lights and clean up any debris near their property that children could trip on. And, of course, youngsters should never go into peoples' homes, talk to or accept rides from strangers, or eat any goodies before adults have a chance to inspect them.

- » A list of Halloween safety tips and resources is available at: [www.mpd.dc.gov/halloween](http://www.mpd.dc.gov/halloween)
- » For details on the MPD-sponsored Halloween parties, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/halloween2007>
- » Adults who have done a little too much Halloween celebrating can get free cab rides home on October 31, courtesy of the SoberRide program. Details at: <http://www.soberride.com>

## TWENTY-THREE NEW OFFICERS HITTING THE STREETS OF DC

Patrols in DC neighborhoods are being boosted by the addition of 23 officers who were sworn in during a graduation ceremony on Friday, October 26, 2007 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 training academy, which includes 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. In offering words of wisdom to the latest recruit class, Chief Lanier reminded the newest officers of MPD that they are now part of an honorable profession, and they must at all times treat others with dignity, respect and compassion. "The way you carry yourself, determines how people view not only MPD officers, but officers everywhere. Wear the uniform proudly, always treat others with integrity. When people in the community see you, they should see each of you as symbols of hope and safety, not fear and oppression."

## NEW STRATEGY FOR INCREASED SCHOOL SECURITY TO UTILIZE MPD FOR PERIMETER MONITORING

On Monday, October 22, 2007, Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, joined by key members of his administration, announced a targeted plan to improve security and safety at schools across the city. When Mayor Fenty took over DC Public Schools (DCPS) in June 2007, it was learned that DC Fire Marshal had identified nearly 2,500 fire code violations at schools across the city, including Ballou which had chains and padlocks on most of the doors. Nearly all of the code violations have been corrected, however the removal of chains and padlocks at some schools cause security issues. City officials crafted a strategy to address the security concerns, beginning with a three-month \$5m plan to replace doors at eight schools. Security improvements being considered include: new doors, ID card readers and monitoring systems. The doors may also be tied into existing fire alarm systems in the event of a fire. Until security measures are set, the MPD will dedicate officers and MPD Academy cadets and recruit to staff unarmed doors.

- » For more information on becoming a police officer in the MPDC, go to: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/join>
- » The MPDC is looking for volunteers to join the MPDC'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>
- » The MPDC is also currently accepting applications for several civilian positions within the agency. Details, including the minimum requirements and application procedures, can be found online at: <http://mpdc.dc.gov/career>

- » Read the complete release at: <http://dc.gov/mayor/news/release.asp?id=1166&mon=200710>
- » The MPD offers a list of school safety resources at <http://mpdc.dc.gov/schoolsafety>

### DATA BOX

<b>Homicides</b>	as of 10/26/07
2007: 155	
2006: 143	
% Change: +8.4%	
Closure Rate: 61.2% (95 closures)	
<b>Adult Arrests</b>	week end. 10/20/07
Total Arrests: 789	
Weapons: 22	
Robbery: 8	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 6	
Prostitution/Sex Offenses: 31	
Narcotics: 135	
<b>Juvenile Activity</b>	week end. 10/20/07
Total Arrests: 48	
Weapons: 1	
Robbery:	
Unauthorized Use of Vehicle: 7	
Narcotics: 3	
Curfew Violators: 88	
Truancy Violations: 188	
<b>Firearm Recoveries</b>	as of 10/24/07
October: 139	
2007 Total: 1,840	
<b>Traffic Fatalities</b>	as of 10/26/07
2007: 44	
2006: 36	
% Change: 36%	

#### NEWS & NOTES

#### Also Noteworthy

**Street Closures this Weekend.** There will be numerous rolling street closures through the District of Columbia and in parts of Northern Virginia due to the Marine Corps Marathon, being held Sunday, October 28. Get closure

information at <http://dc.gov/closures>.

#### Patrol Services and School Security

**Bureau Open House November 2, 3.** Please join members of the Patrol Services Bureau at an Open House on Fri., Nov. 2, 10 am-6 pm and Sat., Nov. 3, 10 am-3:30 pm at 801 Shepherd St., NW.

#### Recycle Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Saturday.

The DC Department of Public Works (DPW) will hold its fall household hazardous waste and electronics recycling drop-off day Saturday, October 27, from 9 am to 3 pm at the Trash Transfer Station at 3200 Benning Road, NE. Get more information at <http://dpw.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**