Greetings,

The men and women of the Metropolitan Police Department understand the importance of policing not just for the community, but with the community. One of the central tenets of our philosophy is that our relationships with those we serve are critical to meeting our objective of establishing safe neighborhoods. And we have found that one of the greatest keys to building those relationships is outreach.

This report is designed to showcase just some of the many activities that MPD uses to help build and strengthen these critical connections with our communities. During 2013, MPD organized over 400 of its own events throughout the city and participated in more than 2,100 community-led events. In every district, we emphasize our strongest outreach efforts during the summer months to bridge the gap in activities for children needing positive, safe places to have fun and stay engaged. During the Summer Crime Initiative and One City Safe Summer, MPD made contact with over 32,000 young people through our outreach efforts. MPD is also a key agency in the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employment Program, employing and mentoring over 150 students last year.

Another aspect of our outreach efforts is our strong curfew and truancy enforcement program, which accounted for more than 2,700 underage youth being picked up for curfew and nearly 5,900 truants last year. Thanks to these efforts, these young people are removed from potential criminal victimization or engaging in negative behaviors themselves.

Throughout this summary, you will find many examples of the fine work being done by the outreach teams in each of our police districts. The partnerships that these efforts have yielded is paying great dividends in every neighborhood, but there is always more work to do.

The success of these programs would not be possible without the substantial financial and organizational support we receive from the Washington, DC Police Foundation and our Citizens Advisory Councils. The DCPF has underwritten more than 90 percent of our youth activities and have made the Junior Police Cadet program a success in four schools this year. Thanks to their generosity, we have made it possible for 19 young people to join the MPD Police Cadet program this year. Additionally, the Foundation provided funding for over 30 high school students to participate in the SYEP program.

The CAC, especially its chairman, and the many participants across the city have provided tremendous grass roots support for the annual Officer Award Banquets and the always-popular youth events that each police district hold during the holiday season. Thank you for your energy and passion!

Finally, the efforts of our seven district outreach coordinators are highlighted throughout this pamphlet. They work tirelessly throughout the year to coordinate and organize the wonderful events and build the synergies necessary to make them successful. They are the ultimate professionals and their dedication is appreciated by their communities and by the police officers who work in them — they truly connect MPD with the neighborhood in a positive way.

We know that it is through collaboration and working together than we can make a difference in the lives of the residents of every quadrant of the city — from our youngest residents to the “seasoned citizens” as they are affectionately known in the Sixth District.

Thank you for your interest in our work and for the vital support you provide to continue these efforts.

With gratitude,

Cathy A. Lanier
FIRST DISTRICT

The First District community benefited greatly in 2013 from the many activities and events put on by members of the Metropolitan Police Department. From free summer movies to a spectacular Halloween haunted house to a preschool party, residents gathered throughout the year to celebrate community and police partnerships.

Continuing to Make a Difference

The First District Commander and staff members attended the first day of school at Walker-Jones and Tyler Elementary Schools to provide school supplies for students in need. The students received pencils, composition books, crayons, writing paper and other needed supplies.

First District held movie matinees in the community room during the summer. The afternoon movies gave youth a safe but fun environment to enjoy a movie and snacks. The series of eight movies, made possible by grant funds, enabled campers from the Boys and Girls Club, DC Parks and Recreation and youth serving in the summer employment program to take a break from the heat and enjoy a little fellowship. Before each movie showing, First District community outreach officers provided a safety presentation.

SPECIAL EVENTS IN 2013

The First District planned and held more than two dozen events to engage the citizens of the diverse neighborhoods that make up the community.

- Crime Prevention Seminars at public and charter schools (12 locations), and federal and faith-based institutions (9 locations)
- Halloween events for various ages, including a party for preschoolers, a haunted house for the older kids, and a trick-or-treat event — all at the district station
- At our Christmas event for Children In Need, our objective was to provide disadvantaged families with a healthy holiday meal, coats, and toys. This critical event gives police officers a chance to show how much they care about and build relationships with the community’s young people.

Special Events Throughout the Year

National Night Out in 7D was held in Oxon Run Park and located closer to apartment housing that have no recreation within the immediate area. Several hundred community residents and youth attended this event. We partnered with the Department of Parks and Recreation, FSFSC, WINN Residential, United Planning Organization, Alliance of Concerned Men, Anacostia Coordinating Council, Congress Heights Main Street, and Ward 7& 8 Prevention Center to host this event. There were 32 organizations that provided information on their programs and services. MPD Reserve officers assisted along with federal law enforcement partners, the Department of Justice and US Attorney’s Office.

Seventh District’s Community Safety Day at the Parklands Splash Park provided an excellent opportunity for kids to enjoy this interactive water park. The secure location was great for youth and families to appreciate the park and stay safe with the presence of police officers. The area had sustained a recent shooting of a camp counselor and two kids that were wounded and hospitalized on the first day of summer camp.

The Seventh District Outreach team has ‘No Time for Crime’ — its approach to treating each member of the community with respect and dignity while engendering high expectations is having a positive impact on crime.
The Seventh District works to establish and maintain positive police relationships with community residents for the purpose of developing crime prevention efforts. Exposing and engaging youth residents and their parents in meaningful activities prepares them and hopefully deters youth from criminal behavior. In 7D, we’re leading by example by engaging in positive environments and involving youth in constructive options.

Continuing to Make a Difference

To prepare for the summer, we hold yearly seminars and workshops — what we call “No Time for Crime” — to provide information to youth, their parents or guardians, community residents and police officers on determining the appropriate responses to finding crime prevention activities. To obtain support, we advertise these seminars as meaningful guidance to help parents determine appropriate out-of-school activities that deter their child from criminal behavior.

In partnership with the Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative (FSFSC), we also hold a summer series of community days in targeted persistent problems areas. FSFSC conducted youth surveys on how crime was affecting them. The events featured food, entertainment, games, health screening, crime prevention information, HIV testing and counseling, the Department of Employment Service and the MOMS and Baby Mobile Units.

SAFE SUMMER KICKOFF

The Seventh District staff and officers, along with members of the Citizens Advisory Council (CAC), Far Southeast Family Strengthening Collaborative and the Ward Eight community at-large held several crime prevention activities throughout the year to get the community involved. These events were aimed at deterring at-risk youth and community members from getting involved in negative behaviors that could lead to major crimes and provide avenues for parents to keep their children safe. Our first event was a baseball game and end of school festival held on June 26 at Stanton Elementary School to kickoff our Safe Summer Initiative, the game featured a matchup between WPGC and MPD. We invited other government agencies and community groups to participate to show our youth and the community that we cared about their safety and that we are seriously concerned with deterring crime. MPD won the baseball game.

During MPD’s Safe Summer 2013, Outreach staff also ice cream socials to improve community relations with citizens, develop new and long lasting prevention activities for the youth, and educate the community as whole on crime prevention strategies. Socials were held in Greenleaf Gardens, Potomac Gardens, Tyler House, James Creek, Sherwood Recreational Center, and at Randall Swimming Pool.

For this year’s National Night Out, the District held the kick-off Event 2013, This event was held in Tyler House/Surusum Corda community at the request of the Mayor. We educated the community on how to prevent crime and to take action in the communities by joining or starting a neighborhood watch program and possibly becoming block captains. Educated the citizens on auto theft prevention, theft from auto prevention, robbery prevention, assault and other crimes. In the process of educating the community on these crimes, we like to provided fun activities such as face painting, clown, refreshments to include (hotdogs, hamburgers popcorn, cotton candy and snow cones).
The Community Outreach staff in the Second District are committed to ensuring that residents feel connected to their police department, planning activities and events for people of all ages and backgrounds throughout the year.

Continuing to Make a Difference

During the year of 2013, officers engaged the community, children, youth and young adults in pro-social constructive activities bridging the communication gap between law enforcement and citizens. Our goal was two fold – give the children practical safety information that they could use in their everyday lives and to re-establish relationships between MPD uniformed officers and youth.

The Second District was recognized the Department for its leadership in crime reduction across the city for the previous year. Under the direction of Commander Michael Reese, the Second District managed an overall reduction in crime of ten percent. Most significant was the major 21 percent reduction in Assaults with Dangerous Weapons (ADWs), an incredible 42 percent reduction in burglaries, in addition to a reduction in theft from autos. The drop was coupled with a 38 percent reduction in Stolen Autos. It was due to the phenomenal leadership and teamwork from the Second District Command Staff that the Second District achieved this goal in 2012.

The Second District is always giving schools and Cub Scout groups tours of the police station. Second District officers also participated in Hardy Middle School’s 9/11 tribute event.

In partnership with CBS Radio, State Farm, Once Upon A Prom, and the Richard England Boys and Girls Club, the Sixth District hosts an annual prom attire giveaway for high school youth throughout the city. We reach out to various law enforcement agencies including US Marshals, United States Attorney’s Office and the FBI. The event provides over 800 prom dresses and 200 suits to area youth. Law enforcement personnel serve as personal shoppers for the youth throughout the event who aid in locating appropriate stylish attire and accessories.

Wellness Wednesdays are focused on our “Seasoned Citizens” (persons 55 years of age and older) to share important public safety information while providing an environment to develop buddy systems to ensure personal safety and connectivity in the broader community. In addition to sharing crime trends and safety measures specific to the seasoned citizen population, we incorporate movie days, games of BINGO, and opportunities to attend local sporting events.
The ‘Sixth Wonder’ is what 6D’s Community Outreach calls the communities that comprise the neighborhoods of the Sixth District and the team works hard to provide engaging services and programs for the residents who call them home. With a diverse offering of events, there’s something for everyone.

Continuing to Make a Difference

Like other districts, the Sixth District focused part of its attention on reducing the amount of trash and debris in its community by organizing various community groups to host community clean ups. The Sixth District partnered with Kenilworth Parkside Residential Management, National Park Service, Harlem RBI, Cobb County School Missionary, Department of Public Works, Southeast Whitehouse, and Friends of Pope Branch to clean various communities each Saturday during the month of April. Over 300 lbs of debris was removed from the Sixth District.

BRIGHTENING THE HOLIDAYS

Through generosity of local business owner, IFA, and Food 4 Families, the Sixth District received 85 baskets with turkeys (45 were halal turkeys) and an additional 150 turkeys distributed to families who actively participated in MPD-sponsored events throughout the year — households of grandparents raising grandchildren, recently released persons in compliance of conditions of release, households of children who successfully answered trivia questions during Crime Awareness month celebrations and community partner referrals. Each basket and turkey was delivered with a special note of thanks for partnering to problem solve from 6D Commander Robert Contee. The event warmed the spirits of many during the holiday and touched the hearts of the officers who helped in the deliveries.

Special Events Throughout the Year

The Second District held events throughout 2013 to help bridge the gap between officers and the residents they serve. For National Night Out, 2D officers helped community residents protect their vehicles with a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) etching project at the district station.

Keeping our commitment to helping youth know Officers visited neighborhood schools and libraries speaking to kids about safety issues. Each year, 2D members are also happy to participate in readings at elementary schools to celebrate Dr. Seuss’s birthday.

During Halloween, the District held a Safe Haven activity for neighborhood children to have a safe place to trick-or-treat and enjoy the activities provided by officers. During the winter holidays, members of the Second District held a Christmas Party for disadvantaged kids from the shelters and Ward 7.
From the unique ‘Tournament of Games’ events to Easter Egg hunts, visits to community schools, and training for Neighborhood Watch, the Third District is working hard to create engaging activities that help bridge cultural, language, and social barriers and celebrate the district’s tremendous diversity in everything it does.

Continuing to Make a Difference

For this year’s Bruce Monroe Community Day, the Latin Area Youth Council, Georgia Avenue Development Corp., and MPD came together to set up a community day at the park. On hand were tents with information, food, and drink. MPD displayed the Excalibur drug free car and Assistant Chief Groomes stopped by. Commander Kishter arrived on his bicycle.

Officers participated in the Shiloh Baptist Church’s annual festival. Officers Hector Lugo and Li Nida Blake provided valuable safety information for senior citizens who live nearby. Officer Arthur Douglas coordinated the annual Beat the Streets in front of Garfield Terrace, with music, entertainment, food, drink, and booths that many community-oriented agencies set up.

Helping to build on the Department’s outreach to young children, Officer Tamika Richardson gave a presentation to students at Harriet Tubman ES on what a police officer does and answered the many questions kids posed. Lieutenant Jonathan Munk of PSA 302 has been a supporter of Tubman. Officer Robin Szewczk from SOD and PSA 303 Officer Towanna May spoke with children at HD Cooke Elementary and showed them MPD equipment.

All in a year’s work: the District’s focus on youth safety included educational seminars on dangers of lookalike drugs, bullying, and more. Play Street events kept kids busy and active, eliciting the original thank you badges elementary students made for officers.

STRENGTHENING TIES, BUILDING TRUST

In collaboration with various organizations, the Fifth District worked to restore a sense of security when a series of robberies and assaults began to strike users of the Metropolitan Branch Trail that runs through Northeast DC. The community organized and held Safety Walks on the trail along with members of the Guardian Angels and Fifth District officers. The walks succeeded in reducing the violence along the trail and made residents feel safer to use this vital community resource.

Special Events Throughout the Year

Through the Outreach staff’s efforts, the Fifth District also helped keep children safe and entertained throughout the spring and summer breaks. With events such as Play Streets in the Edgewood, Trinidad, and Langdon Park neighborhoods, pick-up basketball games, snow cones, football and baseball, and much more, kids had a fun way to interact with police officers in their communities. These sorts of interactions are critical in building trust.
The Fifth District’s Outreach program — Working for Safer Neighborhoods — provides youth and community members who live, work, or attend school in the District an opportunity to interact positively with the uniformed Officers. The program goals included encouraging teamwork and leadership and promoting crime deterrence activities.

Continuing to Make a Difference

During 5D’s Litter Campaign, clean up events were held in Trinidad, Ivy City, Edgewood, and Bloomingdale. After a day or more of work in each location, residents were left with cleaner, safer places to congregate, play, or just enjoy their neighborhoods.

Thanks to the continued efforts by our community outreach teams to educate neighbors, a growing number of DC residents are now considering the harmful effects of littering. “Litter hurts everyone,” remarked an Ivy City resident. 5D Officer Ben Rubie stops to talk with a long-time resident of Ivy City to raise awareness and support for the litter prevention campaign.

From Lemons to Lemonade

Officers from 5D stopped by to talk with youngsters who participated in the “lemonade project” held in conjunction with George Washington University, held at 38 recreation center sites across the city. Five of those sites were in the Fifth District. Children from across DC learned about business skills from GW business major students. The neighborhood children use these new to skills manage the stands, count money, and work cooperatively with the other children in their group.

The Fifth District Citizens Advisory Council members and Community Outreach work hard to give back to the officers that keep their community safe. The Fifth District prepared a home-cooked meal for the troops in April. One officer said, when thanking the CAC for the meal, that this was the best dinner he had had all week.

Special Events Throughout the Year

Mack Thompson, a retired coach, hosts spring and summer games for youth at the 14th and Girard Street Park. Assisted by 3D’s Lieutenant Deborah Pearce, he has been held the games — which include basketball, chess, competition games, and dance contests — for the past 20 years. Thompson hands out awards to community members and businesses that assist him each year.

Officer Richard Hall and Katie Bolton from WABA set up a tent at the busy Farmer’s Market located at 14th and U St NW in the morning. Many stopped by for advice, guidance, and applicable bicycle laws. Lieutenant Daniel Harrington has been out in U Street communities in support. MPD also took part in the annual DCPS Beautification Day and assisted residents and school staff to get the schools ready for students.
Collaboration with the community is a critical element of successful policing and this partnership is evident in everything the Fourth District does. From community presentations at senior centers and schools to movie nights and Play Streets, 4D is engaging the citizens it serves nearly every day to create partners in crime prevention.

Continuing to Make a Difference

During 2013, the Fourth District worked to forge new relationships and make MPD a more community-friendly neighbor. Outreach topics included safety presentations on senior safety, theft from auto prevention, burglary prevention, and guarding against robbery and assault. Other topics included dealing with conflict without violence and building self-esteem.

The Outreach team hosted a series of gatherings in partnership with apartment buildings and transition homes with property management to address domestic violence at the neighborhood level. The US Attorney’s office and mental health outreach workers were frequent guests and provided info on domestic violence support groups and social services.

Each year Fourth District Community Outreach enlists the help of youth enrolled in the Mayor’s Summer Youth Employee Program. In addition to assigning these youth various responsibilities in the execution of community prevention activities such as Playstreet, National Night Out, Youth Movie Nights, and Senior Bingo events, interaction with 4D officers help mold these young people into productive citizens.

National Night Out is the country’s “Night Out Against Crime” and the Fourth District participates in it with aplomb. It is an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, and neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and alert. NNO 2013 took place on August 6th and this year Fourth District partnered with Paul Public Charter School as well as other DC Government agencies and local non-profit organizations to put on a grand party giving crime a send-off in 4D!

From the Annual Youth Holiday Celebration to community safety walks and Halloween Safe Haven event to fitness demonstrations, the Fourth District remains busy throughout the year.

Special Events Throughout the Year

Fourth District outreach focuses on children, families, and seniors. The Senior Safety Bingo series offers tips for safer living conditions for seniors and encourages safer activities during the year while incorporating an element of fun with a favorite senior past time — BINGO. These games include officer-friendly presentations like McGruff the Crime Dog, along with a structured bingo game for seniors, complete with prizes. The participants are presented with ways to address anger as well as information on bully prevention in the senior community, safety when traveling, safety when living alone, burglary and assault prevention, avoiding fraud, and how violence has affected our neighborhoods.

We also focus heavily on building connections with uniformed officers and neighbors by building stronger, more resilient communities through safety related activities. These activities sometimes included the Office of Neighborhood Engagement, The DC Prevention Centers Wards 3 & 4, CSOSA, DPW, DDOT, and a host of others DC Government Agencies as well as Ward Four nonprofit organizations, community members and stakeholders.