



WARD 5 SENIOR NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Dear Ward 5 Seniors,

Welcome to the Ward 5 Senior Newsletter! I was sworn in as your new Ward 5 Councilmember on January 2, and it has been a busy several months since then. It is the honor of a lifetime to represent the nearly 90,000 residents who call our beautiful Ward home. While I send weekly newsletters via email, I know that online communication is not always the most accessible for all neighbors. I hope that this print edition of our newsletter is helpful and informative for you! It covers a wide range of topics: from important happenings, to legislation I've introduced over the past few months, to important District programs I hope you will benefit from, and more. My office is here to serve you, so please save the contact information below and don't hesitate to be in touch!

Of course, if email works for you, I do encourage you to sign up to receive the weekly edition of the newsletter by visiting ward5.us/newsletter. You can also always read the latest edition of the Ward 5 Weekly anytime at ward5.us/news.

I am so grateful to represent you on the DC Council, working to build healthy communities in Ward 5 every day. I know no better than Ward 5!

Yours in service and community,

Zachary Parker
Ward 5 Councilmember



zacharyparkerward5.com | 202-724-8028 | ward5contact@dccouncil.gov

2023 Ward 5 Seniors Highlights

Formation of the Ward 5 Senior Advisory Committee

In February of this year, my office opened applications for the inaugural Ward 5 Senior Advisory Committee. **In March, I announced the 50 selected members.** They are: Alfreda Edwards, Arlene Tutt, Brenda McMoore, Brenda Ruffin, Carrie Alexander Colella, Charles Lockett,



Christine Holmes, Christopher Glenn F., Debra R. Whitford, Denise D. Woodfolk, Denise KaveGovan, Doris Foreman, Doris J. Newton, Dorothy Davis, Dorothy M. Martin, Elnora Cobham, George Williams, Gerald Barnes, Gloria Odom Stokes, Gwynne Kostin, Hattie Pierce, J. Clifford Oliver, Jackie Young, Janice Slaughter, Jennifer Ragins, Jesse Goode, Joan B. Bailey, Juanita Diggs, Juanita S. Cherry, Katherine Warner, Kris Haynes, Laura Jackson, Laura Worby, Linda Frances Johnson, Linda Roe, Linda White Young, Pamela Cheers, Paulette Johnson, Ra Amin, Robin Coates, Sandra M. Hayes, Scott Smith, Shealia Delores Tyson, Sheila Poole, Sherri Alston, Verna E. Clayborne, Wanda Marie Murphy, and Yvette Thomas.

Since the first convening of the Ward 5 Senior Advisory Committee meeting in April, the Committee has met three times and begun to cast vision for the work of the committee, reviewed the Ward 5 Public Safety plan, reviewed the Ward 5 wins in DC's 2024 budget, begun to brainstorm budget asks for fiscal year 2025, given feedback on public safety legislation, and planned activities for seniors at Ward 5 Day (which was held on August 26, 2023).

I am very grateful for these remarkable community members who are advocating for Ward 5's senior residents and advising me on a range of quality-of-life issues and legislation pertinent to our senior communities. Thank you, Senior Advisory Committee! If you have questions about the committee or its activities, please contact Oliver Stoute, one of my office's Constituent Services Coordinators at ostoute@dccouncil.gov, 771-333-9912, or my office's Chief of Staff, Rachelle Roberts at rroberts@dccouncil.gov, 771-333-9815.



Ward 5 Day! August 26, 2023

On Saturday, August 26, neighbors from across Ward 5 came together to bring back a tradition from the days of Harry Thomas, Sr. – Ward 5 Day! Inside Turkey Thicket, we had more than 40 exhibitors connecting residents to a range of organizations and resources – from health services at MedStar, to education advocates at PAVE DC, to art and wellness at Made With Love DC, to an

exercise demo class with Bikram Yoga Works Ivy City, impromptu chess matches with the DC Chess Federation, and many more. Costco and Aurora Market provided snacking samples, and of course we had a VIP room for seniors with food provided by Ivy City Smokehouse. Outside, Woodridge Warriors played an exhibition softball game while children jumped in moon bounces, the Blacc Print Experience brought the go-go crank, DC Water provided a cooling station, and neighbors got to experience a *Taste of Ward 5* with samples from local favorites like DCity Smokehouse and Ledo Pizza. The Ward 5 Education Equity Committee also held their 4th annual Back-to-School supplies giveaway, so students and families were able to stock up before DC Public Schools started the fall semester on August 28.



That evening, it was a packed house at Trinity Washington University for the first-ever Ward 5 Awards. I was honored to have the opportunity to recognize remarkable members of our community, nominated and chosen by Ward 5 neighbors. Several seniors were recognized, including Joe Bowser, winner of the Legacy Award, as well as neighbors Timothy Thomas and Bob King, who have invested in our Ward 5 communities for decades. Congratulations to these wonderful Ward 5 residents!



Constituent Services

So far this year, my Constituent Services Coordinators have processed over 1,000 requests, **assisting residents with a variety of concerns, including trash pick-up, tree pruning, assistance with utility bills, traffic safety requests, parking enforcement, and more.** If you need our assistance with an issue in your neighborhood, or help connecting with a DC agency, please don't hesitate to reach out. On the back page of this newsletter, you can find contact information for each of the Constituent Services Coordinators in my office.

In April, there was a **2 alarm fire** in Fort Lincoln at The Petersburg building in the 3200 block of Fort Lincoln Dr NE. My team was on the scene with Fire & EMS, HSEMA (Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency), and the building management to support the needs of 19 displaced residents.



In May, I was delighted to continue the tradition of hosting a **Mother's Day Brunch at 3400 Banneker Dr NE**, organized with Ms. Doris Foreman. It was a beautiful time celebrating the moms and mother figures that raised us, guided us, and poured into our lives. **The month of May also brought a boil advisory** from DC Water following a water main break and loss of water pressure in the area. My Constituent Services Coordinators worked with HSEMA to



deliver packages of bottled water to several senior buildings in the area to ensure neighbors had clean water to drink and cook with for the 3 days the advisory was in place. And of course, we've had several opportunities to simply connect and have **fun with seniors across the Ward for**

luncheons, games, and ice cream socials, including the event pictured here with neighbors at the Green Valley Apartments on Franklin St NE.



Budget and Legislation

Ward 5 Budget Wins

In early February, I hosted a Budget Forum at Woodridge Library for neighbors to come and share their budget priorities with my office. We also collected feedback through an online survey. This helped shape the budget letter I sent to Mayor Bowser in mid-February, emphasizing Ward 5 priorities including reducing poverty; improving Ward 5 infrastructure including roads, recreation centers, schools, and transit; violence prevention and community safety through expanded behavioral health services and violence interruption programs; and housing and rental assistance for District residents, to name a few. For seniors specifically, I requested that the Mayor:

- **fund laws improving senior nutrition programs and outreach** (including the No Senior Hungry Omnibus Amendment Act of 2022, and the Senior Nutrition, Health, and Well-Being Equity Act of 2022),
- **expand recreational programming for seniors** at Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) facilities, and
- **explore easing property taxes for seniors**, so that neighbors have the option to age in place.

Unfortunately, the Mayor's budget did not fund these requests, and my Council colleagues were unable to work together to support these investments despite my efforts. However, we did add a **\$250,000 one-time investment to the Department of Aging and Community Living to support programming that helps individuals with Alzheimer's disease maintain their bills and financial stability.**

We also secured many other significant wins for Ward 5 in the final Fiscal Year 2024 budget that the Council passed in June. These include:

- **Targeted investments in community safety** (\$200,000 for security and cameras at Edgewood Terrace, \$200,000 for a substance abuse and behavioral health targeted outreach pilot along Mt Olivet Rd NE in Trinidad, and more).
- **Traffic safety improvements** (\$1 million for improvements to South Dakota Ave NE, fully funding the Arboretum Bridge and Trail, New York Ave Streetscape project, and other major arterial projects).
- **Major investments in schools, libraries, recreation centers, and programs** (including \$24.7 million for the Langdon Community Center redevelopment, \$15 million for the new community center at Crummell School, and \$24.7 million for a new Ward 5 library in Edgewood/Eckington).

These are just a few of the many investments the Council made through the budget process this year. If you have questions about the District's budget, or want to make requests for what we prioritize as we prepare for the next budget cycle, please reach out to my office: 202-724-8028, ward5contact@dccouncil.gov.

Legislation

Since taking office in January, I have introduced, co-introduced, and co-sponsored several pieces of legislation. Here is a brief overview of the major pieces of legislation I've introduced:

- **The District Child Tax Credit Amendment Act of 2023.** This bill would provide an up to \$500 per child (up to 3 children) tax credit to low-and-middle-income individuals.
- **The Financial Support for Families with Children Amendment Act of 2023.** This bill would provide individuals earning \$10,000 or less (or joint earners making up to \$20,000) a cash payment equivalent to \$1,000 per child annually.
- **The Establishment of Reasonable Controls for the Firearm Industry Amendment Act of 2023.** This bill would empower the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and District residents to sue for harms caused by a firearm industry members' failure to take reasonable precautions regarding the manufacturing, marketing, and sale of their products.
- **School Safety Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023.** The goal of this bill is to enhance school safety and deliver what school leaders have long asked for: new resources to prevent and respond to school safety incidents.
- **Ward 5 Black History Street Designation Acts of 2023.** This series of bills aims to designate streets throughout Ward 5 in honor of prominent Black figures with ties to the Ward. These individuals include: Sterling A. Brown, Julius Hobson, Sr., William R. Spaulding, Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee, Edna Brown Coleman, Alexander Crummell, Elder Lee, and Rayford Logan.

I've also co-introduced legislation on a range of issues. Recently, I co-introduced a bill to help improve the District's 911 call center, the Office of Unified Communications (OUC), in the legislation **Office of Unified Communications Transparency and Accuracy Amendment Act of 2023**. This bill requires OUC to regularly share data about errors and failures in responding to 911 calls so that we can improve the efficacy of this critical agency.

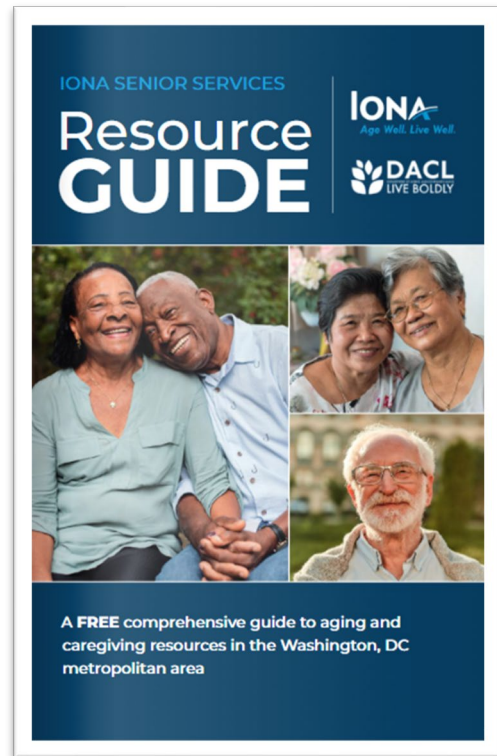
To ask questions about any of these pieces of legislation, or to inquire about other legislation I'm working on or considering, please contact my office's Legislative Director, Kendra Wiley, at kwiley@dccouncil.gov, 771-333-9734.

Resources

Iona Senior Services has produced a Resource Guide for seniors that is available in print and online. **My office has physical copies available for residents.** Please contact us at 202-724-8028 or ward5contact@dccouncil.gov to request one. Alternatively, you can access the full guide online at iona.org/resource-guide. This is a 250+ page comprehensive guide to aging and caregiving resources in the Washington, DC metropolitan area.

I also want to share a number of programs and helpful resources:

- **Free Dental Services for Seniors:** Through Community of Hope, seniors aged 65+ who do not have dental insurance or Medicare coverage or private insurance that does not cover dental care are eligible for free services. Call 202-540-9857 for more information.
- **Free Weekly Veggie Giveaway:** On Tuesdays from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., head to the Edgewood Rooftop Farm at the Edgewood Recreation Center (301 Franklin St NE) for a free veggie giveaway of local, fresh, organic produce including kale, collards, lettuce, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, squash, herbs, flowers, and more.
- **Safety Adaptations for Senior Homes:** The Department of Aging and Community Living's Safe at Home program provides safety adaptations in and around the homes of qualifying seniors and adults with disabilities. Call 202-724-5626 for more information.
- **Senior/Disability Property Tax Deduction:** DC seniors 65+ and persons with disabilities who make less than \$149,400 can reduce their property tax by 50%. Call the Office of Tax and Revenue at 202-724-4829 for more information.



Emergencies: 911 | Non-emergencies: 311

MPD 24 Hour Tip Line: 202-727-9099 | Anonymous Text Tip Line: 50411

3D Station Desk (Bloomingdale, Truxton Circle): 202-673-6815

3D Watch Command: 202-276-7462

3D Citizens Advisory Council: 3DCACDC@gmail.com

4D Station Desk (Riggs Park, Fort Totten, Queens Chapel, Michigan Park, North Woodridge, University Heights): 202-715-7400

4D Watch Command: 202-391-7177

4D Citizens Advisory Council: 4dcacdc@gmail.com

5D Station Desk (Most of Ward 5, East of Bloomingdale and South of Catholic University): 202-698-0150

5D Watch Command: 202-327-4392

5D Citizens Advisory Council: fspenn@yahoo.com



U.S. Attorney's Office

Third District Community Prosecution: **202-671-6552**

Fourth District Community Prosecution: **202-252-7312**

Fifth District Community Prosecution: **202-698-0144**



Office of the Attorney General

202-727-3400

oag.dc.gov/public-safety

Cure the Streets Violence Prevention Program

- curethestreets@dc.gov
- oag.dc.gov/cure-streets-data-dashboard



Office of Gun Violence Prevention

711

buildingblocks@dc.gov

ogvp.dc.gov



Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

202-807-0440

onse.dc.gov



Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice (Lindsey Appiah)

202-673-6566

dmprsj@dc.gov

Office of Ward 5 Councilmember Zachary Parker

202-724-8028

ward5contact@dccouncil.gov

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