



Hillcrest Community Civic Association
 "Working together for a better community"
 www.HillcrestDC.com
 P.O. Box 30895, Washington, D.C. 20030-0895

June 2016

HILLCREST NEWSLETTER

GUEST SPEAKER: RONALD KING, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH



Mr. King, a sixth generation resident of Washington, grew up in Ward 7, where he remains a proud Ward 7 resident today. Active in the community since his days as a student activist, he has continued his activism in the community, starting his work as staff for the first Council for the District of Columbia upon graduation from Dartmouth College in 1974.

Mr. King has been employed by the District of Columbia in various capacities, including the HIV/AIDS Administration in the

Department of Health, and the Committee on Health of the Council for the District of Columbia.

Over his career, Mr. King has been involved in many initiatives such as playing a major role in the District's divestment from corporations doing business in the apartheid regime of South Africa, leading the effort against redlining in the 1970s, assisting with linking and merging HIV/AIDS care services with prevention interventions, working with stakeholders to better incorporate senior citizens into HIV/AIDS education and treatment services, and advocating for mandated HIV/AIDS education and sensitivity training for physicians and other health professionals serving senior citizens.

Mr. King currently serves a Community Relations Specialist in the Office of Communications and Community Relations at the Department of Health.

OPEN OR CLOSED

The District has had a "closed primary" system since local elections began in 1974, in which only voters who declared a party affiliation may vote in that party's primaries. Starting 30 days before an election, registered voters may not change their affiliation.

It was proposed in 2010 to the Board of Election and Ethics by Adrian Fenty to open the Democratic primary to unaffiliated voters and allow them to declare a party at polling places on election day. The proposal was defeated.

What does this mean for the candidates as well as unaffiliated voters? The candidates have access to votes from independent voters, but they also have to campaign to a larger electorate. As was presented in 2010 during the Democratic mayoral primary. Vincent Gray argued Mr. Fenty had campaigned to independent voters, therefore having an advantage over him if the primary election was changed to allow voters to switch parties on election day.

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Special points of interest:

- Hillcrest Community Civic Association Meeting
 Hillcrest Recreation Center
 32nd and Denver St., SE
 Saturday, June 4, 2015
 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM
- PSA 606 Police Community Meeting
 East Washington Heights
 Baptist Church
 2200 Branch Ave., SE
 Wednesday, June 15, 6 PM
- ANC 7B Monthly Meeting
 Ryland Methodist Church
 3200 S St., SE
 Thursday, June 16, 7 PM

OPEN OR CLOSED Continued....

The Independent voters receive more flexibility in their voting choices, which is probably why they are independent voters in the first place. Independent voters in New York who wanted to vote for Bernie Sanders, and were not aware of the closed primary status in New York had to watch on the sidelines during the primary election.

Why not have open primaries in the nation's capital? This will allow the true popular vote to be cast.

Hmmm, just something to think about.

Contribution from www.washingtonpost.com and www.msnbc.com

DEJA VUE ALL OVER AGAIN

Credit the late great baseball player Yogi Berra with originating the redundant phrase "d  j   vu all over again." That sentiment seemed to come true when a team of neighbors and citizens answered the call of the Environmental Committee of the Hillcrest Community Civic Association to do a clean up of Alger Park, the only city owned park lying in our Hillcrest Community. There were people from Hillcrest, but there were also concerned citizens from other communities. A wide variety of age groups was represented at this gathering.

It was Saturday, April 23rd. The day started out with cloudy skies and a few sprinkles of rain, but that soon changed to a steady downpour. The water flowed freely down the street gutters, but the volunteers stuck with their mission - to remove trash that had been thrown into the park.

Much of the debris collected had been discarded since the last cleanup a year ago. It should be noted that this trash was not just minor discarded material that the wind had blown down into the park valley. Some of the items were heavy, such as the five-gallon

buckets that originally contained construction material. This rubbish had been deliberately tossed into our park by adults.

Why do "grown ups" do this kind of thing? There are several possibilities. Here are some insights that might represent the thinking of the people who trash the world.

1. It is an easy way to get rid of stuff I don't want.
2. It's not in my back yard.
3. I am not going to get caught.
4. It shows how slick I am, because I can beat the system.
5. I don't care about anything or anyone else except me.

Fortunately, most people do not think this way. Some people lament the trashy appearance of our parks, but other folks try to do something about it. Some of the them could be seen on a rainy Saturday morning in April in Hillcrest.



*Jazz is the big brother of Revolution.
Revolution follows it around.*

*-Miles Davis
(www.jazzquotes.com)*

Capital Jazz Fest
Hampton Jazz Festival
DC Jazz Festival
Richmond Jazz Festival

THE COUNCIL PROPOSES ENTREPRENEURSHIP BILL

The D.C. Council will soon be entertaining whether to offer entrepreneurship training to its returning citizens after their release back to the District. Bill 21-463, *Incarceration to Incorporation Entrepreneurship Program (IIEP) Act of 2015*, proposes to provide entrepreneurial skills training for citizens returning to the District from prison with the goal of qualifying for microloans to start a business. Obviously, everyone will not meet the threshold for start-up funds to develop their business plans because starting a business isn't easy. But the bill would provide the training and guidance necessary, giving people a real opportunity to succeed and contribute to society in a productive way.

Additionally, the bill proposes an IIEP Fund to manage the program with the goal of maintaining a revolving fund amount of \$10 million dollars. The most attractive piece to this bill is that it allows for various funding streams to be deposited in the Fund so as not be solely dependent on allocations from the District government. Funding sources such as donations from public and private entities; funds provided through sponsorship agreements; private, federal and/or local grants; matching grants through various Individual Development Accounts (IDA). In other words, the entire proposed \$10 million will not come exclusively from District government coffers.

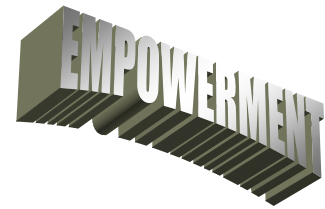
The high unemployment rates in certain neighborhoods in our city requires new and innovative ways to employ our most disadvantaged and under-served residents. According to the Department of Employment Services, the unemployment rate as of January, 2015, in wards 5 (9.9%), 7 (13.3%) and 8 (16.5%), is higher than the national average for the African American population, which stood at 8.1% in December, 2015. Even more alarming is the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) reporting that in 2014 the percentage of unemployed among the offender population in the District for the Black Non-Hispanic segment of the population was 64%. As it pertains to offenders released back into the District, a George Washington University report, "A Data Needs Assessment for the Mayor's Office of Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA)" found that "approximately 67,000 individuals with a prior conviction reside in D.C. Moreover, in FY14 it's

estimated that 3,360 returning citizens re-entered the city.

The most important element of this program model is the economic savings and gains realized from these types of endeavors. The Prison Entrepreneurship Program (PEP) in Houston and Rising Tide Capital in Jersey City, New Jersey are two worth noting. Studies and outcomes for these programs show that economic savings and gains yield significant tangible return on resources invested. First, there were savings related to reduce recidivism. Second, economic gains from increased child support payments. And fourth, savings from reduced public assistance costs, including financial benefits from society, savings for taxpayers, and positive impacts on the families of returning citizens.

It is the DC Reentry Task Force's responsibility to bring awareness to District residents and garner support for the bill. To find out more about efforts in support of this important legislation, and to sign the petition, go to www.dc463.info.

-DC Reentry Task Force



COMMISSION ON FATHERS, MEN, AND BOYS

The newly established Commission on Fathers, Men, and Boys has a few events coming up in the month of June.

First, A Father's Day Celebration, Saturday, June 18th at the Malcolm X Opportunity Center (1351 Alabama Ave SE) at 11am, Fathers and their families can take a FREE family portrait (up to 100), as well as FREE haircuts (up to 30), FREE health screenings and vaccinations, on-site DC Public School enrollment, DC Networks sign-up, DOES opportunities, behavioral health assessments, and other resources. There will be fun activities for kids and adults alike. Please RSVP by going to: chfdc.splashthat.com

At the end of June, the **Commission's Third Public Meeting at Wheatley Education Campus (1299 Neal St NE) on Wednesday, June 29th at 6pm**. There will be presentations from UDC Workforce Development and OSSE's Reengagement Center to discuss some of the

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COMMISSION ON FATHERS, MEN, AND BOYS Continued...

barriers to post-secondary education/training that is so vital to attaining gainful employment in today's job market. You will also hear updates from the office concerning programs, projects, and activities the community can get involved with.

Contact Tony Dugger, Executive Director at tony.dugger@dc.gov or Ajan Brown, Program Analyst at ajan.brown@dc.gov with any questions.



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Your paid through date is on the mailing label of this newsletter. If the date is earlier than 2015, please send your payment now. The cost is \$15.00/year, \$24.00 for 2 years. Make check payable to HCCA and send to P.O. Box 30895, Washington, DC 20030 or you can pay by credit card at:

www.hillcrestdc.com/paydues.htm

Got Ideas!

Please email any ideas or articles for the newsletter by the 15th of the month to hillcrestdc_newsletter@yahoo.com

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