



New 4D Commander Linda Gilmore

## New 4D Commander Gilmore Explains Goals to Reduce Crime, Improve Services

Paraphrasing a common saying heard in Western movies, "There's a new sheriff in town!" Linda Gilmore has served for several months as acting commander of the 4th Police District, and she must be doing a good job, because she was recently promoted to this post permanently.

At January's Citizens Aware meeting, Gilmore explained efforts that clearly led to her promotion, like restructuring the hours of officers, which resulted in crimes like burglaries and auto thefts being cut in half from November to December. She also related how when she first got the assignment, she noticed that officers were not doing a good job of listening to citizens, and she's been encouraging more effective communication. And this is not a top-down command, as Gilmore herself has been busy visiting community meetings (even though she cautions this will not be a regular thing, only because she believes her long-term effectiveness lies elsewhere) and is an active presence on the 4D list-serv.

In addition to explaining her goals in cutting crime, Gilmore explained how we can help do our part. She recommended that we be aware of how we carry ourselves; don't look fearful. Also, pay attention to both your surroundings, and your intuition, "Your gut is probably more intelligent than your brain," she noted. She also gave us tips such as: (1) citizens can legally carry pepper spray if they get it registered; and (2) 4D can arrange to have officers to come to your house and do a free security check.

Gilmore can be reached at 202-715-7500 or [Linda.gilmore@dc.gov](mailto:Linda.gilmore@dc.gov).

## Community News and Events

**Special Joint SMD 4B08/4B09 Meeting:** ANC 4B08 Commissioner Yvonne Jefferson and 4B09 Commissioner Douglas Sloan will be holding a joint SMD meeting on Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7:00 p.m., at LaSalle Elementary School, 500 Riggs Road NE.

**MPD PSA 402 Community Meeting:** Know what crime problems are going on in your Police Service Area 402. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the 4th District station, 6001 Georgia Ave., NW. For details, call 202/576-6741.

**Charter School Board Meeting:** If you have questions about the influx of charter schools in our area, the D.C. Public Charter School Board meets the third Monday of every month (except holidays) from 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m., at 1436 U Street NW, Suite 401. For details, contact Nona Richardson, [dcpublic@dcpubliccharter.com](mailto:dcpublic@dcpubliccharter.com), 202/328-2670.

## Citizens Aware Officers

- **President:** Gwen Vample ([gwenvample@gmail.com](mailto:gwenvample@gmail.com))
- **Vice Presidents:** Rabihah Mateen ([rmateen2004@yahoo.com](mailto:rmateen2004@yahoo.com))  
Clayton Lang
- **Treasurer:** Yvonne Jefferson ([yjeffer@yahoo.com](mailto:yjeffer@yahoo.com))
- **Secretaries:** Janet McCormick ([aljanon123@aol.com](mailto:aljanon123@aol.com))  
Pam Griffin ([plrgrif@aol.com](mailto:plrgrif@aol.com))

### Other Community Reps

**Ward 4 Councilmember:** Muriel Bowser ([MBowser@dccouncil.us](mailto:MBowser@dccouncil.us))  
(202) 724-8052

**ANC4B08 Commissioner:**  
Yvonne Jefferson ([yjeffer@yahoo.com](mailto:yjeffer@yahoo.com))  
**Lamond-Riggs Citizens Assn. President:**  
Rodney Foxworth

## NEXT MEETING

### FEBRUARY 13

- Guest: MPD PSA 402 Leader, Captain Anthony Poteat
- Development update, membership changes

### NEXT THREE MEETING DATES

- March 12
- April 9
- May 14

### LOCATION/TIME OF ALL MEETINGS

Second Wednesdays of the month  
7:30-9:30 p.m.

**Christian Reformed Church**  
5911 New Hampshire Ave. NE  
in the basement meeting hall



Lisa Adams, a constituent services coordinator for Councilmember Bowser

## Bowser Aide Lisa Adams Warns of Changes

The city will see a “new dynamic” of homelessness due to the growing problem of foreclosures, warned Lisa Adams, one of the constituent services coordinators in Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser’s office.

Adams told residents at January’s Citizens Aware meeting of her concern that foreclosures will lead to working families with no place to live, in some cases their only recourse being sleeping in cars.

Adams, who grew up in Lamond-Riggs and who is a former police officer, also echoed 4D Commander Gilmore’s comments about being aware of one’s surroundings, noting that we should avoid walking around listening to portable music players and talking on cell phones. She also noted that criminals look for quiet communities like ours to establish a presence, adding that more people from outside of 4D are coming into this area to commit crimes.

### A Message From Citizens Aware’s President

## What Happens When The Sun Goes Down...

Well, I guess if there was one main theme of this newsletter, it’s the issue of crime. We’ve heard good news from Commander Gilmore about a decrease in crime, and good advice about what to do to avoid being crime victims individually.

I will make one suggestion about what we can do *collectively* so that our community as a whole does not become a crime victim, based upon a situation shared by one resident at the January meeting.

Apparently, when the sun goes down, some suspicious activity rises up near 3rd and Quintana Sts., involving drugs and prostitution.

Yes, it appears, sadly, that we may have our own little “red light district.” I would have never known this but for the observant resident (quiet neighborhoods can be deceiving), who noticed strange trucks parked for extended times, people going in and out, and unusual foot traffic around Eastern near the liquor store toward Quintana.

Fortunately, 4D has promised to aggressively deal with this matter. But I encourage you to keep your eye out for any suspicious vehicles, people or activity and not turn a blind eye—call 911.

Peace and Blessings,

*Gwen Vample*  
Citizens Aware President

## Save the Date: Feb. 23, for Meeting About Riggs Road Development Status

Please plan to attend an important meeting on redevelopment in our area on Saturday, Feb. 23, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at LaSalle Elementary School, 500 Riggs Road N.E.

As you know, major changes will be occurring in the Riggs Road/South Dakota corridor: a reconfiguration of the intersection and mixed-use residential and retail buildings. You should have noticed “Fort Totten Square” signage at the old Tiger Mart site.

Although the community has provided input in the planning process over the last few years, these projects are now closer to fruition; therefore, it is crucial that all residents understand the process, provide input and get their questions answered. These will be the main goals of the meeting, which is sponsored by Ward 4 Councilmember Muriel Bowser, the Lamond-Riggs Citizens Association and the Lamond-Riggs Development Task Force.

For more details, you can contact Gwen Vample at [gwenvample@gmail.com](mailto:gwenvample@gmail.com), or Brandon Todd at Bowser’s office, 202-724-8052, [btodd@dccouncil.us](mailto:btodd@dccouncil.us).

## CITIZENS AWARE MEMBERSHIP FORM

### OCTOBER 2007-SEPTEMBER 2008 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

Yes, I would like to join Citizens Aware. Enclosed is my 2007-2008 dues check made out to *Citizens Aware* for **\$15 (per household)**.

NAME (last, first, MI):

ADDRESS: (number, street, zip)

PHONE NUMBER:

(h) \_\_\_\_\_ (w) \_\_\_\_\_ (c) \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**Send Form/Payment to:** Yvonne Jefferson, Citizens Aware Treasurer  
6009 New Hampshire Ave. NE  
Washington, D.C. 20011  
(Or you can pay at our meeting.)