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Serving Our Community in the DMV

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Amid Emancipation Day Celebrations, Conversations about Teen Engagement Persist

D.C. Council to Soon Vote on Youth Curfew Extension, Permanent Curfew Legislation

By Sam Plo Kwia Collins, Jr. and Sumaya Abdel-Motagaly
WI Senior Writer and WI Intern

This year's D.C. Emancipation Day festivities are taking place as National Guard troops walk the streets and local officials advance permanent juvenile curfew legislation.

Despite the circumstances, Monet Washington says it's business as usual for her and her family.

"I will be going to the Emancipation Day events because I want my daughter to learn about D.C. and all of its history,"

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▲ A group of cheerleaders representing Bald Eagle Recreation Center in Southeast perform a routine to T.I.'s 2004 song, "Bring 'Em Out," after Bowser administration officials announced the rollout of programming in celebration of D.C. Emancipation Day and DC250. (Sam Plo Kwia Collins, Jr./The Washington Informer)

In Her Last Budget Proposal, Bowser Opts for Future Growth

Fiscal Year 2027 Priorities Include Business Investments, Downtown Revitalization, Cuts to Programs and Subsidies

By Sam Plo Kwia Collins, Jr.
WI Senior Writer

Despite federal workforce depletion and the proliferation of vacant storefronts, D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser and members of her cabinet remain confident in the District's economic health. Even so, they've presented the Fiscal Year 2027 budget as a roadmap to spurring revenue growth and scaling back on what they deem unsustainable programs.

Some of those programs include universal paid leave, a Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) employment program, substance use disorder community support, and rapid rehousing. Bowser also keeps emergency rental assistance at its current funding level while eliminating "duplicative" family

DC BUDGET Page 9

Black Maternal Health Week 2026: 10 Years of Working to Save Lives

Local Organizations Address Inequities Through Programming, Partnerships, Community Engagement

By Keith Golden Jr.
WI Intern

For health equity advocates across the D.C. area and nation, commemorating the 10th anniversary of Black Maternal Health Week (April 11-17) is about more than celebration. It's about saving lives.

Black women are three times more likely to die during childbirth than their white counterparts, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and District data shows that 90% of pregnancy-related deaths occur among Black residents, with the highest risk concentrated in Wards 7 and 8.

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▲ Families at the Community Baby Shower on April 13 in Southwest, D.C., hosted by Wellpoint District of Columbia. (Shevry Lassiter/The Washington Informer)



▲ NaQuan Shepherd, a student at Anacostia High School in Southeast is one of 12 students who contributed to the release of "From Anacostia with Love: An Ecological Journey." (Courtesy Photo/University of the District of Columbia)

Earth Month 2026

Student Authors Explore Their Community and Learn about Nature

In Lead Up to Curfew Vote, Nature-Wise Lead Instructor Calls for Investments in Young People's 'Intellectual, Social and Emotional Growth'

By Sam Plo Kwia Collins, Jr.
WI Senior Writer

As District leaders mull how best to respond to mass youth gatherings in commercial areas, at least one young person has

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