

MDC'S WATER BUREAU SCHEDULES SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS RECREATIONAL
USE OF ITS RESERVOIR LAND - WEST HARTFORD COMMUNITY TELEVISION TO
TELECAST LIVE

For Immediate Release

July 16, 2010

(HARTFORD, CT) – The Water Bureau of the Metropolitan District (MDC) will conduct an informational meeting relating to the recreational use of its reservoir land on Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 5:30 p.m. in the West Hartford Town Hall Auditorium, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut. The purpose of this meeting is to receive public input on the issue. The Water Bureau will *not* take any formal action on this issue at the meeting.

Under the MDC Charter, the Water Bureau is charged with making periodic recommendations to the District Board regarding the uses permitted on and within MDC reservoir property. For example, in 1998, the District Board, upon recommendation of the Water Bureau, adopted ordinances requiring bicyclists, skateboarders and roller skaters using MDC property to wear certain protective equipment.

In response to a recent Superior Court decision in the case of Blonski v. Metropolitan District, the Water Bureau, through its chairman, Commissioner Timothy Curtis of Windsor, has decided to reevaluate the MDC's policy in this area. "As a public entity funded by rate payer money, we have an obligation to assess our risks, particularly in light of recent events. We intend to proceed in an open and deliberate manner as we review our policies. In the meantime, the public should not assume that the Water Bureau has made, or will recommend, any changes to the District's recreational use policy," said Commissioner Curtis.

On behalf of the District Board, and in response to a good deal of misinformation on the issue, Chairman William DiBella stated, "Let me be perfectly clear. No decisions to change our current policies have been made, specifically in regard to closing the reservoir property to the public. Any statements to the contrary should be disregarded. The District Board has yet to take any formal action, and individual statements or conclusions do not reflect Board policy. I commend Chairman Curtis for his leadership on this issue in conducting an open and constructive dialogue."

The meeting will include a brief presentation by MDC staff on its recreational facilities with public comments to follow. Those attending the meeting who wish to speak will be asked to sign in for the record, and all speakers will be limited to 3 minutes in duration. Organizations are welcome to choose a representative to speak on their behalf.

West Hartford Community Television will telecast the meeting on Tuesday, July 20th at 5:30 p.m. live on Comcast cable channel 5. The meeting will also stream live on www.whctv.org and be transmitted on the town's informational radio station 1630 AM. After the event, the program will be available on demand at the station's website.

WHC-TV's wishes to inform its customers that regularly scheduled programming will telecast on Channel 96 if the meeting does not conclude by 7:00 p.m.

Interested viewers should also check the Connecticut Network (CT-N) schedule for air times and dates.

About the MDC: The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, under a series of special agreements, the District supplies treated water to Glastonbury, the southern portion of South Windsor, the eastern portion of Farmington, East Granby and Unionville. For more information about the MDC, visit www.themdc.com.

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