



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2B**

January 18, 2017

Councilmember Charles Allen  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 406  
Washington, DC 20004  
[callen@dccouncil.us](mailto:callen@dccouncil.us)

RE: Proposed Amendments to the “Youth Rehabilitation Act of 1985”

Dear Councilmember Allen:

At its regular meeting on January 11, 2017, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 8 of 8 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (5-0-3):

WHEREAS, the Washington Post’s four-part series “Second Chance City” analyzed the ineffectiveness of the Youth Rehabilitation Act of 1985, demonstrating that the liberal implementation of probation and leniency has led to violent offenders remaining on the streets,

WHEREAS, 121 defendants sentenced under the Youth Act have gone on to be charged with murder in the District since 2010, according to The Post’s analysis of available sentencing data and court records. Four of the slayings occurred while the defendants could still have been incarcerated for previous crimes under mandatory minimum sentencing, and thirty of the killings took place while the suspects were on probation,

WHEREAS, the Post investigation showed that despite the name, there is little to no existing “rehabilitation” process in place for those who receive reduced sentences or probation under the Youth Rehabilitation Act,

WHEREAS, Mayor Muriel Bowser has called for reforms and study of the Youth Act as a result of the Washington Post investigation, and

WHEREAS, the Youth Act uses the following definition to describe violent crime:

§ 23–1331. Definitions.

(4) The term “crime of violence” means aggravated assault; act of terrorism; arson; assault on a police officer (felony); assault with a dangerous weapon; assault with intent to kill, commit first degree sexual abuse, commit second degree sexual abuse, or commit child sexual abuse; assault with significant bodily injury; assault with intent to commit any other offense; burglary; carjacking; armed carjacking; child sexual abuse; cruelty to children in the first degree; extortion or blackmail accompanied by threats of violence; gang recruitment, participation, or retention by the use or threatened use of force, coercion, or intimidation; kidnapping; malicious disfigurement; manslaughter; manufacture or possession of a weapon of mass destruction; mayhem; murder; robbery; sexual abuse in the first, second, or third degrees; use, dissemination, or detonation of a weapon of mass destruction; or an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit any of the foregoing offenses.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports reforming the Youth Rehabilitation Act of 1985 to amend the act to apply only to those convicted of nonviolent crimes, per the definition of violent crimes as described above, and supports reforming the Act to outline a program for rehabilitation.

Commissioner Nicole Mann ([nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net](mailto:nicole.mann@dupontcircleanc.net)) is the Commission’s representative in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicole Mann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nicole Mann  
Chair