



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

May 18, 2021

Mayor Muriel Bowser
Mayor
Government of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20004
muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Chairman Phil Mendelson
Chair, Committee of the Whole
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004
pmendelson@dccouncil.us

RE: Create Real Public Safety by Reprioritizing MPD Funding and Investing in Communities

Dear Mayor Bowser and Chairman Mendelson,

At its regular meeting on May 12, 2021, the Dupont Circle Advisory Neighborhood Commission (“ANC 2B” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With 9 of 9 Commissioners in attendance, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission approved the following resolution by a vote of (8-0-1):

WHEREAS, ANC 2B reaffirms that Black Lives Matter, and is committed to doing everything in our power to make them truly matter in our ANC jurisdiction and in our city,

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) has been implicated in the killings of at least 15 people since 2015, including Deon Kay and Karon Hylton in 2020, despite adopting numerous reforms at that time which aimed to reduce police violence,

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia has the highest number of officers per capita among big cities reporting data to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), with approximately 3,800 police officers (55 per 10,000 residents) – double the national average. Police presence in the District is even higher, though, considering the myriad additional law enforcement agencies operating within the District, including U.S. Park Police, U.S. Capitol Police, Metro Transit Police, DC Housing Authority Police, and many more, including special police officers, security officers, private investigators, and private detectives, and any other entity receiving licensure through the Department of Consumer Regulatory Affairs (DCFA) and the Metropolitan Police Department’s Security Officers Management Branch,

WHEREAS, the first anniversary of the kettling of protesters who were demonstrating against police brutality is approaching and this incident occurred within ANC 2B’s boundaries,

WHEREAS, this incident and other policing tactics like stop and frisk, jump-outs, harmful surveillance tools and tactics, use of chemical weapons, and intimidation highlight that a police presence does not always directly correspond to increased public safety,

WHEREAS, the DC Police Reform Commission released an April 2021 report outlining its proposals to reimagine policing in the District to enhance public safety and end “harms associated with over-reliance on law enforcement,” including an end to qualified immunity in the District and transferring MPD’s authority to enforce traffic and vehicle regulations to the District Department of Transportation (DDOT),

WHEREAS, the Defund MPD Coalition formed in June 2020 and is a Black-led multi-racial coalition of people and organizations in DC who share a common vision of a city with real public safety realized beyond prisons and police and many other activists in ANC 2B and beyond are calling for a reevaluation of the relationship between police and public safety,

WHEREAS, the DC Council unanimously voted to approve a budget cutting only \$15 million from the 2021 \$578 million dollar MPD budget in June 2020 and it’s time to ask again why we continue to spend millions of taxpayer dollars on police misconduct lawsuits and billions more on policing that yields poor outcomes, and

WHEREAS, serious calls to move significantly away from investment in policing and into strengthening communities of color are long overdue.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports additional action to address the root causes of police violence against Black communities, and calls for the DC Council to prioritize and invest in the safety and health of all DC communities but especially in Black communities that have historically seen underinvestment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the firing of officers who violate civil rights, ending paid leave during disciplinary investigation, and banning MPD purchase of and disposing of currently held military-style, crowd-control, and chemical weapons.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports the end of qualified immunity in the District.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports drastically and quickly reducing funding for MPD and instead supporting violence interruption services and other alternatives to traditional policing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports reinvesting money from MPD into housing, healthcare infrastructure, childcare, public transit, healthy food, and youth programs as the most effective use of funds previously devoted to MPD as a means of reducing violence and crime in our communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B supports moving money from police to fund unarmed non-police teams of first responders, city workers, and social service professionals to

assist community members and de-escalate violence when needed. Instead of relying on police, we support the following:

- District Department of Transportation teams alone handling and enforcing traffic and vehicle regulations.
- Urgent response teams that can respond to someone in a mental health crisis and connect them with services.
- Metro service patrol workers who could pull drivers over for things like broken taillights or other potential hazards and help with simple repairs so everyone can get home safely.
- City employees who perform wellness checks on people sleeping in parks, connecting them to services or housing if needed.
- Trauma-informed crisis intervention teams trained to disarm and de-escalate people doing harm and connect them to services.
- Peacekeepers or school climate specialists – trained in culturally responsive de-escalation, working with students with disabilities, restorative justice, and more – who can intervene in physical altercations between students.
- Community organizations that are skilled in de-escalation and peacekeepers who have mechanisms in place to review emergencies, establish protocols, develop and maintain rapid response networks, and provide health care trainings to respond in an emergency without law enforcement.
- Community-based transformative and restorative justice processes that address the root causes of harm and violence.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B advises the DC Council, the Mayor, and executive offices (e.g. Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice) to reduce and reallocate the MPD's budget drastically and quickly by the following mechanisms:

- Enacting an MPD hiring freeze,
- Creating a hard cap on overtime,
- Voting “no” on any police budget increases.
- Zero police in schools,
- Firing officers who violate civil rights,
- Ending paid leave during disciplinary investigations,
- Banning MPD's purchase of and disposing of currently held military-style, crowd-control, and chemical weapons, and
- Banning MPD's purchase of and disposing of currently held surveillance equipment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B advises the DC Council, the Mayor, and executive offices (e.g. Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice) to pass and/or support legislation to protect the community, and specifically reform policing tactics, including, but not limited to:

- Pass legislation limiting police power and banning harmful and unethical police practices,
- Pass legislation to end stop and frisk and jump outs,

- Pass legislation banning harmful surveillance tools and tactics,
- Pass legislation that reiterates the ban on any and all communication between MPD and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and ensure that officers who fail to respect DC's status as a sanctuary city face disciplinary action,
- Pass legislation banning all use of chemical weapons under any circumstances,
- Pass legislation preventing budget reprogramming for MPD budget overages,
- Pass legislation removing special treatment for officers who engage in misconduct,
- Pass legislation preventing the Fraternal Order of Police from interfering in fair discipline,
- Pass legislation decriminalizing poverty, drug use, homelessness, sex work, and street vending, and
- Pass legislation releasing and protecting incarcerated people with serious medical conditions and addressing risk of COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2B will continue to work alongside the Defund MPD Coalition and other activists to promote policies that will improve public safety in our capacity as an Advisory Neighborhood Commission.

Commissioners Robin Nunn (2B03@anc.dc.gov) and Michael Scott McKernan (2B07@anc.dc.gov) are the Commission's representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,



Daniel Warwick
Chair