



District of Columbia Government  
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A  
Box 75115  
Washington, DC 20013



January 13, 2017

Mayor Muriel Bowser, Members of the Council of the District of Columbia  
John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20004

Re: Violent crime, recidivism and WP investigation into Youth Rehabilitation Act

Dear Mayor Bowser and Members of the Council:

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed meeting on January 12, 2017<sup>1</sup>, ANC 6A voted 8-0 (with 5 Commissioners required for a quorum) to express our concerns to you regarding serious problems with the District's criminal justice system identified in the Washington Post's recent "Second-Chance City" investigative reporting. ANC6A has long been concerned with threats to public safety posed by a small number of repeat offenders and the extent to which those offenders are able to repeatedly victimize citizens across the District. Among the issues identified as posing threats to public safety in the Washington Post's extraordinary reports are the way the "Youth Rehabilitation Act" (DC Official Code § 24-901 *et seq.*) has permitted certain adult offenders to repeatedly receive lenient sentences, in some cases allowing these defendants to commit additional serious, violent crimes, including murder. The Washington Post reporting likewise reveals questionable practices by the Pretrial Services Agency, such as the failure to implement court-ordered GPS monitoring prior to a defendant's provisional release, and that the Act fails to provide other rehabilitation services in lieu of incarceration.

We are gratified by your steadfast commitment to public safety, as demonstrated most recently by your recent signing of a new law to discourage released offenders from tampering with their GPS monitoring devices and the requests that you and Councilmember Charles Allen have made for additional data regarding the effects of court's applying the "Youth Rehabilitation Act" to young adult offenders who commit crimes in the District. We applaud Councilmember Allen for planning a February hearing of the Council Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary to review this issue and strongly urge the Executive and the Council to produce legislation to ensure that the criminal justice system adequately protects the safety of District residents from repeat violent offenders.

Thank you for your serious consideration to the concerns raised by our Commission. Please be advised that I am authorized to act on behalf of ANC 6A for the purposes of these issues and I stand ready to assist you and the Council's Public Safety Committee with your efforts to address them.

On behalf of the Commission,

Phil Toomajian  
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

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<sup>1</sup> ANC 6A meetings are advertised electronically on the [anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc6a-announce@yahoogroups.com), [anc-6a@yahoogroups.com](mailto:anc-6a@yahoogroups.com), and [newhilleast@yahoogroups.com](mailto:newhilleast@yahoogroups.com), at [www.anc6a.org](http://www.anc6a.org), and through print advertisements in the Hill Rag.