



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



Wednesday, March 29, 2006

The Honorable Phil Mendelson
Chair, Judiciary Committee
Council of the District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 402
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Mendelson:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2006 with a quorum present, our Commission voted unanimously to support the need to increase the 2007 Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Budget.

First, the Commission supports the need for more police officers in Police Service Areas (PSA) 102 and 103, particularly with the increased commercial and residential growth along H Street Northeast. There are several ways to increase the number of officers on patrol every day:

- (1) Provide one new police officer in these PSAs per every 1,000 residents. As emergency call volume increases, this ensures residents have access to police officers 24 hours each day.
- (2) Expand Chief Ramsey's civilianization effort by putting the police officers on the streets and filling desk jobs with civilians.
- (3) Request that the Federal Marshall Service transport and monitor prisoners who go to the hospital. At this time two MPD officers are pulled from the PSAs to monitor the prisoners.
- (4) Implement web-based, on-line reporting system so that police officers do not have to go to the scenes such as broken windows, lost purses, lost Identification Cards, etc.

Second, the Commission also supports the need for increasing the number of narcotics investigators in the narcotics unit. Most of the crimes in our general area are narcotics-related. If the number of narcotics arrests increase, then it might be possible to decrease homicides in all of our neighborhoods.

Third, there is a need for an increased budget for crime scene analysis with a modern crime lab with increased Crime Scene Officers/Investigators. With the attractive offers from the private sector, it is difficult to entice people to stay in the public sector. Without enough people, civilians or officers, to handle the crime scenes, crimes go unsolved or unsuccessfully prosecuted.

In close, we ask that you strongly consider our community's request. The enclosure provides a complete list of issues our Commission supports for the pending budget deliberations. If you have any questions, please contact ANC 6A Public Safety Chair, Stephanie Nixon, at (412) 612-8881.

On behalf of the Commission,

Joseph Fengler
Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A

cc: Deputy Mayor Edward Reiskin, Public Safety & Justice
Chief Charles Ramsey, Metropolitan Police Department
Councilmember Sharon Ambrose, Ward 6



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Enclosure

The following items were supported unanimously at the regularly scheduled meeting on March 9, 2006 with a quorum present:

1. With the commercial and residential growth along H Street Northeast, there is a need for more officers in Police Service Areas 102 and 103:
 - a. The requested increase is 1 officer for 1,000-5,000 residents. In addition, the increase should account for visitors to the new spots on H Street Northeast. In addition, please consider a provision that states officers in Police Service Areas 102 and 103 will be increased proportionate to increases in emergency call volumes to ensure that residents have access to Police Officers 24 hours per day.
 - b. After the Nationals stadium is constructed in Police Service Area 105, it is necessary to maintain the number of police officers available to residents in Police Service Areas 102 and 103. Please consider adding the appropriate number of officers to Police Service Area 105 to cover the expected growth.
 - c. Continue to civilianize the police force. Police officers should be put on patrols and not behind desks. This has been shown to decrease crime and increase efficiency.
 - d. On-line reporting system: Have a system that allows citizens to go on-line and report crimes/occurrences that require police reports. (e.g., identification card loss, stolen/lost purses, broken windows, etc.)
 - e. Assistance is needed for transporting and monitoring prisoners. At any time that prisoners need hospital services, two police officers are required to sit with the prisoners at all times. This removes police officers from necessary patrols. It would be helpful to either increase the number of officers for transportation and monitoring or determine whether the Federal Marshall Service can assist.
2. As most of the crimes are narcotics-related and the District of Columbia is a large metropolitan area, there is need for **more narcotics investigators and a larger narcotics unit**. It is hoped that increasing narcotics arrests and lock-ups will decrease narcotics-related homicides.
3. **Increase the funding for the Crime-Scene Analysis Unit**. There should be more Crime Scene Officers/Investigators and more funding for equipment.
4. **Night Court**. To have night court available for at least holding/papering should be very helpful and reduce costs related to police officer overtime. This could reduce sick leave secondary to exhaustion from staying up all day meeting with attorneys as well.
5. **Fines for False Alarm calls**: False alarms in buildings or Automatic Teller Machines that require police officers to respond when doors are left open or something manages to trigger the alarm. Officers spend much time shutting off the alarm that takes away from their patrols. Fining the businesses that had the false alarm would encourage the businesses to improve alarms or make security guards capable of shutting off the alarms.