



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Stephanie Nixon, Commissioner
Advisory Neighborhood Commission
Box 75115
Washington, DC 20013

Dear Ms. Nixon:

Thank you for your testimony at the April 4, 2007, hearing on the "Proposed FY 2008 Budget for the Metropolitan Police Department." This letter is in response to your request that a new substation and additional officers be placed in Police Service Areas (PSAs) 102 and 103.

As you know, the First District already has a substation. Each government facility means higher fixed costs—such as utilities, janitorial services, and security. With the Administration focused on increasing services to citizens without increasing overhead costs, I am not contemplating expanding the number of substations in the First District at this time. I am, however, very focused on directing resources to support patrol. As you heard in my testimony at the budget hearing, I am putting more officers on the street on foot or bike patrol to increase visibility and increase contact with the community. In support of that goal, Watch Commanders have just been issued Treos, which will enable community members to reach the commanding officer at anytime. (For the First District, you may call 202.437.7632 or email 1dwatch.commander@dc.gov; however the Watch Commanders are still being trained on using the Treos this week.) I am also reallocating marked patrol cars to ensure that officers who live in the city and work in patrol have the first opportunities to drive take home cars, increasing visibility in our neighborhoods even when they are not on duty. Additionally, I have recently realigned several functions within headquarters to send five sergeants and eight officers back to the districts. I am continuing to assess specialized units and patrol to optimize efficiency and service to the neighborhoods. All of this will be enhanced by long term initiatives to improve technology and to hire and train the additional officers authorized by the City Council.

In the meantime, I am examining the allocation of current patrol officers. In 2004, MPD developed PSA staffing targets based on a weighted formula for crime and calls for service. My staff is working on a new analysis of the staffing allocations based on updated data. However, based on the original workload formula, 2006 data, and current staffing levels, it appears that the staffing targets for PSAs 102 and 103 are closely aligned with crime and calls for service in those areas. The attached chart shows that PSA 102 has 3.1 percent of the weighted workload in the city, and 3.1 percent of all officers assigned to patrol. PSA 103 has 2.6 percent of the weighted workload, and 2.7 percent of the patrol officers.

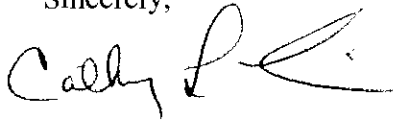
Of course, the assigned number of officers is not very meaningful if too many are unavailable for full duty. Although the percentage of officers unavailable for full duty has been cut in half over the past few years, as you have noted, there are several officers unavailable for full duty

in PSA 102. The staffing target for PSA 102 is 57 officers; as of last month, only 45 officers were available for full duty in the PSA. Commander Groomes has taken steps to address this shortage by assigning a new recruit to the PSA and reducing the midnight station by one officer and shifting that officer to patrol in PSA 102. In addition, PSA 102 is regularly supported by officers from the Canine Patrol Unit, the power shift, Focus Mission Team, and Auto Theft.

Based on the original model and current data, PSA 103 appears to be fully staffed. The staffing target for PSA 103 is 45 officers and there are, in fact, 50 officers assigned to 103, of which 46 are available for full duty.

Although I cannot commit to a new substation or an immediate influx of additional officers, I am very committed to delivering excellent service to the neighborhoods. I hope you find this responsive to your concerns. Should you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 727-4218.

Sincerely,



Cathy L. Lanier
Acting Chief of Police

Attachment

cc: Joseph Fengler, Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6A
Councilmember Phil Mendelson, Chair, Committee on Public Safety & the Judiciary

Mayor Adrian Fenty
Dan Tangherlini, City Administrator
Commander Diane Groomes, First District, Metropolitan Police Department

First District: % of Citywide Crime, Calls for Service, & PSA Officers per PSA

