



PO BOX 11444
WASHINGTON, DC 20008

Members of the Council of the District of Columbia
Committee on Public Safety and Judiciary
The John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 1, 2024

Dear Council Members:

I write on behalf of the Cleveland Park Community Association (CPCA), a non-profit membership organization established in 1911 composed of neighborhood residents, whose mission includes protection and promotion of the diversity and vibrancy of Cleveland Park. We write to express CPCA support for the omnibus public safety bill, known as Secure DC, which is currently making its way through the DC Council.

CPCA has held several meetings on public safety over the past year, where leaders from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and Council Member Frumin have spoken to our community. The unusually large attendance at these events speaks to the concern neighborhood residents have with the rise in crime, including violent acts, throughout DC, including Ward 3.

We support meaningful legislation to address this crime surge, to make the District of Columbia safer for all who live and work here. While we recognize that the bill is not perfect, and some elements are controversial, the bill addresses many of the issues of concern to our members and community.

Specifically, we support that Secure DC aims to:

- Send a strong message of city government commitment to public safety.
- Ensure fair, timely, and predictable consequences for unlawful behavior.
- Take concrete action to prevent crime.
- Increase MPD accountability while ensuring that it has the tools and protections needed to uphold laws safely and efficiently.
- Stiffen gun penalties.
- Increase accountability and deterrence for unlawful behavior.

- Improve government coordination and oversight to advance criminal enforcement and protect public safety.
- Increase the probability that violent repeat offenders will be separated from the community after they have been arrested.

We also urge far greater investment in the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services, including staffing, programming and facilities, and stronger advocacy to the federal government to improve the DC Superior Court Social Services' oversight of juvenile offenders wearing GPS devices. At a time when the District is making difficult budgetary choices, support for our young people at risk must remain a top priority.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Barlow Weiner". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and "W".

John Barlow Weiner
President