



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

MAYOR BOWSER FY 2015 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUEST: PATHWAYS TO THE MIDDLE CLASS IN A SAFER, STRONGER DC

Mayor Bowser is advancing a comprehensive legislative, administrative and budgetary agenda that will create a safer, stronger DC - by putting more District residents on their pathways to the middle class. As part of her agenda, Mayor Bowser has proposed funding several key initiatives in the supplemental budget.

Jobs

Launching the Career Connection Program for At-Risk Young Adults: \$4.5 million

- The District's unemployment rate for 20-24 year olds is around 12.4%, compared to the overall rate of 6.8%. Too many in this age group are becoming disconnected from their community, lack job skills and are at high risk of becoming part of the long-term unemployed - at times even falling into criminal activity. The Obama Administration has prioritized the support and professional development of this age group, and other major cities are focused on expanding programming and support for this population. Mayor Bowser is proposing an extended program that will help the District's most at-risk young people find their pathway to long-term careers. The program will provide on the job training to approximately 400 at-risk 20-24 year olds (particularly in neighborhoods most affected by crime), connect them with education and training opportunities, and ensure their continued success by offering wraparound services and transportation subsidies.

Connecting District Residents with Government Jobs: \$2.3 million

- The Mayor is proposing an expansion of the LEAP Academy program, which trains residents in growing fields and places them in jobs. The expansion is focused on two District government agencies which have a need for specific jobs.
 - The Department of Public Works (DPW) will launch a Workforce Development Pilot to connect qualified individuals with around 25 jobs related to waste collection. In addition to hiring waste collectors, DPW will hire and train mechanics to maintain the District's fleet. \$805,000
 - The Department of Parks and Recreation will hire around 29 customer service representatives for DPR facilities. The District has state of the art rec centers, and we want to ensure that every resident who visits a recreation center has a first-class customer service experience. These individuals will greet individuals when they enter recreation centers. In addition to improving the customer service experience, this program will bring good jobs to District residents. \$1.5 million

Community

Supporting Neighborhoods: \$1.25 million

- Mayor Bowser is committed to supporting neighborhoods that are at risk, or that have been hard hit by crime. The Bowser Administration will provide 'mini-grants' to nonprofit organizations and individuals in select communities across the District. These grants - which will respond to individual community needs - will strengthen resources related to violence and mediation, mentoring, youth enrichment and family supports.

Fully Implementing Body Worn Cameras: \$5.4 million

- Body Worn Cameras (BWC's) increase accountability, improve police services and enhance public safety. The Mayor's goal is to equip all 2,800 MPD officers who regularly interact with the public with BWCs. In order to fully implement the program, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) requires additional funding to purchase 2,400 cameras (which will supplement the 400 BWCs

currently deployed). This funding will also cover the cost of Freedom of Information Act requests for BWC video footage. The Mayor's proposed legislation and regulations strike an important balance between transparency and individual privacy. Washington, DC's BWC program will be one of the most innovative and effective in the country.

Resources to Fight Crime

Enhancing Security Cameras & Lighting: \$1.6 million

- Mayor Bowser has committed to giving our law enforcement more tools to protect our neighborhoods.
- The Mayor has proposed legislation that will incentivize businesses, property owners and churches to install security cameras. The cameras will deter crime, and will assist MPD with investigations into criminal activity and vandalism. The program will have a maximum rebate per camera, and per address - and will operate until the end of Fiscal Year 2016. \$500,000
- In addition, the Mayor is proposing lighting for 8 recreation centers in neighborhoods that have experienced heightened crime, which will ensure that these centers remain a safe place for residents to congregate. \$1.1 million

Supporting the District's Crime Lab: \$8 million

- The District's Department of Forensic Science (DFS) Lab plays a critical role in violent crime cases - and their analysis often helps law enforcement bring violent criminals to justice. The Mayor and new DFS Director have been actively working to fix longstanding issues. The Mayor is proposing additional funding to resume DNA Testing, reduce testing backlogs and increase staffing in essential scientific areas. \$4.3 million
- Mayor Bowser is proposing legislation that will allow MPD retired officers return to work as DFS employees, without losing their pension. This will allow DFS to retain valuable employees with important skill sets. \$3.7 million

Putting More Police on the Streets

- With crime scene investigator duties beginning shifted from MPD to DFS, this \$3.7 million in funding will enable MPD to return this 50 officers who currently work as crime scene investigators to everyday community policing initiatives.

Testing for Dangerous Synthetic Drugs: \$326,000

- The District has experienced a surge in the use and sale of synthetic drugs - which inhibit judgment and can lead to violent behavior. Mayor Bowser has instituted a program through the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and the Department of Health (DOH) to conduct Synthetic Drug Surveillance. The data will inform District officials about the level and prevalent locations of such use - and will enable DOH to better educate the community on the inherent dangers of synthetic drug usage, and implement appropriate measures for those who have.