



MURIEL BOWSER  
MAYOR

December 22, 2016

Mannone Butler  
Executive Director  
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council  
441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW  
Suite 715  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Ms. Butler:

The *Washington Post* has run several stories on the Youth Rehabilitation Amendment Act of 1985 ("Youth Act") and whether the law is being misapplied by not focusing on non-violent offenders. Although the stories did not feature cases where the Youth Act benefitted young offenders, it did identify more than 120 individuals who went on to be charged with committing homicides.

As Mayor, my highest duty is to make the District of Columbia safer and stronger by ensuring that our laws protect our residents from repeat violent offenders. Proper application of the Youth Act can ensure that it has the intended effect of offering non-violent young adults an opportunity for a second chance.

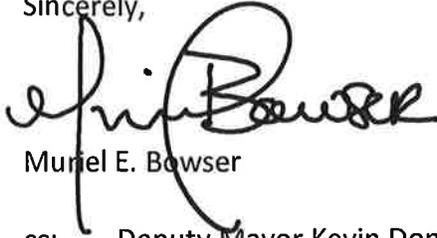
Given the significant issues raised by the *Washington Post*, I ask that the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council research the Youth Act and report back by July 1, 2017 on the following issues. First, identify how often the Youth Act has been used by the U.S. Attorney's Office and D.C. Superior Court judges. Second, evaluate recidivism and success rates when the Youth Act is applied. Third, assess whether the rehabilitative programs provided to Youth Act individuals are succeeding or need to be reevaluated.

Receiving this critical research by July 1 will allow for an informed discussion with the Council, the Attorney General, and the public on whether and how the Youth Act should be reformed. It is also essential that the CJCC identify how, going forward, information on the

Youth Act's application will be provided regularly to the public so that our criminal justice system is held accountable to our residents.

Thank you for attention to this important issue, and I look forward to the CJCC's research and analysis.

Sincerely,



Muriel E. Bowser

cc: Deputy Mayor Kevin Donahue  
Chairman Phil Mendelson  
Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie  
Councilmember Charles Allen  
Attorney General Karl Racine  
Chief Judge Robert Morin  
U.S. Attorney Channing Phillips  
Chief Peter Newsham, Metropolitan Police Department  
Clinton Lacey, Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services  
Quincy Booth, Department of Corrections  
Nancy Ware, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency  
Avis Buchanan, Public Defender Service  
Michael Hughes, U.S. Marshal Service  
Thomas Kane, U.S. Bureau of Prisons  
Clifford Keenan, Pretrial Services Agency  
Patricia Smoot, U.S. Parole Commission