

SAFER, STRONGER DC - Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is this legislation all about?

- It's all about creating a safer, stronger DC.
- The central aim of the bill is to stop violent offenders from repeatedly victimizing our neighborhoods.
- Once we are linked to these violent offenders, we should maintain that link so that they cannot commit new crimes.

Q: Why focus on violent offenders?

- Unfortunately, there are a small number of violent offenders who repeatedly victimize our neighborhoods.
- 22 of the defendants arrested for murder this year were either on parole, probation, or awaiting trial in another criminal case at the time of the crime.
- Almost half, or 45%, of the defendants arrested for murder this year had prior gun-related arrests in DC.
- We know that by focusing on them, we can keep more DC residents safe.

Q: What does the bill do to fight violent crime?

- It creates a safer, stronger DC in five main ways.
- First, it makes it easier for law enforcement to hold accountable violent offenders awaiting trial and on parole. Second, it puts more cops on the street to deter and investigate crime. Third, it gives cash to homeowners, businesses, and churches to install security cameras. Fourth, it increases penalties for violent crimes committed on buses and trains, and at rec centers. And, fifth, it launches the most comprehensive body worn camera program in the country.
- To learn more, click [HERE](#).

Q: I heard that this bill allows cops to stop and frisk.

- Some have alleged that the bill gives MPD unfettered power to stop anyone, anywhere, anytime. That's 100% false.
- The new law would allow parole and probation agencies to search only the living quarters of violent offenders on supervised release.
- It doesn't apply to cars, or to body searches, or to anyone walking on the street.

Q: Is this just another way to arrest more young black men?

- We're not talking about arresting black men, but how we can save their lives. Did you know that more than 80% of all our murder victims this year are black men? We must do more to prevent the senseless loss of black lives, of all lives.

Q: Are security cameras and body cameras a slow creep toward big brother government?

- The bill creates an incentive program that encourages churches, homeowners, and businesses to install cameras to help deter and fight crime.
- When police officers wear body worn cameras, accountability is increased, police services are improved, and we are all better protected.

Q: What does the bill do to make public spaces safer?

- Individuals that commit violent crimes on public transit, at a bus stop, or at any District park or recreation center will face 1.5 times the maximum jail sentence and fine.
- When you get on a metro bus, when you ride the metro train, when you come to our parks and recreation centers, you should not take your life in your hands.