SAFER, STRONGER DC

Mayor Bowser will introduce a comprehensive public safety agenda to combat violent crime in the District of Columbia, and keep our city safe and strong. The agenda includes a mix of legislative, budgetary, and administrative measures.

Put more police officers on the streets
- Continue to authorize the use of money to sustain the increase in police officers in our hardest hit areas, until it is no longer needed.
- Dedicate more funding to use civilians instead of police offices to perform administrative tasks, and redeploy MPD officers to focus on high priority issues and locations.
- Use financial incentives to retain MPD's most experienced officers and attract new recruits.

Give law enforcement more tools to protect our residents
- Create an incentive program to encourage businesses, property owners, and churches to install security cameras – to deter crime and identify criminals.
- Provide the funding needed by the Department of Forensic Sciences to hire more crime scene investigators, prioritize murder cases, and eliminate its backlog of untested evidence.

Stop violent criminals from repeatedly victimizing our community
- Address the relatively small number of individuals who continue to bring harm to our neighborhoods:
    o If a violent offender is on pretrial supervision and violates a stay away order or allows his or her GPS bracelet to be damaged or to go uncharged, he or she can be held for at least 72 hours.
    o If a violent offender is released early under supervision, their living quarters will be subject to searches for illegal guns by supervision agencies.
    o And if a violent offender commits another violent crime, he or she will have a higher standard of proof that they are not a danger to neighborhoods while awaiting trial.
- Expand law enforcement access to data from GPS trackers worn by individuals under supervised release, so we can better investigate crimes and pursue justice.

Increase penalties for violent crimes committed in our public transit system or at our parks and recreation centers
- Increase penalties for convictions of violent crimes on a MetroBus, Metro train, DC Circulator, DC Streetcar, MetroAccess van, or at streetcar or bus stops.
- Increase penalties for convictions for violent crimes committed at any District park or recreation center.
- Perpetrators will face 1.5 times the maximum jail sentence, and 1.5 times the fine.

Launch a community partnership strategy to support neighborhoods
- Initiate a new community grant program dedicated to funding non-profits that help improve the lives of individuals and families living in areas victimized by violent crime.
- Provide intensive and individualized employment services, social services, and health services in neighborhoods afflicted by violence.

In addition to the Safer, Stronger DC initiative, by September 15 Mayor Bowser will release additional public safety legislation and initiatives:

Community-Police Relations Reform Legislation
- Focus on preserving and increasing strong police-community relations by changing certain laws to reduce unnecessary contact between the community and police, such as:
  - Amending the misdemeanor assault on a police officer law to narrow the behavior it criminalizes.
  - Repealing certain vehicle and traffic violations, such as items hanging from rearview mirror or on the dashboard that do not greatly enhance public safety and are perceived as tools for pre-textual stops.
  - Eliminating the legal requirements that officers issue two separate tickets whenever they stop a driver without proof of insurance.

Returning Citizen Employment Readiness Legislation
- Change the amount of "good time" credits a misdemeanor inmate may receive.
- Allow inmates to earn up to 3 "good time" credits per month for good behavior and 5 "good time" credits for completion of rehabilitative programs, work detail, and special projects.
- Allow pre-trial misdemeanor inmates to be temporarily released from the D.C. Jail during work hours so they can keep working at their job while they serve their sentence.