

# REVISED CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023

Every crime in our city creates a ripple of trauma in the community. Accountability throughout the public safety and justice ecosystem, including penalties, must address that cycle of trauma and center the victims of crime.

Across all eight wards of DC, we agree that we must do more to get guns out of our community, address the root causes of violence, and expand opportunity for residents who are seeking a better path forward. We can and must do that work while still sending a strong message that we do not tolerate the use of guns or violence to harm or intimidate people in our city.

# THE REVISED CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENT ACT OF 2023

- Creates opportunities for the public to provide input on policy changes around jury trials and expansion of the Second Look Act
- Restores penalties on crimes that the public has expressed significant concerns about in recent months
- Allows sufficient time for training and data systems changes across the criminal justice system

In the fall, the District's Chief Judges raised significant concerns about the impact of the RCCA of 2022 on courts already strained by backlogs, vacancies, and an already low juror response rate.

The Revised Criminal Code Amendment Act of 2023 deletes the expansion of jury eligible offenses so that it can receive a stand-alone hearing.

## EXPANSION OF THE SECOND LOOK ACT

The public, and specifically victims of crime, deserve opportunities to weigh in on expanding eligibility for the Second Look Act from youthful, convicted violent offenders to people of all ages.

The Revised Criminal Code Amendment Act of 2023 deletes the expansion of the Second Look Act so that it can receive a stand-alone hearing.

# ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HARMING OUR COMMUNITY

Today, if someone who previously committed an armed robbery is found to be carrying an illegal gun in DC, they face a minimum sentence of three years. Under the RCCA of 2022, people convicted of an armed robbery today would not face the same accountability if they are caught carrying a gun in our community again.



The amended act will close the gap that would decrease penalties for a convicted felon illegally carrying a gun in DC.

Today, if someone commits an armed carjacking where, fortunately, the victim is not injured, the minimum sentence is 15 years. Under the RCCA the maximum sentence would be 8 years.



The amended act will bring the maximum penalty for armed carjacking back up.

# ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HARMING OUR COMMUNITY

Today, if people are blocking the exit or entrance to a private property, a resident can call MPD for help. Under the RCCA of 2022, MPD will lose the authority to direct people who are blocking private property to move along.



The amended act will restore the prohibition on blocking private homes and businesses.

Today, the minimum sentence for burglary is five to 30 years. Under the RCCA of 2022, if a victim sleeps through a home burglary, the penalty is less than if the victim woke up - and a maximum of only four years.



The amended act will not differentiate penalties based on whether or not a victim wakes up during a burglary, and the maximum penalty will be increased to maintain current accountability.

The Revised Criminal Code Amendment Act of 2023 updates the effective date to January 1, 2027 to allow sufficient time for training and data systems changes across the criminal justice system.



Creating opportunity matters. Together, with our partners on the Council, we will continue creating and investing in programs to ensure all residents can reach their potential. We all believe in giving our neighbors a hand up.

Accountability matters too. I call on the Council to hold a hearing swiftly and urgently to consider this legislation. Acting on this legislation will send a clear message: when someone commits a crime, we will all stand together to hold them accountable.