

ENSURING THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF DC'S IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY

Washington, DC's values did not change on Election Day. In Washington, DC we value diversity and inclusivity and the Bowser Administration remains steadfastly committed to supporting DC's immigrant community and ensuring all Washingtonians feel welcome and secure.

IMMIGRANT JUSTICE LEGAL SERVICES

In January 2016, Mayor Bowser announced \$500,000 to support an Immigrant Justice Legal Services (IJLS) grant program. The IJLS grant program marked an unprecedented commitment to the DC immigrant community by allocating funding for eleven categories that relate to immigrant justice, including: citizenship applications, asylum applications, DACA applications, Know Your Rights trainings, and litigation to protect DACA information - if this becomes necessary.

Since the launch of the IJLS grant program, hundreds of Washingtonians have received legal advice and services. The first cycle of IJLS began this April, with ten organizations receiving funding. In July 2017, Mayor Bowser launched the second round of funding. The additional \$500,000 will allow the Bowser Administration to deepen the progress that was made during the first cycle.

EDUCATION

In March 2017, District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) issued a statement to all students and families - a reminder that DC schools are open to all residents. This guidance reaffirmed that public education is open to all, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, and that families' citizenship information is secure with DCPS. The guidance also reminded families of their rights to language access, disability benefits, and the use of city services.

POLICING

DC remains committed to ensuring that all Washingtonians can use city services without fear. MPD policy prohibits MPD officers from asking immigration status. This was DC's policy long before November and it remains our policy now. In DC, we believe our city and residents are safest when all Washingtonians feel comfortable seeking help, reporting crimes, and otherwise using public services.

Additionally, MPD has a Special Liaison Branch that serves the African, Asian, Deaf and hard of hearing, LGBTQ, Latino, and religious minority communities. The MPD Liaison Units conduct outreach to the represented communities, serving as a bridge between these groups and the larger community. The Units use the principles of community policing to ensure all Washingtonians feel trust in DC law enforcement.

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LANGUAGE ACCESS

Since 2004, the Office of Human Rights has worked diligently to ensure that DC is accessible and welcoming to all - regardless of English fluency. Last year, via OHR's enforcement of the Language Access Act, the office supported 20 agencies in training new Language Access Points of Contact to coordinate language access within DC agencies. Additionally, OHR launched a Language Access Information portal that provides agencies with numerous resources and reference guides.

Working with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), OHR helped to deploy a "Bilingual Navigators Program" that trained and placed culturally competent bilingual navigators to assist limited or non-English speaker (LEP/NEP) customers as they enter the DMV. Over six months, OHR and DMV successfully helped more than 4,900 LEP/NEP customers navigate the DMV system.

BENEFITS

DC offers Limited Purpose Driver's Licenses to all Washingtonians, regardless of citizenship status. These IDs promote the safety and security of all Washingtonians, ensuring that all DC residents can use city services and participate civically.

Additionally, DC extends DC-funded social services - including healthcare - equally to all DC residents, regardless of citizenship status. Through the DC Healthcare Alliance and the Immigrant Children's Program, DC ensures all Washingtonians have access to healthcare and other benefits.

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OFFICES

Through the Mayor's Office on African Affairs, the Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs, and the Mayor's Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, the Bowser Administration provides ongoing support to DC's immigrant communities. In addition to daily outreach, the offices provide community grants to support numerous initiatives that protect and enrich DC immigrants.

DC VALUES IN ACTION

Washington, DC is an inclusive, diverse community and together we can prevent, investigate and redress acts of discrimination, hatred, and hate-based crimes. Many agencies stand ready to help build a culture where all persons feel and are safe. This resource guide should help everyone find the help they need, depending on the situation.

To report a crime in progress or that has recently occurred, always call 911.

Do not hesitate to call 911 if you feel concerned for your safety, even if you do not know whether a crime has been committed.

Reports can also be made by:

- ★ Calling or visiting a **Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)** district station; or
- ★ Calling the **Hate Crimes Hotline at (202) 727-0500**. Callers may report incidents anonymously. If you leave a contact number, someone will return the call within one business day.

In addition, the DC Victim Hotline provides free, confidential, around-the-clock information, support, and referrals for victims of all crimes in Washington, DC. Victim Assistance Specialists are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be contacted in three ways:

- ★ call or text **1-884-4HELPDC (443-5732)**;
- ★ chat at **DCvictim.org/chat**; or
- ★ visit: <http://dcvictim.org/about-our-services>.

Residents can also report hate-based graffiti by calling 311 to report it, or by reporting it on the 311 app. A team will be deployed promptly to clean it up.

The District's Youth Bullying Prevention Program (YBPP) actively works with school administrators and families to help address and provide support services to school communities. Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that causes significant harm to the target and involves a real or perceived power imbalance.

For school-based incidents involving bias or a possible hate crime, families should contact **Suzanne Greenfield** at **(202) 834-6376** or email bullyingprevention@dc.gov.

The following offices can connect residents to additional resources and supports:

- DC Office of Human Rights (OHR) - **(202) 727-4559**
- Mayor's Office of Religious Affairs (MORA) - **(202) 442-8122**
- Mayor's Office of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning Affairs (MOLGBTQ) - **(202) 727-9493**
- Mayor's Office on Latino Affairs (MOLA) - **(202) 671-2825**
- Mayor's Office on Asian & Pacific Islander Affairs (MOAPIA) - **(202) 727-3120**
- Mayor's Office on African Affairs (MOAA) - **(202) 727-5634**
- Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS) - **(202) 442-8150**

