



Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3/4G

Chevy Chase, Barnaby Woods, Hawthorne
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June 29, 2021

Councilmember Mary Cheh
Councilmember Janeese Lewis-George
Councilmember Brooke Pinto
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Councilmembers Cheh, Lewis-George, and Pinto,

On behalf of ANC 3/4G, we are requesting an immediate meeting with you, Robert J. Contee, III, Chief, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and appropriate MPD command staff to discuss non-traffic related stops of Black people occurring within the 2nd District. Our request stems from the D.C. Police Reform Commission's report published on April 1, 2021,¹ and issued to you and other Councilmembers.

Specifically, statistics highlighted in the report indicate that for the 17 months from July 22, 2019 to December 31, 2020, Black people comprised 64.5% of non-traffic related stops in the 2nd District. However, Black people comprise only approximately 7.5% of the population of the 2nd District. This is a glaring and concerning disparity based on Black people's percentage of the population. The 2019 data substantiates long-standing complaints of police harassment and mistreatment of the Black

¹ *Decentering Police to Improve Public Safety: A Report of the DC Police Reform Commission*. Dccouncil.us. (2021). Retrieved 15 June 2021, from <https://dccouncil.us/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Police-Reform-Commission-Full-Report.pdf>. Page 99.

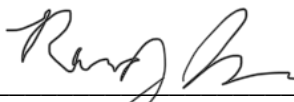
community. The data also emphasizes the importance of MPD's full compliance with the NEAR Act's data reporting requirements for stop and frisk incidents. Absent data, community voices often go unheard and their stories marginalized.

We are concerned that biased policing is being conducted in our community. We believe the reported data exhibit significant evidence of pre-textual stops and racial profiling. According to the report, the disparities for the 2nd District are the most racially disparate of all police districts, but indeed, this issue is not isolated to just the 2nd District. For example, a June 2020 report by the ACLU-DC indicates, "Black people, who make up 46.5% of the D.C. population, comprised 72% of the people stopped, ... 86.1% of the stops, and 91.1% of the searches, that resulted in no warning, ticket, or arrest were of Black people."² Additionally, Black Chevy Chase residents have previously complained of unfair treatment by 2nd District officers. One incident was publicly reported³ and others were reported to an ANC 3/4G Commissioner.

To address our concerns, we request a meeting with you and MPD officials to discuss the 2nd District non-traffic related stop data and a path forward to ensure that all citizens within the 2nd District are treated with dignity and fairly within the scope of the law. We hope that the observations and questions raised in light of the DC Police Reform Commission's report create an opportunity to forge a partnership with MPD that encourages open dialogue, transparency, and joint solutions to issues facing the Black community. This meeting will be the first step in our effort to address this apparent biased policing of Black community members as we express our commitment to and insistence on their fair treatment; anything less is unacceptable.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this letter. We request an immediate response on the timeline for our meeting.

Sincerely,



Randy Speck
Chair, ANC 3/4G
Co-Chair, Racial and Social Equity
Standing Committee



Lisa R. Gore
Vice-Chair, ANC 3/4G
Co-Chair, Racial and Social Equity
Standing Committee

² Acludc.org. (2021). Retrieved 15 June 2021, from https://www.acludc.org/sites/default/files/2020_06_15_aclu_stops_report_final.pdf.

³ Hermann, P. (2017). Retrieved 25 June 2021, from https://www.washingtonpost.com/local/public-safety/dc-police-chief-officer-was-wrong-to-arrest-woman-on-noise-complaint/2017/06/07/b8fdd5b2-4b6e-11e7-9669-250d0b15f83b_story.html.

cc: Muriel Bowser, Mayor
Christopher Geldart, Acting, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
DC Councilmembers
Robert J. Contee, III, Chief of Police
Duncan Bedlion, Commander, 2nd District
ANC 3/4G Commissioners
ANC 3/4G Office
ANC 3/4G Racial and Social Equity Standing Committee