



PRESS RELEASE

DC Police Union Statement on 200th Homicide in 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Gregg Pemberton, Chairman

On September 26, 2023, Washington, D.C. suffered its 200th homicide of the year. This marks the first time since 2002-2004 that D.C. has suffered three years in a row with 200-plus homicides.

Last year, this grim milestone was not reached until December 29th.

Data reported by the Metropolitan Police Department shows that homicides have increased 31% over the past year. Armed robberies have increased 65%, and carjackings have gone up 103%. Violent crime overall is up 37%, and all crime is up 28%.

Noteworthy, too, is that the annual homicide rate was less than 90 in 2012; 104 and 105 in 2013 and '14 respectively. Changes thereafter to policing policies, enforcement of laws and other public safety measures all proven to reduce crime and save lives coincide with the doubling of the homicide rate.

Some neighborhoods are suffering greatly from this violence. In Ward 6, for example, homicides have increased 280% over the prior year. Armed robberies in Ward 6 are up 95%, and carjackings up 57%. Year to date, there have been over 720 carjackings in D.C., well more than two per day.

There is no one politician more responsible for all this violence than Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, who has been the champion of some of the most anti-police and pro-criminal legislation anywhere in the country. Allen has turned a blind eye to concerned residents and public safety experts, rather he chooses to cater to an activist crowd whose agenda is anti-police whatever the cost. The consequences of Allen's "reform" measures were not properly considered by the Council and have resulted in a tragic loss of life and a horrific increase in the number of victims experiencing violent crime.

Since the passage of so-called "emergency police reform" legislation in June of 2020, **over 1,300 police officers have separated from MPD.** Most of the members who have left cited the Council's treatment of law enforcement and political rhetoric, which not only makes policing

more difficult and therefore less effective, but it also endangers police officers and their families. **MPD staffing is at one of the lowest levels in decades.**

The Police Union remains dedicated to working with the DC Council and other elected officials to find positive ways in which we can achieve meaningful police reform while also keeping communities safe from violent crime. We hope these years of tragic, but largely avoidable loss of life does not go unnoticed.

It is well past time for the Council to repeal "reform" policies that do nothing to improve public safety, as many leaders in other cities have already done. We have seen what three-plus years of these "reform" measures have done to public safety. Allen's "justice reform" experiment is an abject failure and people are dying as a result.

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