

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE**



Public Hearing  
on

**Juvenile Curfew Amendment Act of 2025  
(B26-0461)**

Testimony of  
**Lindsey Appiah**  
**Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice**

Before the  
Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety  
The Honorable Brooke Pinto, Chairman

December 4, 2025  
9:00 a.m.  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Room 500  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good afternoon, Chairwoman Pinto, members, and staff of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. I am Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of the Juvenile Curfew Amendment Act of 2025. I resubmit my testimony from the recent October 20, 2025, roundtable as well as a press release issued on October 29, 2025, by the Executive titled, “Mayor Bowser Urges Residents to Help Keep Trick-or-Treaters Safe, Invites Families to Fun, Free Halloween Events.”

Mayor Bowser’s number one priority remains decreasing crime and violence and increasing safety for all the residents and visitors of the District while also supporting the businesses that support us and our community. We are deeply encouraged by the progress we’ve made together- violent crime in our city is down 53% since 2023. Fewer people are being victimized, and we must remain diligent in addressing crime trends as they emerge. The Executive has worked closely with Council on common sense policies to rebalance our public safety and justice ecosystem to combat crime across our city and this issue is no different. And what I shared at the end of October during the public roundtable on extending the juvenile curfew and designated juvenile curfew zones remains true today - when we see patterns of unsafe or unlawful behavior that put young people and the community at risk, we must act.

As Chief Smith noted, just one day after the public roundtable in October, hundreds of youth descended on Navy Yard on Halloween engaging in disruptive behaviors and in some cases, crime. Dozens of positive activities were available to youth all across the city, yet hundreds chose instead to engage in negative behavior. It is true that we need to ensure youth have things to do but we cannot ignore the realities that even when there are alternatives, there are some young people who will make a negative choice and as the Executive has maintained, it is vital to have tools in place BEFORE the activities occur to prevent the young people from harming themselves and others. We cannot engage in either or binary policymaking that renders us flatfooted and without the resources to quickly and nimbly address unsafe, unlawful behavior in the way in which we found ourselves on Halloween.

I urge Council to continue to support the progress our community has made in driving down crime and not remove tools from our criminal justice system that have helped us to keep our residents, visitors, and youth safe. I urge you to pass this permanent legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. Chief Smith and I are now available for questions.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

To find support and resources for federal workers, visit [fedsupport.dc.gov](https://fedsupport.dc.gov).



Executive Office of the Mayor



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## Mayor Bowser Urges Residents to Help Keep Trick-or-Treaters Safe, Invites Families to Fun, Free Halloween Events

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

(Washington, DC) – With Halloween just days away, Mayor Muriel Bowser is encouraging families to learn about and attend free, family-friendly Halloween events happening across all eight wards. Mayor Bowser is also urging the community to work together to keep kids and teens safe throughout the Halloween season, especially on Friday, October 31, when many kids will be out trick-or-treating.

The Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) will increase traffic enforcement over the Halloween weekend. The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice will also deploy Halloween Go Teams on Friday, October 31, from 6 pm to 1 am, in 11 locations throughout the District. Safety Go Teams consist of non-law enforcement individuals who engage with families and monitor and de-escalate situations.

Drivers should:

- Be alert for trick-or-treaters, especially when it gets dark. Slow down on Halloween – slower speed saves lives.
- Stay alert for pedestrians who may come out from between parked cars or behind shrubbery.
- Do not look at your phone when driving.
- Never drive under the influence; use public transportation or rideshare services instead. If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact law enforcement. If traveling with a group, assign a designated driver.

If your family and friends are trick-or-treating this Halloween, follow the below safety tips:



[Ask the Mayor](#)



[Muriel Bowser](#)

Mayor

- Children should travel in small groups and be accompanied by parents or an authorized adult chaperone.
- Wear clothing that is bright, reflective, and flame-retardant. Parents/chaperones should ensure costumes have a reflective attachment to be easily seen in the dark.
- Only cross the street at street corners/crosswalks. Do not walk in between cars.
- Always look around in all directions before crossing the street.
- Stick to well-lit streets so you can see oncoming traffic.
- Children should never go into homes – stay on the porch or stoop when asking for treats.
- Children should avoid homes that do not have their outside lights turned on.
- Children should never go into strangers' cars if approached.
- Children should stay within familiar areas and surroundings.
- Children should be aware of how to contact their parents/chaperones while out trick-or-treating.
- Children should use flashlights and stay on sidewalks.
- Parents should inspect all treats to make sure they are safe for consumption.

Remember that while you are out enjoying Halloween activities, if you see something, say something:

- To report immediate threats or emergencies, call 911.
- To report anonymous tips or information, text to 50411.
- To report suspicious activity or behavior, call 202-727-9099.

#### **Upcoming DPR events:**

##### **Petworth Halloween Community Event**

A Halloween community event featuring arts and crafts and a candy giveaway.

- Petworth Recreation Center, 801 Taylor Street NW
- Wednesday, October 29, 3 to 5 pm
- RSVP: [petworthhalloweencommunityevent.splashthat.com](https://petworthhalloweencommunityevent.splashthat.com)

##### **MARS Halloween Bash 2025**

In partnership with MARS, come out for Halloween fun and candy!

- Barry Farm Recreation Center, 1230 Sumner Road SE
- Thursday, October 30, 3 to 7:30 pm
- RSVP: [marshalloweenbash2025.splashthat.com](https://marshalloweenbash2025.splashthat.com)

##### **Halloween Trunk or Treat**

A community-driven evening of fun, candy, and cars.

- Joseph Cole Recreation Center, 1299 Neal Street NE
- Thursday, October 30, 5 to 7 pm
- RSVP: [halloweentrunkortreat.splashthat.com](http://halloweentrunkortreat.splashthat.com)

### **Haunted Town & Haunted House**

A scary haunted place with people dressed as frightening characters, creating a chilling experience for visitors.

- Barry Farm Recreation Center, 1230 Sumner Road SE
- Thursday, October 30, and Friday, October 31, 6:15 to 8:30 pm
- RSVP: [hauntedtownhauntedhouse.splashthat.com](http://hauntedtownhauntedhouse.splashthat.com)

### **Halloween Parade & Trick or Treating**

Join us for a Halloween parade in the park and a candy giveaway.

- Friendship Recreation Center, 4500 Van Ness Street NW
- Friday, October 31, 4 to 4:40 pm
- RSVP: [halloweenparadetrickortreating.splashthat.com](http://halloweenparadetrickortreating.splashthat.com)

### **Benning Stoddert Halloween Costume Show Off and 'I Scream' Social**

The Benning Stoddert Halloween Costume Show Off and I Scream Social brings the community together for fun, music, delicious ice cream, Halloween treats, and a chance to show off creative or spooky costumes.

- Benning Stoddert Community Center, 100 Stoddert Place SE
- Friday, October 31, 5 to 8 pm
- RSVP: [benningstoddertiscream.splashthat.com](http://benningstoddertiscream.splashthat.com)

### **Nightmare at Brentwood Haunted Costume Party**

Join us for a spooky Halloween party filled with live music, delicious food and drinks, fun tricks or treats, and exciting prizes!

- Brentwood Recreation Center, 2311 14th Street NE
- Friday, October 31, 5 to 7:30 pm
- RSVP: [nightmareatbrentwoodhauntedcostumeparty.splashthat.com](http://nightmareatbrentwoodhauntedcostumeparty.splashthat.com)

### **Pumpkin Palooza at Lafayette-Pointer**

Come join us for Pumpkin Palooza! Bring along your own pumpkin to decorate and enjoy a fantastic time. We'll have stickers, paint, and plenty of spooky fun for everyone to enjoy.

- Lafayette-Pointer Recreation Center, 5900 33rd Street NW
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 8 pm

- RSVP: [pumpkinpaloozaatlafayette-pointer.splashthat.com](https://pumpkinpaloozaatlafayette-pointer.splashthat.com)

### **New York Ave Rec Trunk or Treat**

A fun and safe way for the community to trick-or-treat.

- New York Avenue Recreation Center, 100 N Street NW
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 8 pm
- RSVP: [newyorkaverectrunkortreat.splashthat.com](https://newyorkaverectrunkortreat.splashthat.com)

### **A Spooktacular Silent Disco**

Come join us for a fantastic Halloween party! Enjoy candy, lively music, and lots of fun for everyone.

- Raymond Recreation Center, 3725 10th Street NW
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 8 pm
- RSVP: [aspooktacularsilentdisco.splashthat.com](https://aspooktacularsilentdisco.splashthat.com)

### **Ridge Road Halloween Party**

Join us at the Ridge Road Community Center for a fantastic and spooky celebration! Enjoy a variety of fun activities like candy, games, face painting, a dance contest, a best costume competition, a famous spooky wall, and so much more. It's sure to be a memorable time for everyone!

- Ridge Road Community Center, 830 Ridge Road SE
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 8 pm
- RSVP: [ridgeroadhalloween2025.splashthat.com](https://ridgeroadhalloween2025.splashthat.com)

### **Haunted Hallway + Movie Night**

Join us if you dare...for a night of frights and delights! Riggs-LaSalle will host a haunted house and a family-friendly movie night.

- Riggs-LaSalle Recreation Center, 501 Riggs Road NE
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 9 pm
- RSVP: [hauntedhallwaymovienight.splashthat.com](https://hauntedhallwaymovienight.splashthat.com)

### **Halloween Costume Skate Party**

Join us for a SPOOK-tacular night! Grab your costumes and hit the rink for a night filled with thrilling music, creepy costumes, and roller skating fun! Bring your friends and family!

- Kennedy Recreation Center, 1401 7th Street NW

- Friday, October 31, 4 to 7:30 pm
- RSVP: [rhalloweenskateparty.splashthat.com](http://rhalloweenskateparty.splashthat.com)

### **Thriller Flash Mob**

Join DPR's Roving Leaders-led Thriller Flash Mob during the Halloween Costume Skate Party – featuring the Eastern Senior High School blue and white marching band.

- Kennedy Recreation Center, 1401 7th Street NW
- Friday, October 31, 7 to 9 pm
- RSVP: [thrillerflashmob.splashthat.com](http://thrillerflashmob.splashthat.com)

### **Haunted Mansion Drive-In Movie Night**

Join DPR for this exciting haunted movie night in the park from the seat of your car!

- Turkey Thicket Recreation Center, 1100 Michigan Avenue NE
- Friday, October 31, 7 pm
- RSVP: [hauntedmansiondriveinmovienight.splashthat.com](http://hauntedmansiondriveinmovienight.splashthat.com)

### **Wheels Up, Hay Down**

Join us for a fun-filled wheels up, hay down, fall festival! Enjoy seasonal treats, games, and activities for all ages!

- Emery Heights Community Center, 5701 Georgia Avenue NW
- Saturday, November 1, 12 to 3 pm
- RSVP: [rovingleaderswheelsuphaydown.splashthat.com](http://rovingleaderswheelsuphaydown.splashthat.com)

MPD will also hold a series of child-safe, family-friendly events for Halloween known as the [Halloween Safe Haven events](#). View a full list of events for each police district below:

#### **First District**

##### **Haunted House**

- 1D Station, 101 M Street SW
- Wednesday, October 29 through Friday, October 31, 5 to 9 pm

##### **Trunk or Treat**

- 1D Station, 101 M Street SW
- Friday, October 31, 5 to 9 pm

## **Second District**

### **Trunk or Treat**

- 2D Station, 3320 Idaho Avenue NW
- Friday, October 31, 5 to 8 pm

## **Third District**

### **Haunted House**

- 3D Station Garage, 1620 V Street NW
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 9 pm and Saturday, November 1, 6 to 8 pm

## **Fourth District**

### **Haunted Campgrounds**

- 4D Station, 6001 Georgia Avenue NW
- Thursday, October 30, 6 to 8 pm

## **Fifth District**

### **Halloween Party**

- Arboretum Recreation Center, 2412 Rand Place NE
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 8 pm

## **Sixth District**

### **Trunk or Treat**

- RFK Parking Lot, 2400 East Capitol Street NE
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 8:30 pm

### **Haunted House**

- School Safety Engagement, 5002 Hayes Street NE
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 10 pm

## **Seventh District**

### **Trunk or Treat**

- 7D Station, 2455 Alabama Avenue SE
- Friday, October 31, 5:30 to 8 pm

## **MPD Youth and Family Engagement Bureau**

### **Haunted House**

- 5002 Hayes Street NE
- Friday, October 31, 6 to 10 pm

**Other upcoming Halloween events include:**

**The Department of Aging and Community Living (DACL)**

**House of DACL**

A legendary celebration that honors the rich history of the Ballroom scene and LGBTQ+ seniors in DC.

- Mary's House, 401 Anacostia Road SE
- Friday, October 31, 12 pm

**Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE)**

**3rd Annual Trunk of Treat Fall Festival**

- ONSE Office, 100 42nd Street NE
- Friday, October 31, 4 to 7 pm
- [RSVP here.](#)

Mayor Bowser X: [@MayorBowser](#)

Mayor Bowser Instagram: [@Mayor\\_Bowser](#)

Mayor Bowser Bluesky: [@MayorBowser](#)

Mayor Bowser Facebook: [facebook.com/MayorMurielBowser](https://www.facebook.com/MayorMurielBowser)

Mayor Bowser YouTube: <https://www.bit.ly/eomvideos>

Mayor Bowser LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/in/mayorbowser](https://www.linkedin.com/in/mayorbowser)

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY MAYOR FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE**



Public Roundtable Hearing  
on

the Extended Juvenile Curfew and Designated Juvenile Curfew Zones  
in the District of Columbia

Testimony of  
**Lindsey Appiah**  
**Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice**

Before the  
Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety  
The Honorable Brooke Pinto, Chairman

October 30, 2025  
10:30 a.m.  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Room 120  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning, Chairwoman Pinto, members, and staff of the Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety. I am Lindsey Appiah, Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice. Thank you for this opportunity to offer testimony in support of the extended juvenile curfew and designated juvenile curfew zones.

As Mayor Bowser has said, one of the most critical and foundational responsibilities of government is to work to decrease crime and violence and increase safety for all the residents and visitors of the District. Over the past several years, the Executive has worked closely with Council on a set of common sense policies aimed at rebalancing our public safety and justice ecosystem that created tools to help combat crime across our city – several of these policies proposed in the Mayor’s Safer Stronger and ACT Now legislation were passed as part of the Council’s Prioritizing Public Safety Emergency Act in 2023 and the Secure DC Omnibus Act in 2024. And this year, the Executive supported many of the provisions in Chairwoman Pinto’s PEACE DC omnibus bill. Through increased accountability and extremely hard work across the whole of government and in partnership with community, we have driven down violent crime in our city by 53% since 2023.

While we are encouraged by these decreases, because it means fewer people are being victimized in our city, we know that all of us must remain diligent in continuing to address crime trends as they emerge. As Mayor Bowser recently said, “[t]he Council cannot backtrack on public safety. We cannot go back to the summer of 2023 when the fear in our city was palpable – a time that terrified residents, businesses, and visitors alike...[w]hat we hear from the community every day is that they want their government to keep people safe..[w]e have a policy that is working for our city and now is not the time to backtrack and repeat past mistakes and past policy failures.”

Unfortunately, by allowing the Juvenile Curfew Amendment Emergency Act to expire, the Council has done just that, and the results have been predictably negative.

In June, following a rash of juvenile “takeovers” that resulted in violence in neighborhoods in the District and in response to calls for action from affected residents, ANCs, and businesses, the Executive proposed the Juvenile Curfew Amendment Act of 2025. At that time Mayor Bowser said, “Most of our young people are doing the right thing, but unfortunately, we continue to see

troubling trends in how groups of young people are gathering in the community – in ways that too often lead to violence and other unlawful behaviors... And when we see patterns of unsafe or unlawful behavior that put young people and the community at risk, we have to act. This emergency legislation gave us stronger, more flexible tools to prevent violence and disorder before it starts and to keep our community safe.” We also increased recreational activities for youth to ensure they had safe spaces to have fun and enjoy being with other youth. Those actions helped us to significantly curb the negative behaviors we had seen for months prior.

We still believe that most of our young people are engaged in safe, positive behavior. But, since the expiration of the emergency, we have been back to the same place we were several months ago reversing the progress we had made. We have spent the past several weekends in a row addressing juvenile mayhem that has resulted in crime, violence, destruction, and the use of tremendous amounts of police resources at a time when our officers’ time would be best spent continuing to drive down crime over chasing youth around the city trying to prevent them from harming themselves or others.

This cannot continue because in addition to our residents’ reasonable expectation that we will continue to drive down crime and make our city safer, the stakes are even higher than ever before. In August, the President declared a crime emergency in the District invoking Section 740 of the Home Rule Act. While we know that we had driven crime down to its lowest level in decades prior to the emergency being declared, this action by the President stands as a stark reminder of our unique vulnerability because we are not a state, and the gravity of the moment in which we find ourselves in the District. We must be laser focused on preserving home rule and our autonomy and a vital component of that work is continuing to drive down crime and increase safety in our city. We cannot fail to act with the urgency and speed necessary to meet the ever-present challenges to our autonomy and self-determination. We believe we are best positioned to govern our city and implement policies that benefit our residents and visitors. Failure to act leaves a vacuum that the federal government has made clear that it will fill. And we don’t believe that is what is in the best interest of our residents, visitors, or our young people.

We must continue to work together on common sense policies that advance our shared goal of making our city the safest it can be while advancing our DC values.

With that in mind, I urge Council to not risk the progress we have made in driving down crime by removing tools from our criminal justice system that have helped us to keep our residents and visitors safe and to act quickly to pass the expanded juvenile curfew and curfew zones.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today, Chief Smith and I are now available for questions.