



The Ward 5 Report

Justice and Public Safety Edition

Dear Reader,

The death of Mr. Freddie Gray was tragic. I extend my deepest sympathy to the family of Mr. Gray and all of the residents of Baltimore.

Unfortunately, incidents such as Mr. Gray, Eric Garner, Walter Scott, Michael Brown, and Yvette Smith's untimely deaths have highlighted the need for initiatives that improve police-community relations.

As chair of the Committee on the Judiciary, with oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department, I support the deployment and use of body-worn cameras as a tool to increase the transparency and accountability of the police department, and also, in other instances, as a tool to reduce false complaints against officers who have treated residents appropriately.

Ensuring that the body-worn camera program is transparent is a priority of mine, and that is why I opposed the MPD's proposal to include a blanket Freedom of Information Act exemption in the Budget Support Act. While I recognize the need to ensure the privacy of residents, especially victims and those who have not been charged with any crime, I believe that there must also be a way to ensure that residents and the press receive access to footage that has been appropriately redacted. That is why I have convened a working group which has been examining the myriad of issues surrounding body-worn cameras. Moreover, on Thursday, May 7, I will be holding a hearing on police body-worn cameras. The hearing will allow residents, advocacy groups, and criminal justice professionals to openly discuss their needs and concerns regarding the program.

Once the hearing is concluded, I will use information from the hearing, as well as research I and my staff have already begun to collect, to inform my proposal, which I will insert into the Budget Support Act.

For more information on the upcoming hearing, please see the Legislative & Committee Updates section.

In Service,

Kenyan.

Legislative & Committee Updates



Forum on Preventing Youth Violence

Councilmember McDuffie hosted a Forum on Preventing Youth Violence on Saturday, April 25, at Saint Elizabeth's Hospital Auditorium. The purpose of the forum was to facilitate a conversation on how we can reduce the impact of violence in our communities. Attendees heard from a number of panelists with different perspectives on the issue, including our returning citizens, community service providers, and leading experts in the field.

If you were not able to attend the forum, you can now watch it online at <http://www.kenyanmcduffie.com>.

Roundtable on police body-worn cameras

On Thursday, May 7, 2015, Councilmember McDuffie will hold a public oversight roundtable on the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Body-Worn Camera Program, including policy and budgetary proposals for its expansion. The roundtable will take place in Room 500 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., at 2:00 p.m.

The Mayor's budget proposal allocates \$5.1 million to fully outfit all MPD patrol officers with body-worn cameras. The Mayor also includes language in her budget proposal to exempt body-worn camera footage from Freedom of Information Act requests. To date, all FOIA requests for the footage produced from the pilot program have been denied by MPD.

Kenyan in the Community

Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day 2015

On Tuesday, April 28, Councilmember McDuffie joined the Office of the Attorney General and his employees to participate in "Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day 2015."



The purpose of the nationwide event is to give young boys and girls more exposure to healthy work-life balances and provide an experience that will help our youth achieve their professional aspirations.

Councilmember McDuffie attended the event with his two daughters, Kesi and Jozi.

Free America Tour with John Legend

On Friday, April 24, Councilmember McDuffie joined John Legend, the Department of Youth and Rehabilitation Services Director Clinton Lacey, and the Deputy Mayor for Health and Human Services Brenda Donald for a "Free America Tour" event. The event, which was hosted by John Legend and Politico, is part of a campaign to end mass incarceration.



Capital Partners for Education visit the Wilson Building

On Monday, April 27, Councilmember McDuffie hosted six students from the Capital Partners for Education (CPE). CPE is a non-profit organization that

provides college-readiness and mentoring opportunities for low-income District high school students.

Legislative Counsel Shawn Hilgendorf gave the six students a tour, which ended at a budget oversight hearing chaired by the Councilmember. To learn more about the tour, please visit <http://www.cpe.org/students-tour-wilson-building>.

Community Bulletin Board

DDOT Announces its 2015 Research Internship Summer Program

(Research, Development, and Technology Transfer Program is accepting applications through May 1)

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) announced its 2015 Research Internship Program, which engages full-time students to work on specific research topics around the agency. The internship program allows DDOT to conduct research into topics of interest while also serving as a resource for students to acquire practical skills. DDOT's university partner, Howard University, recruits the interns and manages the program on the agency's behalf.

For more information, please visit <http://ddot.dc.gov/> or call (202) 673-6813.

DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities call for Grants Panelists



The DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities is seeking advisory review panelists for the FY16 grant season. Panelists are integral to our grants process because they review applications, provide comments, and score applications in order to recommend recipients of DCCAHA grant awards.

Residents of the District of Columbia metropolitan area are encouraged to nominate themselves or their peers to serve as a panelist. Selected panelists will demonstrate expertise through involvement in one or more sectors of the creative economy in the District for a minimum of two years. Individuals with arts and humanities backgrounds make the strongest candidates (i.e. artists, arts administrators, arts educators, gallery professionals, curators, art critics, etc.) The DCCAHA supports panel diversity in all forms: age, race, gender, disabilities, sexual orientation, artistic discipline, location, etc.

To submit your letter of interest and resume, email Brittany Dibble at brittany.dibble@dc.gov or call 202-724-5613.

For more information, please visit <http://dcarts.dc.gov>.