

# COUNCILMEMBER KENYAN R. McDUFFIE



*McDuffie is the author of DC's groundbreaking criminal justice reform legislation, the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results Act:*

## The NEAR Act

The **NEAR Act** uses a **public health approach** to address **root causes of violent crime**. Since the law was passed in 2016, McDuffie has expanded the NEAR Act's Cure Violence model by supporting the creation of the **Cure The Streets program**.

### NEAR Act Timeline:

**September 2015:** *CM McDuffie introduces the NEAR Act*

**March 2016:** *DC Council unanimously passes the NEAR Act*

**October 2016:** *Trained personnel deployed in DC hospital emergency rooms to respond to victims of crime immediately*

**April 2016 - May 2017:** *McDuffie advocates, and ultimately secures, full funding and the promise of full implementation of the NEAR Act*

**May 2017:** *As a result of McDuffie's efforts, DC Council passes budget fully funding the NEAR Act*

**October 2017:** *Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) opens*

**September 2018:** *First class of ONSE violence interrupters complete training*

**May 2018:** *McDuffie supports and works to secure funding to start the Cure The Streets program using the NEAR Act's Cure Violence model*

**May 2019:** *Through the budget process, McDuffie secures \$3 million to expand the Cure The Streets program to additional areas of DC*

**August 2019:** *Release of first batch data on stops and frisks*

**The NEAR Act Identifies and engages at-risk violent offenders through the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE).** The ONSE uses the nationally recognized Cure Violence model to identify and recruit individuals who are at high risk of participating in, or being a victim of, violent criminal activity. The program provides evidence-based counseling, mentorship, and workforce development. The Cure The Streets program, housed in the Office of the Attorney General, was created in 2018 with the support of Councilmember McDuffie. Cure The Streets uses the NEAR Act's Cure Violence model and compliments the ONSE, with each operating in different areas of DC.

**The NEAR Act established the Office of Health Equity (OHE) within DC Health** to develop and implement public health strategies to combat the spread of violence using risk assessment tools, cognitive and family-based therapy, and service coordination. The OHE also places trained personnel in every hospital emergency department to respond to victims of crime and deescalate violent situations.

**The NEAR Act's Community Crime Prevention Team program links individuals exposed to crime to behavioral health resources** diverting regular mental health consumers to treatment in an effort to avoid incarceration.

**The NEAR Act increases transparency of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) to build better police-community relations.** MPD is now legally required to collect data on felony crimes, stops and frisks, and use of force incidents. Many of the Act's data collection provisions align with President Obama's Police Data Initiative, such as using open data to build transparency, increasing community trust, and improving internal accountability and data analysis. The Act also requires MPD training on community policing; recognizing and preventing biased-based policing; the use of force; limitations on chokeholds and neck restraints; mental and behavioral health awareness; and linguistic and cultural competency.