



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”

February 19, 2024

Councilmember Brooke Pinto  
Chair, Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
Council of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106  
Washington, DC 20004  
[bpinto@dccouncil.gov](mailto:bpinto@dccouncil.gov)

**RE: DC Council Bill 25-0345 – the “Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024”**

Dear Councilmember Pinto,

At its special meeting on January 31, 2024, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A (“ANC 2A” or “Commission”) considered the above-referenced matter. With five of eight commissioners present, a quorum at a duly-noticed public meeting, the Commission voted (5-0-0), after a motion made by Commissioner Malec and seconded by Commissioner Patel, to adopt resolution CR-24-005, which reads as follows:

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting in November 2023, ANC 2A adopted a resolution (CR-23-011) addressed to the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety around issues of concern in the ACTIVE Amendment Act of 2023,

WHEREAS, on January 10th, 2024, Councilmember Pinto introduced Bill 25-0345, referred to as the “Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024” (Secure DC)<sup>1</sup>, a 90-page omnibus combining provisions from a number of previously introduced crime bills the DC Council is considering,

WHEREAS, the Secure DC omnibus provisions are included from the following bills<sup>2</sup>:

- Addressing Crime through Targeted Interventions and Violence Enforcement (ACTIVE) Amendment Act of 2023<sup>3</sup>
- Safe Commercial Corridors Amendment Act of 2023<sup>4</sup>
- Improving Safety and Emergency Response on Transit Corridors Amendment Act of 2023<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [Secure DC Omnibus Committee Print | PDF | Crimes | Crime & Violence \(scribd.com\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Crime: Massive Crime Bill Up for D.C. Council Vote; Local Reports | The Georgetown](#)

<sup>3</sup> [B25-0479 - Addressing Crime through Targeted Interventions and Violence Enforcement \(“ACTIVE”\) Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>4</sup> [B25-0483 - Safe Commercial Corridors Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> [B25-0478 - Improving Safety and Emergency Response on Transit Corridors Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)



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- Food Regulation Ensures Safety and Hospitality Specialty Training Aids Reentry Transition and Success (FRESH STARTS) Act of 2023<sup>6</sup>
- Prioritizing Public Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2023<sup>7</sup>
- Office of Unified Communication (OUC) Transparency and Accuracy Amendment Act 2023<sup>8</sup>
- Metro Safety Amendment Act of 2023<sup>9</sup>
- Accountability and Victim Protection Amendment Act of 2023<sup>10</sup>
- Addressing Crime Trends (ACT) Now Amendment Act of 2023<sup>11</sup> and Safer Stronger Amendment Act of 2023<sup>12</sup>
- Whole Government Response to Crime Act of 2023<sup>13</sup>
- Private Security Camera System Incentive Program Small Business Expansion Amendment Act of 2023<sup>14</sup>

WHEREAS, Secure DC has three major initiatives/components<sup>15</sup>:

## 1. Prevention and Ending Cycles of Violence

- **Safe Commercial Corridors:** Establish a District-wide grant program to provide funds for commercial corridors to put toward safety-enhancing interventions,
- **Safe Transit Corridors:** Establish a pilot program to install “blue light” technology and cameras in transit stations to deter crime,
- **Drug Free Zones:** Reinstate the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) ability to declare drug-free zones where hotspots of crime and drug activity occur, and allow communities to reclaim public space,
- **Pre-Arrest Diversion Taskforce:** Establish a task force to develop recommendations to increase diversion, treatment, and accountability for individuals who commit low-level offenses when appropriate,

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<sup>6</sup> [B25-0112 - Food Regulation Ensures Safety and Hospitality Specialty Training Aids Re-entry Transition and Success \(FRESH STARTS\) Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/01/12/food-regulation-ensures-safety-and-hospitality-specialty-training-aids-re-entry-transition-and-success-fresh-starts-act-of-2023/)

<sup>7</sup> [B25-0395 - Prioritizing Public Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/03/25/prioritizing-public-safety-emergency-amendment-act-of-2023/)

<sup>8</sup> [B25-0344 - Office of Unified Communications Transparency and Accuracy Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/03/25/office-of-unified-communications-transparency-and-accuracy-amendment-act-of-2023/)

<sup>9</sup> [Judiciary and Public Safety -Hearing - DC Council Hearings Management System](https://dccouncil.gov/hearings/2023/03/25/judiciary-and-public-safety-hearing-dc-council-hearings-management-system/)

<sup>10</sup> [B25-0555 - Addressing Crime Trends \(ACT\) Now Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/05/25/addressing-crime-trends-act-now-amendment-act-of-2023/)

<sup>11</sup> [B25-0555 - Addressing Crime Trends \(ACT\) Now Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/05/25/addressing-crime-trends-act-now-amendment-act-of-2023/)

<sup>12</sup> [B25-0291 - Safer Stronger Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/02/29/safer-stronger-amendment-act-of-2023/)

<sup>13</sup> [B25-0537 - Whole Government Response to Crime Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/05/25/whole-government-response-to-crime-act-of-2023/)

<sup>14</sup> [B25-0343 - Private Security Camera System Incentive Program Small Business Expansion Amendment Act of 2023 \(dccouncil.gov\)](https://dccouncil.gov/bills/2023/03/25/private-security-camera-system-incentive-program-small-business-expansion-amendment-act-of-2023/)

<sup>15</sup> [Crime: Massive Crime Bill Up for D.C. Council Vote; Local Reports | The Georgetowner](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/crime-investigation/wp/2023/03/25/crime-massive-crime-bill-up-for-dc-council-vote-local-reports-the-georgetowner/)



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- **Hospitality Training:** Establish a hospitality career training program at DC correctional facilities to improve reentry outcomes, and
- **Nutrition at DC Correctional Facilities:** Set minimum nutrition standards for food served.

## 2. Accountability for Crime

- **Gun Penalties:** Establish new felony offenses for endangerment with a firearm and unlawful discarding of firearms and ammunition,
- **Victim Protection:** Establish a new felony offense for strangulation; enhance protections for senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and transportation workers and passengers,
- **Pretrial Detention:** Creates a rebuttable presumption in favor of pretrial detention for violent crimes committed by juveniles and adults; require judges to explain decisions to allow for pretrial release in such cases,
- **Carjacking:** Expand the definition of carjacking to improve prosecution,
- **Retail Theft:** Establish a new crime for “directing organized retail theft”; lower the threshold for the felony offense of retail theft from \$1,000 to \$500, and
- **Filling Gaps:** Permit GPS records to be admissible in court; permit DNA collection earlier in the process for serious offenses to enhance case closure.

## 3. Government Coordination and Oversight

- **OUC Transparency:** Require the Office of Unified Communications to publicly share data and metrics on 911 call center performance; require updates to the 311 system,
- **Fare Evasion:** Ensure civil violations for fare evasion can be enforced,
- **Vehicular Chases:** Allow officers to pursue vehicular chases if there is an imminent threat,
- **Police Interactions:** Ensure officers are able to safely and appropriately engage with suspects during arrests,
- **Body-Worn Cameras:** Permit officers to review body-worn-camera footage in cases not involving a serious use of force,
- **DC Sentencing Commission:** Increase DC Council and Mayoral representation on the Commission with a fairer balance of DC representation,
- **Gun Tracking:** Require annual firearm tracing reports to help reduce the flow of illegal weapons into the District, and



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- **Data on Programs, Diversion, and Sentencing:** Require the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to share data on programs, diversion, and sentencing agreements.

WHEREAS, public hearings on several components of the legislation featured stark division between residents and business groups demanding more “tough on crime” strategies and those who worry that city leaders are sliding back into an approach from past decades that produced mass incarceration and cascading trauma in Black communities<sup>16</sup>,

WHEREAS, the Secure DC omnibus bill never received a full hearing and many provisions within the revised bill have not received hearings as part of other legislative proposals,

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting in May 2021, ANC 2A adopted a resolution<sup>17</sup> supporting many of the recommendations in the DC Police Reform Commission report<sup>18</sup>,

WHEREAS, at its regular meeting in November 2023, ANC 2A adopted a resolution expressing opposition to the expansion of pre-trial detention as proposed in the Secure DC omnibus bill,

WHEREAS, the bill’s Financial Impact Statement (FIS)<sup>19</sup> states that requested funds (\$42.3 million over the four budget cycles of FY 2024 to FY 2027, with \$4.5 million for FY 2024) are insufficient for implementation of Secure DC,

WHEREAS, on January 26, 2024, the DC Council’s Office on Racial Equity (CORE) released its Racial Equity Impact Assessment (REIA) on Secure DC<sup>20</sup>, and the assessment summary highlighted the following:

- Many of the provisions are not substantiated by evidence-based research and will cause harm to Black residents and deepen the inequality in the District,
- The creation of new sentences and longer sentences for offenses already in the DC Code will not increase public safety or deter crime according to broad research on the topic,
- Increasing sentences will disproportionately impact Black residents, as the District incarcerates them at a disproportionately high rate,

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<sup>16</sup> [What's In The Latest DC Crime Bill | DCist](#)

<sup>17</sup> [554760\\_96078cc944f44f27b5a81d6fe44356bb.pdf \(filesusr.com\)](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Police Reform Commission - Full Report • Council of the District of Columbia \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> [B25-0345-FIS--Secure DC Act of 2024.pdf \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>20</sup> [B25-0345 Secure DC Omnibus REIA.pdf \(dropbox.com\)](#)



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- Criminal justice experts conclude that pretrial detention does not promote public safety, but causes harm, as Black residents have higher odds of being convicted in both the adult and juvenile justice systems, and
- The anti-mask provision and the DNA collection provision will likely increase racial profiling and surveillance of Black residents.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that after reviewing the REIA from CORE and conducting an in-depth analysis on numerous provisions and sections in Secure DC, ANC 2A does not support the following sections of the Secure DC omnibus bill:

- Section 4, which would allow the Metropolitan Police Department and certain members of the general public to obtain records from youth previously in custody in the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services<sup>21</sup>,
- Section 5, which would amend the Freedom of Information Act of 1976 by limiting the scope of law enforcement officer disciplinary records available to the public,
- Section 11, which would allow law enforcement officers to review body-worn camera footage before creating an initial report,
- Section 12, which would loosen the Limitation on the Use of Chokehold Act of 1985 to allow for controlling a person’s movement,
- Section 13, which would loosen the limitations on use of force in the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022<sup>22</sup>,
- Section 14, which would repeal the requirement that police officers’ names and badge numbers are publicly posted before an adverse action hearing,
- Section 15, which would allow the Metropolitan Police Department’s Office of Police Complaints to have access to all records related to an investigation of alleged misconduct,
- Section 19, which would expand pre-trial detention of youth by establishing a rebuttable presumption that pre-trial detention of youth is necessary in cases of suspected violent crime,
- Section 24, which would create a new offense of “directing organized retail theft”<sup>23</sup>,
- Section 26, which would make it an additional offense to wear a mask while committing a crime,
- Section 28, which would allow law enforcement officers to collect DNA samples from individuals upon arrest<sup>24</sup>,

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<sup>21</sup> [B15-1148 - DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH REHABILITATION SERVICES ESTABLISHMENT EMERGENCY ACT OF 2004 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>22</sup> [B24-0705 - Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Temporary Amendment Act of 2022 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>23</sup> [B9-0157 - DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA THEFT AND WHITE COLLAR CRIMES ACT OF 1982 TRADEMARK INFRINGEMENT AMENDMENT ACT OF 1991, BILL 9-157 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>24</sup> [B14-0063 - DNA SAMPLE COLLECTION ACT OF 2001 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)



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- Section 31, which would expand the statute of limitations for serious crimes and clarify that GPS records from the Pretrial Services Agency are admissible in court,
- Section 35, which would fine an additional \$100 to public transit passengers stopped for fare evasion and other offenses who do not provide their name and address when stopped,
- Section 37, which would prohibit the congregation of two or more persons on public property in “drug enforcement zones,” for drug-related purposes,
- Section 38, which removes the requirement that officers state that subjects are being recorded by a body-worn camera and retroactively applies a slightly looser definition of neck restraints amending the Limitation on the Use of the Chokehold Act of 1985.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A would like to amplify the following policy recommendations that the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)<sup>25</sup> has classified as “an abuse of power” be removed:

- The establishment of “drug free zones, in contravention of”<sup>26</sup>,
- The expansion of pre-trial detention<sup>27</sup>, and
- Police reform rollbacks including provisions surrounding<sup>28</sup>
  - Chokeholds
  - Police pursuit
  - FOIA requests

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A would like to see the following policy recommendations be implemented in a manner that is fully fleshed out and properly funded<sup>29</sup>:

- Penalty enhancements for crimes targeting certain groups of people, like transit workers, seniors, and adults with disabilities,
- Expansion of the Private Security Camera Rebate Program,
- The creation of a hospitality and culinary arts program, and
- Nutrition at DC Correctional Facilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A would like to see policy recommendations that encompass a city-wide approach that addresses the root causes of crime and provides effective wrap-around services, such as vocational education schools/training.

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<sup>25</sup> [ACLU-D.C. Statement on the Secure DC Omnibus Legislation | ACLU of DC \(acludc.org\)](#)

<sup>26</sup> Ibid-Mayor Bowser repealed this policy when she was on the D.C. Council

<sup>27</sup> [D.C. Council Approves Emergency Crime Bill | DCist](#)- CM Lewis-George the sole “no” based on the premise of no evidence of success in implementing this policy

<sup>28</sup> [B24-0320 - Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2021 \(dccouncil.gov\)](#)

<sup>29</sup> [Press Release - Secure DC Omnibus | PDF | Crime & Violence | Crimes \(scribd.com\)](#)



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Commissioners Trupti Patel ([2A03@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A03@anc.dc.gov)) and Jim Malec ([2A02@anc.dc.gov](mailto:2A02@anc.dc.gov)) are the Commission’s representatives in this matter.

ON BEHALF OF THE COMMISSION.

Sincerely,

Jim Malec  
Chairperson