

Government of the District of Columbia
ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3F
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3F06 – William Sittig
3F07 – Patrick Jakopchek, Chair



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Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F
Resolution In Support Of Full Implementation Of The NEAR Act
April 17, 2018

Whereas, the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act is law in the District of Columbia;

Whereas, the Act passed the DC Council unanimously in March of 2016, and had the support of the following current¹ Councilmembers representing this ANC

Anita Bonds (At Large)
David Grosso (At Large)
Phil Mendelson (Chair, At Large)
Elissa Silverman (At Large)

Brianne Nadeau (Ward 1)
Jack Evans (Ward 2)
Mary Cheh (Ward 3)
Brandon Todd (Ward 4)
Kenyan McDuffie (Ward 5)
Charles Allen (Ward 6);

Whereas, the Act has been fully-funded in the Fiscal Year 2018 Budget;

Whereas, the Act codified a number of comprehensive approaches to preventing violence before it occurs that are evidence-based, community-focused, and have proven to reduce violence by up to 80% when fully and faithfully implemented;

Whereas, the Act created two offices, the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE) and the Office of Violence Prevention and Health Equity (OVPHE), and established a range of new statistical measures to collect and publicly-report comprehensive information on community violence, police violence and other police activities;

¹ See <http://lms.dccouncil.us/Legislation/B21-0360?FromSearchResults=true>. Councilmembers Vincent Gray (Ward 7), Robert White (At Large), and Trayon White (Ward 8) were not on the Council at the time.

Whereas, the purpose of ONSE is to identify individuals at the greatest risk of committing or being the victim of violence, and to provide intensive wraparound services to prevent violence, including supporting those at-risk community members while they transition to job and educational opportunities;

Whereas, ONSE was established in 2017 and under the FY 2018 Budget, required to be fully operational before the close of FY 2018, with an Executive Director who will oversee a staff of *at least* five full-time “violence interrupters” as well as community workers doing similar work, and will also take over the administration of a grant-making program designed to bolster community efforts to address violence;

Whereas, in the FY 2018 Budget, OVPHE has been implemented through the creation of the Office of Health Equity in the Department of Health and the creation of a pilot program to better connect emergency rooms to trauma services for victims of community violence;

Whereas, the Act established the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Community Crime Prevention Team (CCPT) Pilot Program to ensure that the MPD can refer persons who might be homeless, have mental disorders, or substance abuse disorders to available services at the Department of Behavioral Health or Department of Human Services, and mandates the creation of “at least five teams comprised of mental health clinicians, outreach specialists, and MPD officers”;

Whereas, the Act required the MPD to collect and publicize data on information regarding all “stops and frisks” conducted in the District, including the race, gender, and date of birth of each person stopped, as well as whether and for what reason each stop resulted in a search and/or arrest;

Whereas, the Act reestablished the Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force to develop a plan to eliminate homicide in the District, and required the Task Force to have twenty members (half appointed by the Mayor and half appointed by the Council) who, as of December 1, 2017, have now been appointed;

Whereas, community engagement, public awareness, and government transparency are critical to the success of the comprehensive, evidence-based approaches in the NEAR Act; and

Whereas, members of the DC community care deeply about ensuring that all elements of the NEAR Act are fully and faithfully implemented as promised, including a sufficient number of staff and violence interrupters, an effective job training program, and comprehensive statistical measurement system(s) to track and report the progress and outcomes of the Act’s programs and police activities;

Therefore be it resolved, the Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3F urges:

1. The **MPD** to affirm their commitment to following the law by collecting, reporting and regularly publicizing comprehensive information on community encounters with police, including community complaints, use of force incidents, and detailed information on every resident stopped by police, the reason for stopping them, and the result of the encounter;
2. The **Council** of the District of Columbia and the **Mayor** to publicly affirm their commitment to fully implementing all elements of the NEAR Act, including job training and data collection and reporting components;
3. The **Director of ONSE** to commit to serving at least 50 individuals per quarter and to supporting a full staff of *at least* five violence interrupters;
4. The **Director of ONSE** and the **Mayor** to commit to actively and regularly seeking meaningful input and participation from community organizations and residents - in particular those individuals and organizations who have previously engaged in violence interruption work with or without government support - with a written and publicly-available plan for regular outreach and community input;
5. The **Council and the Mayor** to make the Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force a permanent Board or Commission rather than dissolving after producing one Report;
6. The **Mayor and the MPD** to commit to immediately implementing the Community Crime Prevention Team Pilot Program and the creation of “at least five teams comprised of mental health clinicians, outreach specialists, and MPD officers”;
7. The **Mayor, relevant Deputy Mayors, the Chief of Police, and the Directors of the ONSE, OVPHE, Department of Health, Department of Behavioral Health, Department of Human Services, Department of Employment Services, Department of Parks and Recreation**, and any other relevant individuals or government offices to commit to regularly and transparently reporting to the public on the progress and outcomes of NEAR Act provisions;
8. The **Council and Mayor** to commit to providing sufficient attention, staff, and resources to effectively accomplish all elements of the NEAR Act, and to make DC an example for a better approach to public safety.

Be it further resolved, that Commissioners Pat Jakopchek and Naomi Rutenberg are authorized to speak on behalf of ANC 3F regarding this matter.

ANC 3F _____ this resolution at its meeting on April 17, 2018, which was properly noticed and at which a quorum was present, by a vote of _____ in favor, _____ opposed, and _____ abstaining.

Pat Jakopchek
Chair, ANC 3F