



**ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3C**  
GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
CLEVELAND PARK • MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE HEIGHTS •  
WOODLAND-NORMANSTONE • WOODLEY PARK

*Single Member District Commissioners*  
01-Hayden Gise; 02-Adam Prinzo; 03-Janell Pagats  
04-Roric McCorristin; 05-Sauleh Siddiqui; 06-Tammy Gordon  
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*By Electronic Mail*

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Brooke Pinto  
Ward 2 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Chair, Committee on Public Safety and Judiciary  
The John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20004

**RE: ANC 3C Comments on B25-0345, the Accountability and Victim Protection Amendment Act of 2023, now known as the Secure DC Omnibus Act of 2024**

Councilmember Pinto,

At a regularly scheduled and properly noticed public meeting on February 20, 2024 with a quorum present, a quorum being five commissioners, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 3C voted 7-1-0 to submit these written comments on the Secure DC Omnibus legislation.

In 2023, crime in Washington, DC saw a notable increase across several categories<sup>1</sup>. There was a 39% increase in violent crimes compared to the previous year, including a 35% increase in homicides and a 67% increase in robberies. In addition, there was an 82% rise in motor vehicle theft compared to the previous year.

To combat this rise in crime the Council is considering bill B25-0345, the Accountability and Victim Protection Amendment Act of 2023 which is now known as “Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2024” (“Secure DC Act”), Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C would like to offer the following comments on the bill:

1. ANC 3C supports the Secure DC Act and urges the Council to pass this legislation quickly.
2. ANC 3C favors provisions upgrading certain offenses to felonies such as strangulation, endangerment with a firearm for firing a gun in public, and unlawful discarding of firearms and ammunition, and expanding carjacking offenses.
3. ANC 3C further supports the safe commercial corridors provisions [and looks forward to

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<sup>1</sup> <https://mpdc.dc.gov/page/district-crime-data-glance>

seeing how the Gallery Place/Chinatown safe commercial corridor program pans out.]

4. ANC 3C further supports an increase in funding for lighting offered by the safe commercial corridors provisions; certain portions of Connecticut Avenue along the Woodley Park and Cleveland Park commercial corridors could use better lighting.
5. ANC 3C further supports provisions in the “Support Police and First Responders” provisions, by creating retention incentives in various DC agencies, namely the Office of Unified Communications (OUC) and the Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and DC Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS).
6. ANC 3C further supports the creation of a culinary training program at the D.C. Jail to provide job training and reduce the risk of recidivism, and requests the Department of Corrections to improve safety, food/nutrition and health conditions.
7. ANC 3C further supports the amendments that were made by Council sunseting the bill’s changes to pretrial detention statutes after 225 days and to the definition of “neck restraints,”
8. ANC 3C supports the amendment that would move DNA collection to point of charging or probable cause hearing, limit collection to sex abuse charges, and require collection for sex abuse charges rather than allowing it.
9. ANC 3C further supports the amendment that would move up the applicability dates for the Second Chance Act of 2022, which expanded eligibility for criminal record sealing and expungement in DC.
10. ANC 3C also supports increasing the minimum award amount offered in homicide cases to at least \$50,000 and supports changing the maximum to \$100,000. This amendment will help the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) solve more homicide cases by increasing rewards for witnesses. With the D.C. homicide closure rate at only 45 percent, we need to encourage more witnesses to come forward with information that will close more cases. The legislation, unamended, increases the minimum reward amount in homicide cases to \$50,000, double the current maximum of \$25,000, to anyone who provides information or testimony that leads to the adjudication or conviction of a person responsible for any homicide committed in the District.
11. ANC 3C strongly supports the private security cameras and glass break sensors rebate program and encourages further funding and promotion of the program.
12. ANC 3C strongly supports the Transit corridor safety and emergency response program and the full funding of this program.
13. Lastly, ANC 3C thanks your office for including provisions of ANC 3C resolution, [Regarding Grave Concerns About Performance and Reliability at the Office of Unified Communications \(OUC\)](#), that are included in “Strengthen Government Coordination” by Increasing transparency and accuracy at OUC by requiring OUC to publicly share monthly data on call-taker and dispatcher errors, among other data.

Furthermore, ANC 3C requests that you consider future budget funding and additional separate legislation. ANC 3C supports the Secure DC Act, yet believes that the Council should also consider other, more proactive measures to address crime:

1. ANC 3C urges the Mayor of the District of Columbia and the Council to work overtime to get the Department of Forensic Sciences (DFS) fully re-accredited, and ensure it is adequately staffed and fully funded, as a fully functional DFS will help MPD fully process crime scenes and will facilitate more accurate prosecutions.
2. ANC 3C supports more funding for the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE), ONSE is prime to “catch” people before they hit the criminal justice system, ONSE has been without a director for over 700 days, this office is prime to offer wrap around services but is missing the resources they need.
3. ANC 3C would like Council to evaluate the provisions of Secure DC Bill that create drug-free

- zones, similar to the study evaluating pre-trial detention.
4. ANC 3C supports the Council continuing to look for ways to help MPD recruit and retain qualified officers so MPD can promptly operate and remain at full strength without lowering any current hiring standards and minimum requirements.
  5. Lastly, ANC 3C would also like to add one suggestion. Currently under the District of Columbia Code, dogs and other pets are considered property. To most people who have pets they aren't property, they are considered family. Because of this classification dognapping or "petnapping" is currently considered burglary or robbery and those accused of stealing pets usually face no additional penalties for stealing something that is living. 2023 saw many District residents lose their beloved pets to dognapping and some of those pets never returned to their families. ANC 3C asks for Council to undertake a review of this and look at potentially raising the penalties for this offense.

The Commission authorizes the Chair and the Commissioners for 3C02, 3C05 and 3C08 and/or their approved designee(s) to represent the Commission on this matter.

Consistent with DC Code § 1-309, only actions of the full Commission voting in a properly noticed public meeting have standing and carry great weight. The actions, positions, and opinions of individual commissioners, insofar as they may be contradictory to or otherwise inconsistent with the expressed position of the full Commission in a properly adopted resolution or letter, have no standing and cannot be considered as in any way associated with the Commission.

Sincerely,



Janell Pagats  
Chair ANC 3C  
Single Member District 3C03

CC: Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia  
Phil Mendelson, Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Matthew Frumin, Ward 3 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Anita Bonds, At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Christina Henderson, At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Kenyan McDuffie, At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Robert White, At-Large Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Brienne Nadeau, Ward 1 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Janeese Lewis George, Ward 4 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Zachary Parker, Ward 5 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Charles Allen, Ward 6 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Vincent Grey, Ward 7 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia  
Trayon White, Ward 8 Member of the Council of the District of Columbia