

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ADVISORY NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION 3A



Resolution on Federal Involvement in Law Enforcement and Public Safety in the District

In the interest of our constituents, all the present and future residents, and those who care about the District of Columbia, ANC 3A feels a responsibility to express our perspectives, concerns and recommendations on the current situation in the District, which is our home and the nation's capital.

At our swearing-in at the beginning of our term in office as newly elected Commissioners, we each swear or affirm: "I will faithfully execute the laws of the United States of America and of the District of Columbia and will, to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America and the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, and will faithfully discharge the duties of the office I am about to enter."

To carry out that mandate, the Commission pays close attention to the details of the laws governing the District. We also take seriously the role of each ANC in sharing accurate information about laws, regulations, public policies and services. In addition, we have a role in communicating the rights and responsibilities of individuals who live or work in Washington, DC.

Under DC Code Title 1, Chapter 3, Subchapter V, Part A §1-309.10 sets out the roles and responsibilities of the ANCs under the system of Home Rule in the District, including a provision for the ANCs to provide advice on policies and programs to the Mayor and the Council as well as District agencies and federal agencies and officials.

As an Advisory Neighborhood Commission, we are devoted to reviewing legislation, programs and policy actions and making recommendations as we see fit for the well-being of constituents and the District as a whole.

Section 740 of the Home Rule Act permits the President of the United States to request assistance from the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) in the event of an emergency for up to 48 hours without notifying Congress, and for a maximum of 30 days without an enacted joint resolution of approval.

On August 11, 2025, President Donald Trump invoked Section 740 without identifying the underlying "special conditions of an emergency nature" with sufficient specificity to identify a clear emergency or to determine when those special conditions ended.

Since that time, the President also ordered deployment of an estimated 800 members of the DC National Guard along with assigned an estimated 500 members of federal law enforcement agencies to work in the District with a stated purpose to "address the epidemic of crime in our Nation's capital" alongside members of the MPD. The President has also directed the U.S. Secretary of Defense to coordinate with several state governors to send members of their state National Guard to serve in the District.

Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners (January 1, 2025-December 31, 2026) www.anc3a.org

3A01	3A02	3A03	3A04	3A05
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National Guard are trained for military service, not for local law enforcement, and by law when they are federalized, they--like other members of the U.S. military--are not authorized to arrest U.S. citizens or otherwise participate in civilian law enforcement within the United States.

Operating under the leadership of the District Chief of Police, who is appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Council of the District of Columbia, MPD has been making significant improvements in preventing crime and responding to crime when it occurs, achieving dramatic reductions in reported incidents of crime, particularly violent crime, in almost all categories, and identifying and arresting suspected perpetrators of crime at increasing levels. That is in spite of facing sharp budget shortfalls that are keeping MPD from filling hundreds of positions that the Mayor, Council and MPD have identified as necessary for public safety in the District.

Some of the federal agents and units deployed in the District are armed and wearing tactical gear. Some are wearing face masks or other face coverings, and not all of them wear clear identification of their agency or role. The presence of those agents along with uniformed federal troops, some of them equipped with high-powered weapons, combat vehicles, and combat gear, is unnerving to almost anyone they encounter, disruptive to residents and visitors in the District trying to go about lawful and peaceful activities, and undermines trust and confidence in our government as well as local law enforcement. For the longer term, the effect of the escalation in U.S. military and law enforcement presence is damaging the relationship between police and the public in the local area and could have detract from the progress MPD is making in its programs to reform policing practices to improve effectiveness, attract and retain personnel, and continue to build cooperation among MPD and its local partners and stakeholders, including nearby state and local law enforcement.

Congress prevented the District from being able to use hundreds of millions of dollars in local funds in FY 2025 that were needed for safety, education, health care, and other essential public services. That has been tremendously damaging and it would be irresponsible and detrimental for the region and the nation if that unfortunate, unfair, and unjustified policy continues into the new fiscal year or at any time in the future.

We would like people of all ages, backgrounds, income levels, and occupations to be able to visit the District and live, work, study, and enjoy the rights and responsibilities of living in this free democratic nation, without fear of being detained, denied due process, or otherwise treated unfairly or unlawfully.

It is important for the future of the District and its people that local agencies and officials continue to try to address the causes of homelessness, poverty, and crime, and to provide adequate services to meet the needs of local residents for housing, education and training, supportive services and public safety so people can survive and thrive.

We support the Home Rule Act and want the Mayor, the DC Council, the Attorney General, other elected officials in the District to stand up for the rights of DC residents, preserve Home Rule and maintain the effective function of the democratic system of government in the nation's capital, protecting our democracy and ensuring that our public safety policies reflects the interests and concerns of the people who live here.

We believe that decisions about protecting and improving public safety in the District should be made by District officials who are committed to serving residents and are directly accountable to the communities they serve. Maintaining local oversight of MPD ensures that public safety strategies remain effective, responsive, and aligned with the interests and values of the people of the District.

Under the law, federal officials and federal law enforcement agents should not be directing or superseding local law enforcement in the District, National Guard units should not perform law enforcement activities in a domestic setting, and National Guard troops should not be deployed to patrol or oversee local areas, except in an actual emergency.

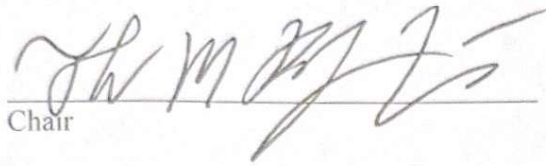
BE IT RESOLVED that this Commission:

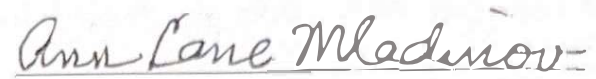
1. Urges Congress to reject any joint resolution extending the federally-declared “emergency” in the District beyond 30 days, pass legislation, including the DC National Guard Home Rule Act, to strengthen DC self-governance;
2. Urges Congress to exclude the District from the provisions of any continuing resolution in the coming fiscal year that would remove the authority of District officials to spend its own funds on local needs including education, housing, workforce development, public safety and other public services so that local leadership can ensure that investments prioritize community needs and allow the District, its families and neighborhoods to thrive;
3. Appreciates the legal challenges that the Attorney General of the District of Columbia has mounted contesting whether the statutory threshold has been lawfully met for a declaration of an emergency in the District under Section 740;
4. Strongly requests that the White House, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the heads of all federal agencies whose officers are deployed in the District—or MPD if it is working with the federal officials—share clear information with local officials and the public about the mission, assignments and responsibilities while in the District, identifiability of the federal officers or agents deployed here, general locations where they will be working, their authority to make arrests (if any) and the criteria they will apply for detaining or arresting individuals in the District, and the anticipated duration of their presence; and
5. Urges the District Government to ensure that National Guard operations in the District are conducted in accordance with the law and are exercised with restraint and transparency in order to safeguard residents’ rights and safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Commission authorizes the Chair or his designee to represent the Commission in all matters related to this resolution.

This resolution was approved by the Commission by a vote of 5 – 0 at a duly noticed public meeting on September 16, 2025, at which a quorum was participating. (Three of the five Commissioners constitute a quorum.)

CERTIFICATION


Chair


Secretary