



## OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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### **MENDELSON STATEMENT ON DC AUDITOR'S REPORT ON METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT'S USE OF FORCE**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson today joined DC Auditor Kathy Patterson and DC Police Chief Cathy Lanier to present the findings of an independent study on city police use of force since federal oversight of the department ended in 2008.

“This is a big deal. We conducted this analysis to see what are strengths and weaknesses with regard to use of force,” Mendelson said. “The conclusion is very positive for the District Police Department.”

The more than 300-page report shows that the use of force by DC police officers is consistent with best practices recommended by the Department of Justice. The review team concluded MPD does not have a systematic use of force problem. The team also determined MPD policies and procedures are consistent with best practice.

“So often analysis or review of police incidents are done on a reactive basis. That’s not the case here. At a time when cities across the country are confronting this issue, the DC Auditor’s report is proactive and is a function of checking and rechecking ourselves on how we are doing,” Chairman Mendelson stated.

“This study will be a useful blueprint for Council with regard to police practices in ensuring we continue to do all we can to have effective community policing.”

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