



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN MENDELSON  
COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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**CHAIRMAN MENDELSON RESPONSE TO VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – Today, DC Council Chairman Phil Mendelson released the following statement in response to the letter sent by Virginia Attorney General Jason Miyares:

“Today’s letter from Attorney General Jason Miyares was a complete shock. The Attorney General has never reached out to me to discuss any concerns he might really have regarding crime in DC.

“Although he did not ask to meet, I do. I would like us to discuss how Virginia can work with the District to address the issue of rising crime – an issue across the country.

“Indeed, given the pipeline of illegal firearms flowing into the District from the Commonwealth, he is in a position to stop that flow, to stop the gun violence in our city by holding Virginia arms dealers accountable.

“I would like also to join forces with AG Miyares to press the U.S. Attorney to prosecute more aggressively. The man who murdered Christy Bautista last weekend was on the streets because the federal prosecutors (who prosecute all of our felonies) plea bargained his arrest for armed robbery with gun to a lesser offense, because a federally appointed judge released him from custody pending sentencing, and because the federal marshals had not apprehended him when he skipped a court date. The only role of the District in that case was to arrest him, which we did.

“Working together could be productive. I look forward to AG Miyares following up.”