

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

**EVIDENCE-BASED GUN VIOLENCE REDUCTION & PREVENTION ACT OF 2023**

- These are proven strategies already successful in other jurisdictions (Baltimore, Phoenix, Boston, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Boston, New Orleans).
- Two of these provisions were recommended by the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform's District of Columbia Gun Violence Reduction Strategic Plan.
- This bill is co-sponsored by seven colleagues, including the three most recent chairs of the Judiciary Committee (Pinto, Allen and McDuffie)

**HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE FOR THIS BILL TO GO INTO EFFECT?**

- We're hopeful to have movement a couple of months into the new year.
- The great thing about this legislation is that much of it can go into effect immediately if the Executive so chooses through executive action. We hope the administration will look at what strategies can be implemented today. The only provision that requires legislation is the portion effecting the Department of Health Care Finance.

**HOW IS FOCUSED DETERRENCE DIFFERENT THAN CURE THE STREETS/VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION?**

- Focused deterrence is a law enforcement-led strategy that reduces violent crime through swift and certain justice (i.e., arrest and prosecution) against known high-risk offenders who continue to engage in criminal behavior. Violence interruption programs mediate conflicts between groups and individuals through street outreach workers, aim to change social norms around the use of violence to resolve conflict, and do not directly involve law enforcement.

**WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?**

- Establishes a Group Violence Intervention Initiative - or focused deterrence. Evaluations of high-quality focused deterrence initiatives elsewhere have found that this reduces violent crime between 25% and 60%.
- Authorizes the Mayor to address "criminal blight" at specific properties in the District by requiring the removal, repair, or securing of any building or property that the police suspect is facilitating criminal activity. Numerous studies have shown that remediating blight reduces gun violence.
- Authorizes MPD to hire civilian investigators to handle cold cases and property crimes. This bill would help focus MPD limited number of sworn officers on active crime. We can hire civilian investigators faster than we can hire and train sworn officers. Baltimore, San Francisco, New Orleans and Phoenix have adopted successful initiatives.
- Requires the Sentencing Commission to produce a Biannual Repeat Violent Offender Report concerning the number of repeat violent offenders arrested, as well as updates on cases involving repeat violent offenders. This puts a spotlight on the SYSTEM, such as whether "John Doe with a Mile-Long Rap Sheet" is back out on the street.
- Requires the Department of Health Care Finance to access federal Medicaid funds for community violence prevention. The Biden Administration provided guidance on this in 2020. Jurisdictions such as Connecticut, California, Illinois, Oregon, and Maryland have all utilized this benefit.