



Eckington  
Civic Association

Mayor Muriel Bowser  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,  
Washington, DC 20004

Acting Deputy Mayor for Public Safety  
and Justice, Christopher Geldart  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 533,  
Washington, DC 20004

April 15, 2021

Dear Mayor Muriel Bowser and Acting Deputy Mayor Christopher Geldart,

On behalf of the Eckington Civic Association, we are writing to express support for expanding DC's Violence Interruption program, in line with Councilmember McDuffie's [budget request for FY 2022](#) and the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act. This also aligns with recommendations laid out in the recent report from the [DC Police Reform Commission](#), which identifies the program as a "crucial first line of intervention."

Eckington and our nearby communities have experienced an uptick in crime during the pandemic, including a series of daytime shootings in Eckington in late 2020, as well as several armed carjackings and vehicle thefts. Our understanding is that many of these offenses have been committed by minors from our and nearby communities. Unfortunately, we know that offenses like these pose a serious risk to other members of the community. An [attempted carjacking](#) in Southeast D.C. recently led to the death of Mohammad Anwar, a 66-year-old immigrant from Pakistan who was working as a driver for Uber Eats.

Only a portion of Eckington is covered by an existing violence interruption program that is focused on Truxton Circle and areas to our immediate south, but violence in and near our neighborhood is not confined to certain streets. A substantial portion of Eckington (between Todd and V Streets in the westernmost portion of the neighborhood, and everything east of 2nd Street NE) remains excluded from the program. We also know that Edgewood (to our immediate north) and LeDroit/Bloomingdale (to our immediate West) experience similar violence that demands similar resources and attention. We hope that additional resources can be identified to expand violence interruption services in our corner of Ward 5.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Eckington Civic Association at [eckingtoncivic@gmail.com](mailto:eckingtoncivic@gmail.com) to discuss this or other violence prevention efforts.

Best regards,

Conor Shaw, President  
Taylor Kennedy, Vice President

On behalf of the Eckington Civic Association

cc: Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie  
Councilmember Charles Allen, Chair of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
Kate Mitchell, Committee Director for the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
Silas Grant, Senior Adviser to Councilmember McDuffie