

Ward 4 Public Safety Strategy Meeting

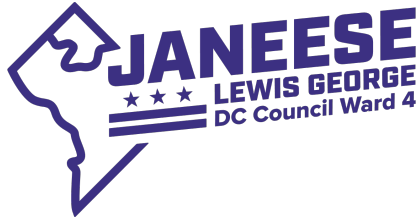
June 29, 2022



MEETING GOALS

- Community will learn about the presence and specific plans of city agencies to prevent crime and violence in Ward 4
- Community will learn about and discuss new public safety initiatives agencies will be implementing this summer in Ward 4.
- Ward 4 residents will gain new tools for engaging with our core public safety agencies.
- Community discussion of strategies for working in our own neighborhoods/communities to reduce and prevent violence.





- **Introductory Remarks:**
Councilmember Lewis George
- **Law enforcement partner agencies**
(OAG & MPD)
 - *Community Questions*
- **Violence prevention partner agencies**
(ONSE & OAG: Cure the Streets)
 - *Community Questions*
- **Community support partner agencies**
(DBH & OVSJG)
 - *Community Questions*
- **Open question and comment discussions**
- **Closing Remarks**

COMMUNITY SAFETY

How our government is organized to prevent gun violence, address crime, and build lasting peace in our neighborhoods.



JaneeseWard4.com

oag.dc.gov/public-safety

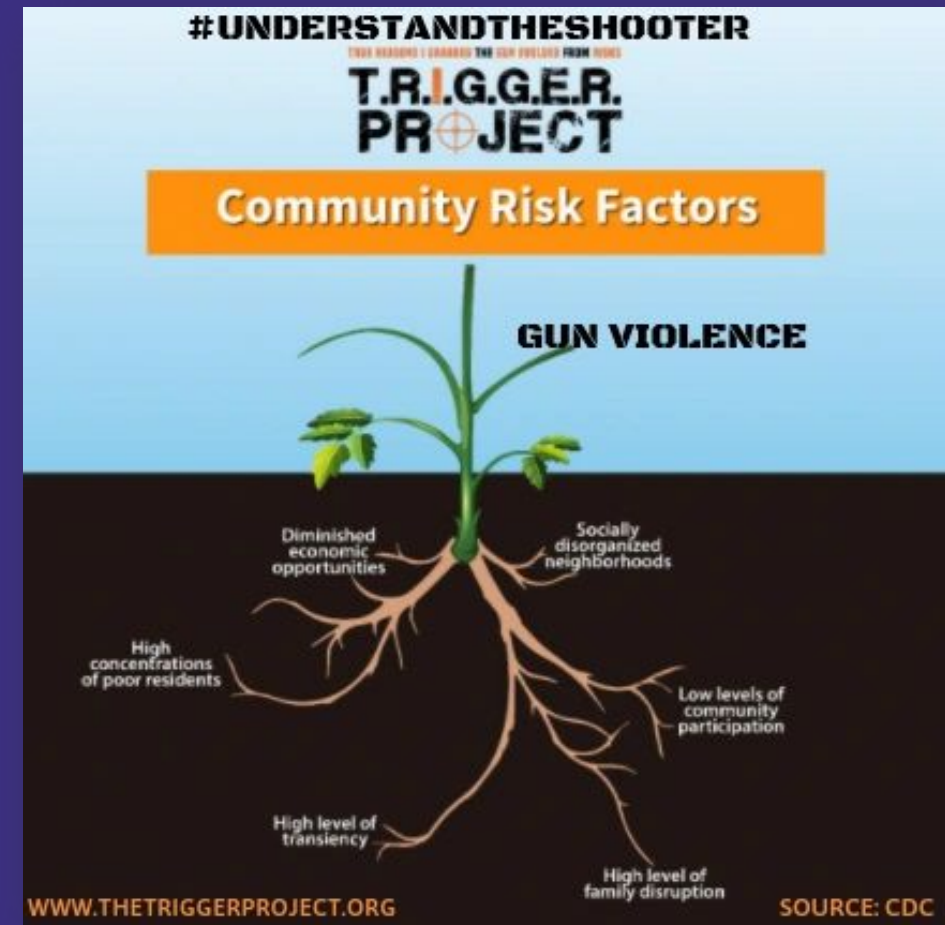
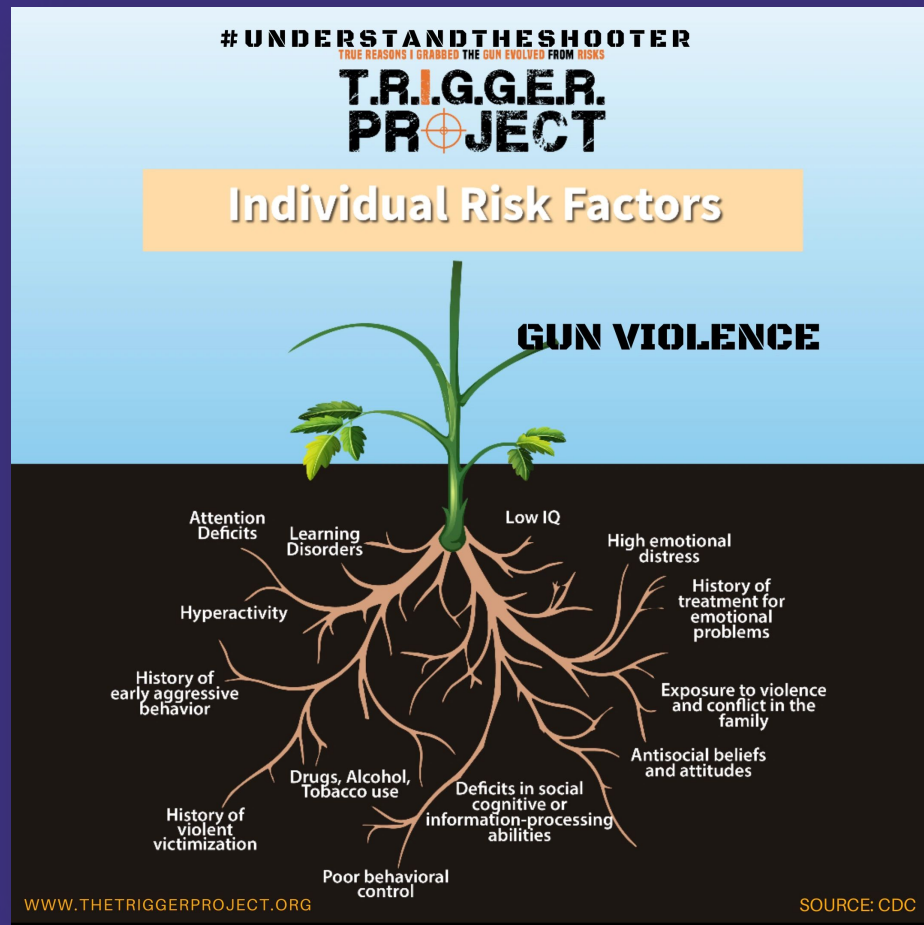
mpdc.dc.gov/page/welcome-fourth-district

onse.dc.gov

dbh.dc.gov/service/community-response-team

ovsjg.dc.gov/page/crime-victim-compensation

ADDRESSING ROOT CAUSES OF VIOLENCE



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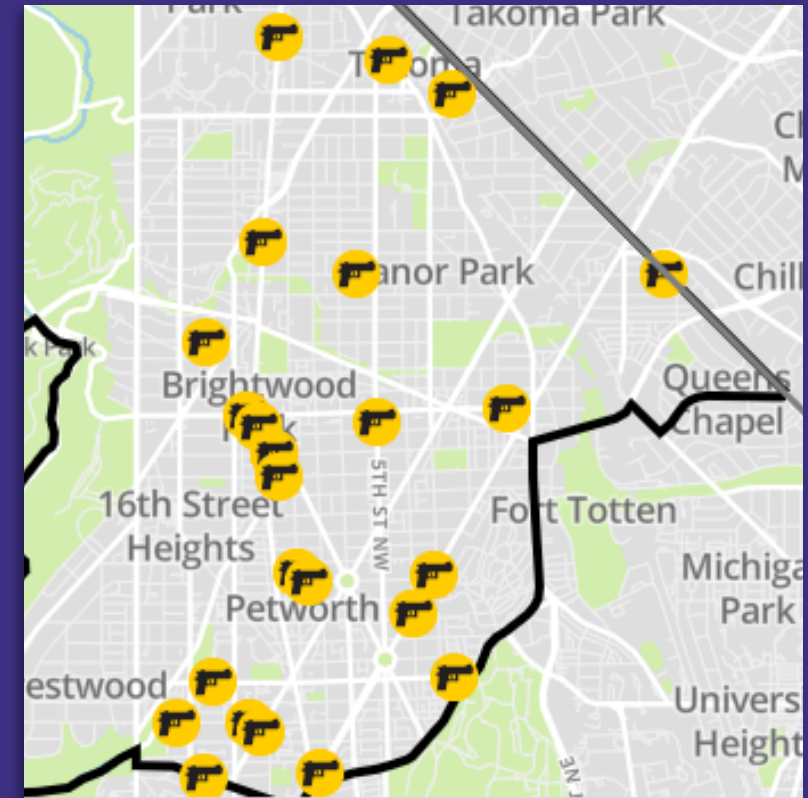
VIOLENT CRIME TRENDS

Homicide Incidents

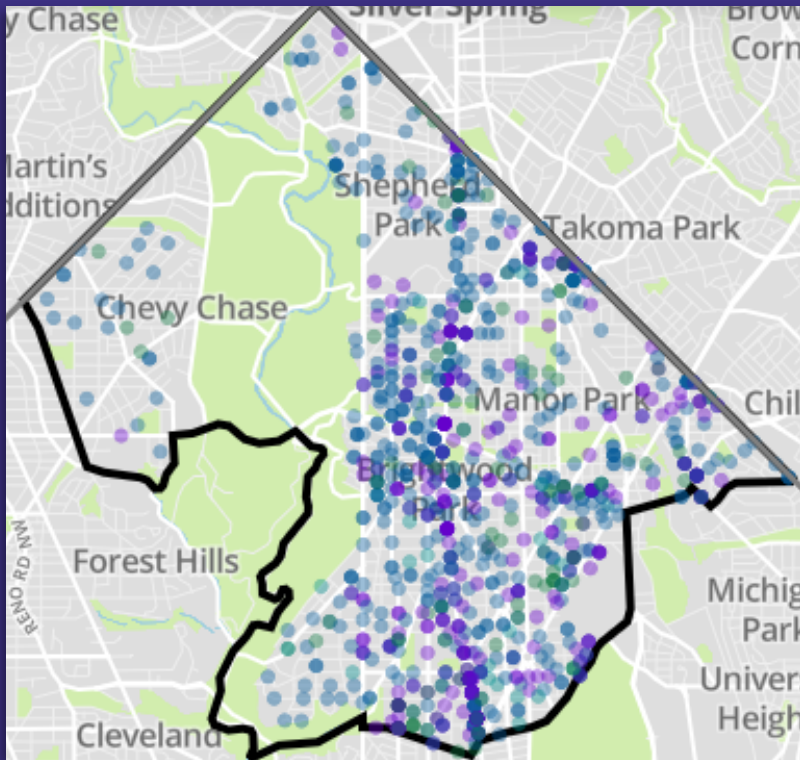
- 5 homicides in Ward this year to date
- 5th and Kennedy
- Lower Ward 4 portion of 14th Street
- Petworth metro

Gun Violence

- 26 non-fatal shootings in the past year
- Between Georgia and Illinois in Brightwood Park
- Petworth Metro to 14th Street, below Upshur
- Along major thoroughfares



PROPERTY CRIME TRENDS



High rates of property crime is happening Ward-wide, but is down overall over last year

- Georgia Avenue is clear nexus for property-related crime
- Burglaries up in PSA 407 – Petworth east of Georgia and around Missouri and Kennedy
- Thefts from cars & carjackings high in SW Petworth, Crestwood, northern 16th St Heights, Takoma (especially near Takoma Rec & Metro), Riggs Park (especially Oglethorpe St, NE), and between New Hampshire and Kansas Avenue west of Rock Creek Cemetery

ILLEGAL DRUG ACTIVITY

Possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance: 54 arrests in past year (33% of drug arrests)

Possession of a controlled substance – misdemeanor: 38 arrests in past year (23% of drug arrests)

Distribution of a controlled substance: 19 arrests in past year (11% of drug arrests)

Position with intent to distribute marijuana – felony & misdemeanor: 14 of each count in past year (8% of drug arrests each)

6/29/2022

Fourth District	
Addresses Multiple Narcotics Arrests	
June 28, 2021 - June 27, 2022	
Count	Addresses
7	4300 B/O GEORGIA AVENUE NW
4	1300 B/O VAN BUREN STREET NW
4	3700 B/O GEORGIA AVENUE NW
4	100 B/O IRVING STREET NW
4	4000 B/O KANSAS AVENUE NW
3	4000 B/O GEORGIA AVENUE NW
3	6000 B/O GEORGIA AVENUE NW
3	1400 B/O QUINCY STREET NW
3	3600 B/O 14TH STREET NW
3	600 B/O MORTON STREET NW

PROMPTS FOR COMMUNITY DISCUSSION



- What does public safety mean to you?
- What safety concerns are you seeing or experiencing in your neighborhood?
- What presence, strategies, or support would you like to see from _____ agency in your neighborhood?
- What local community organizing or relationship building should Ward 4 neighbors be doing or expanding?

DC BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VICTIMS SERVICES GRANTS

- ➔ Six additional closed-circuit cameras for safety focus areas in Ward 4
- ➔ Renewed funds for Cure the Streets team in Petworth/Brightwood Park
- ➔ \$25 Million for violence interruption sites through DC OAG and ONSE
- ➔ Intensive, personalized life coach intervention services for 250 individuals at greatest risk of being involved in gun violence.
- ➔ \$7.5 Million to serve 200 individuals in the Pathways transitional employment program and \$1.1 Million to raise participants' wages
- ➔ Hospital-based violence intervention programs to prevent retaliation
- ➔ Accelerates planning for building a new, rehabilitation-oriented DC Jail
- ➔ \$2.4 Million in new staff to improve operations at DC's 911 call center
- ➔ Doubles DBH response teams for behavioral health crises and outreach
- ➔ \$40 Million in victims services grants for gun violence victims, LGBTQ+ communities, and survivors of sexual violence and domestic violence

FY23 PUBLIC SAFETY BUDGET WINS



THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

- Sign up to receive Councilmember Lewis George's weekly newsletter
- Attend MPD Fourth District Citizens Advisory Council Meetings
- Sign up for Fourth District Community Group Listserv
- Engage with your Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC)
- Download the 311 app

It Takes a Community to End Gun Violence

In order to end gun violence we must combine strategies that **stop people from pulling the trigger today** with long-term investments to **build healthy communities** with lasting peace tomorrow

SHORT-TERM STRATEGIES

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES

Responding to Crime †‡

Identify individuals engaged in gun violence and **remove illegal guns** (MPD)

Investigate every shooting and **hold perpetrators accountable** (MPD, ATF, Courts, DOC)

Invest in Restorative Justice to **bring accountability and healing** to communities affected by violence (OAG, ONSE, DYRS)

Connect victims to counseling, housing, and legal services (DVSJG)

Investigate nuisance properties (OAG, MPD)

Preventing Crime †‡

Employ **violence interrupters** to deescalate conflicts before they turn violent (ONSE, OAG)

Work with victims of gun violence to **prevent retaliatory shootings** (ONSE)

Ensure residents returning from incarceration stay connected to jobs and social services (CSOSA, ONSE, DYRS, DOES)

Fund community-based mentoring, sports, and other programming to **engage young people before they become involved in crime** (DPR)

Launch non-police emergency call center (OUC, DBH)

Investing in Individuals †‡

Provide jobs and training to those most at risk of gun violence; build school-to-career pipelines to meaningful work in high-paying, in-demand industries (ONSE, DOES)

Deploy **street-based mental health teams** to respond to individuals in crisis and those with addiction (DBH, OUC)

Increase school-based mental health counseling to help youth cope with trauma and stress and develop good decision-making skills (DBH, Education cluster)

Transforming Communities †‡

Increase **financial stability and end homelessness** with programs like EITC, SNAP, housing and child care vouchers, and Medicaid (DHS, OTR, DHCF)

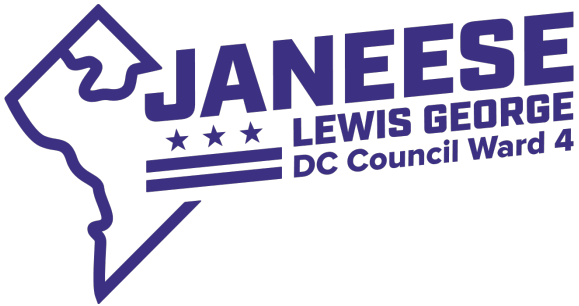
Fine and **address vacant and blighted properties** and abandoned vehicles; ensure safe and dignified living conditions (DCRA, OTR, DPW, OAG, OAH)

Expand access to child care, after-school programming, social-emotional learning, juvenile justice rehabilitation, and school-based job training (Education cluster, DYRS)

†‡ Increased Investment in FY2022 Budget, including increases in police force

The Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice and the Building Blocks Initiative in the Office of the City Administrator help to coordinate more than 20 agencies working together to solve DC's epidemic of gun violence. Learn their acronyms: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF); Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA); Department of Behavioral Health (DBH); Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA); Department of Corrections (DOC); Department of Employment Services (DOES); Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF); Department of Human Services (DHS); Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR); Department of Public Works (DPW); Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS); Metropolitan Police Department (MPD); Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement (ONSE); Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR); Office of the Attorney General (OAG); Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH); Office of Unified Communications (OUC); Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (DVSJG); Education cluster: Office of State Superintendent of Education, DC Public Schools; Deputy Mayor of Education, etc.





KENNEDY STREET ENGAGEMENT REQUESTS: SEPTEMBER 2021



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

JANESE LEWIS GEORGE
Councilmember, Ward 4

COMMITTEE MEMBER
Human Services
Labor and Workforce Development
Recreation, Libraries and Youth Affairs
Transportation and the Environment
Special Committee, COVID-19 Recovery

September 15, 2021

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

Last weekend three lives were ripped away from our community: Keenan, Donnetta, and Johnny. This weekend, yet another life lost: Delonte. Over the past three years, communities surrounding Kennedy Street, NW have suffered at least 37 recorded incidents of gun violence. The Ward you and I both call home needs solutions. I write to again ask you and your administration to include Kennedy Street in the Building Blocks Initiative and bring the whole of our government services to bear in Ward 4 to help prevent the gun violence epidemic from claiming another life.

I appreciate that it will take time to scale up the entire Kennedy Street corridor for a multi-agency, comprehensive Building Blocks approach to public safety. Right now, the immediate services we need the city to provide to the Ward 4 community include:

- **Mental and behavioral health services, including trauma-informed healing and care.** Department of Behavioral Health and community-based mental health care partners are needed for day-to-day outreach in the community with intensive foci on individuals struggling with mental illness, substance abuse, and addiction. Specifically, we urgently need more street teams working with individuals along Kennedy Street, at Georgia and Rittenhouse, and around 14th and Spring Road. Further, the family and friends of gun violence victims deserve additional trauma, grief, and restorative justice supports *and* the neighbors and larger community impacted by gun violence also need sustained trauma-informed mental health care services to heal, rebuild safety and trust, and prevent further trauma spread.
- **More resources for crew intervention and investigation task forces.** We know many shootings are related to crew activity; we need more credible messengers, violence interrupters, and professional counselors focused on disrupting and deescalating conflicts before they become lethal. We also need conflict resolution skills-building programs and anti-gang education to be happening in schools, through recreation spaces, with faith communities, and in other spaces where we can reach youth and young adults to provide positive alternatives to violence.
- **Increase staffing for the existing violence interruption program on Kennedy Street.** Our current Ward 4 team is doing important work building trusting relationships and proactively intervening where and how they should. Their necessary but difficult work could be even more impactful with additional staffing and resources. As more resources become available in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget this October, please prioritize expanding

their contract as a part of the violence intervention budget enhancements. Ward 4 would also benefit from new violence intervention teams operating around Kansas Avenue and Delafield Place (the 300-800 blocks of Delafield) and separately along Crittenden Street near Sherman Circle (the 600-800 blocks of Crittenden), as well as in other neighborhoods impacted by gun violence.

- **Job opportunities and career coaching.** We need DOES's job search and career training programs, Project Empowerment, Pathways, and other employment services physically out in our communities on a weekly basis actively connecting people with meaningful employment and continuing education opportunities.
- **Direct assistance for Ward 4 seniors and other homeowners requesting security cameras.** Our seniors are on fixed incomes and many lack the technological skills to apply for the camera voucher or rebate programs. Many seniors have requested a return to the camera program operations that installed security cameras for free. If that change cannot happen, then the camera rebate program should be providing direct proactive outreach and one-on-one assistance to local seniors to ensure they can apply for and install cameras in ways that are more accessible.
- **Property management and community cleaning resources.** The Kennedy Street area is riddled with vacant buildings, blighted properties, abandoned vehicles, overgrown landscapes, damaged public property and other general maintenance needs that are exacerbating public safety concerns. These issues have been reported by community members and ANC Commissioners on several occasions but largely remain unaddressed. Please help address community safety concerns by ensuring timely and accurate resolutions for these issues along Kennedy Street and take more proactive steps to remedy these matters across the whole Ward.

These requests reflect the calls and needs of countless Ward 4 residents who have contacted me this year and, more recently, of our local Ward 4 ANC commissioners and neighborhood association leaders who attended a public safety briefing my office convened last week with Deputy Mayor Geldart, MPD representatives, ONSE Director McFadden, and Building Blocks Director Harlee Harper. I want to thank members of your administration for making time to attend this community leader forum. This was helpful and clarifying conversation for many of us. But now it is time to turn words into action. And that starts with urgently increasing our city services on and around Kennedy Street.

Now is the time to act to make transformative investments to improve public safety and prevent the escalation of gun violence. And I look forward to working with you further to ensure Kennedy Street is included in the Building Blocks initiative.

In Service,

Janese Lewis George
Councilmember, Ward 4



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

September 15, 2021

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mayor Bowser:

We write as At-Large members of the DC Council to echo the demands of our Ward 4 colleague, Councilmember Lewis George, and request that you take urgent action to bring Building Blocks resources and interventions to the Kennedy Street community. The tragic shootings from the past two weeks underline the imperative to bring the full force of coordinated city services to curb deadly violence.

Over the past three years, the Kennedy Street NW corridor and its two adjacent streets, Jefferson Street and Longfellow Street, have experienced at least 37 recorded incidents of gun violence that have claimed the lives of many of our neighbors, left others injured, and traumatized the broader community. Earlier this month, the Kennedy Street area became the site of the worst mass shooting in DC in recent memory – three residents were killed, and three others were injured. Before their families could bury their loved ones, another shooting on Kennedy Street this past weekend claimed yet another resident. Any degree of gun violence in our communities is unacceptable, but the concentration of shootings in this particular neighborhood speaks to the need for greater intervention.

The specific challenges on Kennedy Street would benefit from Building Blocks' whole-of-government, coordinated public health approach. These challenges include neighborhood conflict and retaliation; substance abuse and mental health issues; at-risk people in need of transitional employment and mentorship; blighted and vacant properties; use of abandoned vehicles to conceal illegal activity; and shuttered businesses. Building Blocks would leverage and coordinate existing resources on Kennedy Street, such as the Office of Neighborhood Safety and Engagement violence interruption team and help address longstanding issues previously neglected by the agencies responsible.

We appreciate the inherent challenge in prioritizing Building Blocks resources. However, the conditions on Kennedy Street clearly necessitate this intervention. The DC Council has injected additional funding into programs that address the root causes of gun violence in order to expand Building Blocks' capacity to serve our communities. DC's signature gun violence prevention program must be adaptive to the changing conditions in our city and meet critical needs as they emerge. We must act with urgency and focus to prevent further gun violence and loss of life on Kennedy Street.

We appreciate your consideration of this request and ask for a written response by Monday, September 20th. Thank you for your partnership in building safer communities and for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr., At-Large

Chairman Phil Mendelson

Councilmember Anita Bonds, At-Large

Councilmember Elissa Silverman, At-Large

Councilmember Christina Henderson, At-Large

CC: Councilmember Janese Lewis George,
Ward 4

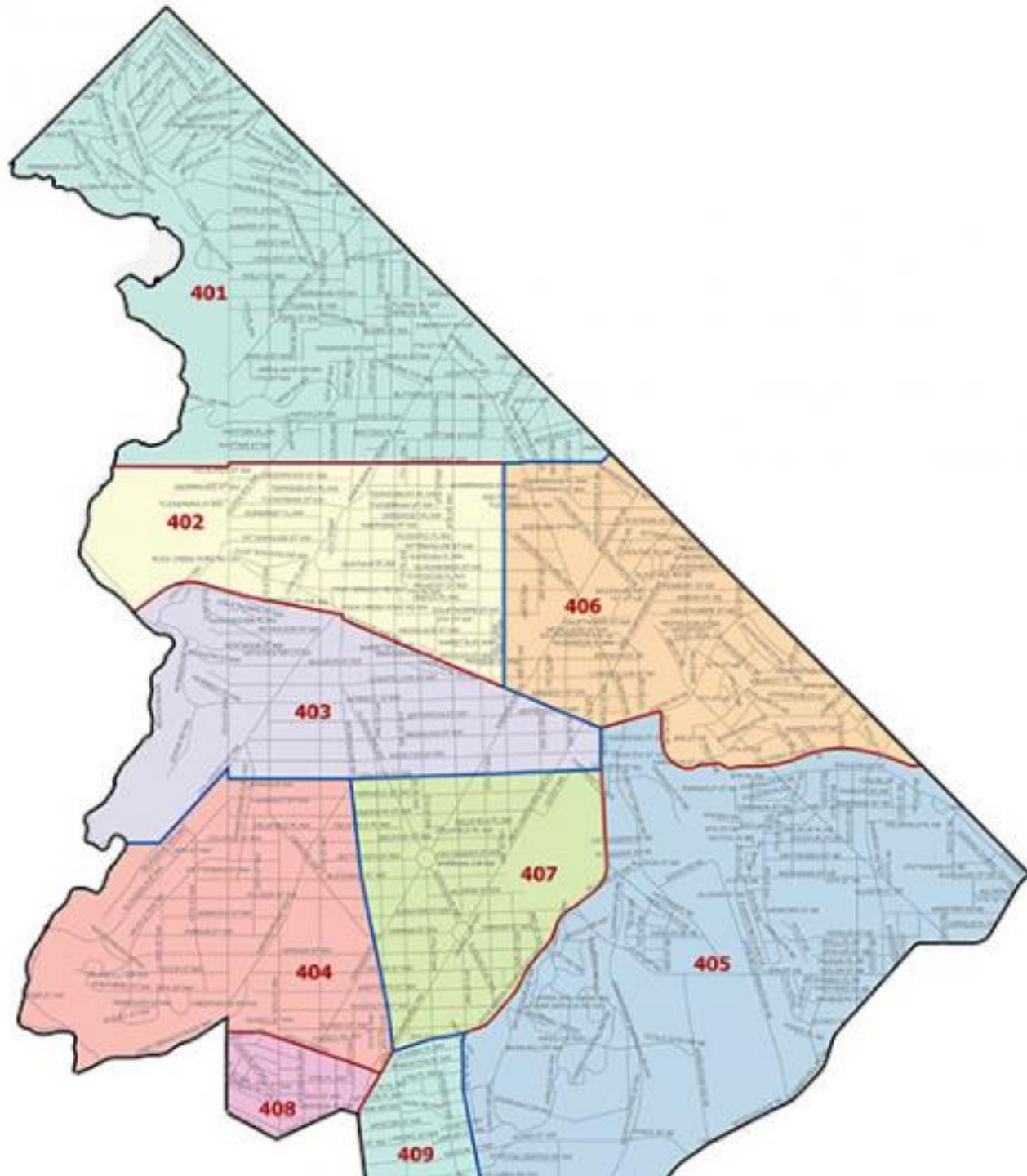
6/29/2022



WARD 4 FOURTH DISTRICT CCTV CAMERA LOCATIONS:

- 14th Street, NW and Quincy Street, NW
- 14th Street, NW and Monroe Street, NW
- 1st Street, NW and Kennedy Street, NW
- 4th Street, NW and Shepherd Street, NW
- 521 Oglethorpe Street, NE (Rear of Unit)
- 5th Street, NW and Kennedy Street, NW
- 6th Street, NE and Oglethorpe Street, NE
- 6th Street, NW and Newton Place, NW
- 7th Street, NW and Kennedy Street, NW
- 7th Street, NW and Longfellow Street, NW
- 8th Street, NW and Jefferson Street, NW
- 9th St and Kennedy Street, NW
- Colorado Avenue, NW and Kennedy Street, NW
- Georgia Avenue, NW and New Hampshire Avenue, NW
- Georgia Avenue, NW and Randolph Street, NW





4TH DISTRICT PSA MAP