

August 15th, 2025



Ward 4 Town Hall

Discussing Recent Federal Actions Impacting DC

We'll get started shortly.

Understanding DC Home Rule

02

WHAT IS THE HOME RULE ACT?

- Since 1973, DC residents elect their own mayor and city council (before that, city was run by three presidentially-appointed commissioners)
- DC controls its own budget, local laws, police, schools, and city services
- Federal government retains oversight on certain matters through Congress

WHY CAN'T TRUMP SIMPLY TAKE OVER DC?

- Trump is using Section 740 of the Home Rule Act, which allows the President to use “such services of the Metropolitan Police force as the President may deem necessary and appropriate.”
- Trump cannot simply take over the District and oust its home-rule elected leadership. He would have to work with Congress

WHAT WOULD IT TAKE TO END HOME RULE?

- Any permanent changes require Congressional action
- House passage plus 60 Senate votes (including at least 7 Democratic votes)
- Current legislation to repeal Home Rule has only 3 Senate co-sponsors and 6 House co-sponsors
- Would face significant political opposition



DC's Public Safety Record

What we've done since the pandemic:

- **Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act**
- **Peace DC Omnibus Amendment Act**

What we've seen:

- **52% drop in violent crime over the last two years**
- **DC now experiencing some of the lowest crime rates we have seen in 30 years**

Any instance of crime is unacceptable, and too many neighbors continue to feel unsafe.

We need to combat crime on the local level while protecting our community from dangerous federal intervention.

Offense	2024	2025	Percent Change
Homicide	113	101	-11%
Sex Abuse	111	55	-50%
Assault w/ a Dangerous Weapon	637	536	-20%
Robbery	1,266	901	-29%
Violent Crime - Total	2,163	1,595	-26%
Burglary	553	447	-19%
Motor Vehicle Theft	2,952	2,933	-1%
Theft from Auto	3,908	3,793	-3%
Theft (Other)	7,557	7,149	-6%
Arson	3	4	33%
Property Crime - Total	14,973	14,326	-4%
All Crime - Total	17,136	15,921	-7%

Source: Metropolitan Police Department

What Monday's executive order can do:

- Request MPD services for federal purposes (protecting federal buildings, monuments)
- Home Rule Act allows president to "assume temporary control over the city's police department in an emergency"
- Limited to 30 days maximum under existing law
- Extensions require Congressional approval

What it can't do:

- Your elected Mayor and City Council remain in office
- DC's budget and local spending decisions
- Local laws and ordinances
- Schools and education policy
- Juvenile justice system and family court
- Housing policy and rent control
- Local business licenses and regulations
- Parks and recreation services
- Social services and public health programs
- Chief Pamela Smith and Mayor Bowser remain in charge of MPD operations
- City has stated MPD will accompany any federal agents in operations

DC Attorney General Lawsuit

05

- Last night, AG Pam Bondi issued an order placing DEA Administrator Cole in charge of MPD, replacing Chief Smith.
- This morning, our Attorney General filed a complaint against the federal government to defend Home Rule, asking that the United States District Court for the District of Columbia declare that the federal government's actions are illegal, block the US Attorney General's order, and ensure that control of MPD remains with the people of DC.
- This afternoon, the Attorney General reported that they expect to receive language from the Department of Justice tonight removing provisions asserting a "takeover" of DC.
- Chief Smith will stay in charge and there will be an effort to negotiation on other provisions. If no agreement is reached this weekend, they will be back in Court next week.
- The AG has said that he will not agree to anything that goes against provision in our Sanctuary Values Act.

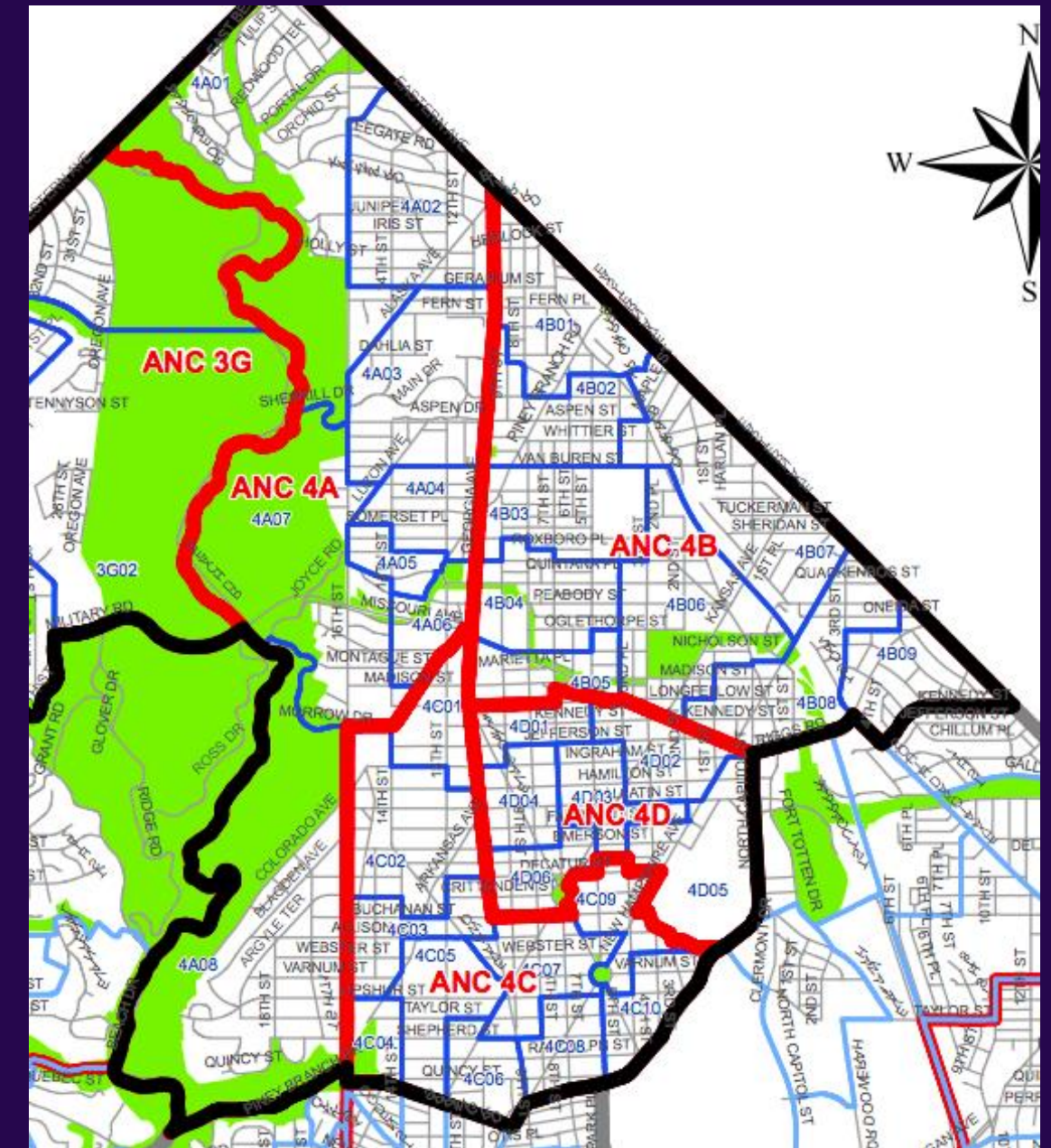


Federal Land in Ward 4

05

Areas where the federal government holds full jurisdiction:

- **Rock Creek Park**
- **Fort Stevens**
- **Fort Slocum Park**
- **Sherman Circle Park**
- **Grant Circle Park**
- **Piney Branch Park**
- **Battleground National Cemetery**



Protecting Our Immigrant Neighbors

06

WHAT WE KNOW:

- On Thursday, Chief Smith released an order allowing MPD to assist federal immigration enforcement agencies by sharing information about people not in MPD custody (i.e. at a traffic stop)
- The order prohibits people in MPD custody from being questioned by ICE or using any MPD database to inquire about a person's immigration status
- DC's Sanctuary Values Act (2020) limits the District's cooperation with federal immigration agencies.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid: dcmigrantmutualaid.org
- ICE Emergency Hotline: 202-335-1183
- More resources for immigrant neighbors: janeeseward4.com/immigration-resources



Protecting Our Unhoused Neighbors

07

WHAT WE KNOW:

- Trump has announced his intentions to clear encampments of unhoused residents throughout the District
- DHS has expanded availability of storage and shelter space
- However, the Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless has stated that DC does not have enough shelter beds for every person in DC who is currently unhoused.

IMPORTANT RESOURCES:

- Shelter Hotline: (202) 399-7093
- Contact Virginia Williams Family Resource Center at 64 New York Avenue NE
- For youth (ages 18-24), call the Runaway and Homeless Youth Hotline: (202) 547-7777
- Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless: 202-328-5500
- add what the policy is with unhoused residents - what trump's efforts are

Navigating Law Enforcement Interactions

IF YOU INTERACT WITH ICE AGENTS AT WORK

1. Ask if you are free to leave. If so, you may calmly walk out.
2. You have the right to refuse consent to a search.
3. You have the right to remain silent. You do not have to discuss your immigration status with anyone, such as about where you were born, whether you are a citizen, or how you entered the country.
4. If you have valid immigration documents, you should show them. Never provide fake documents.
5. If you are arrested, say that you wish to remain silent until speaking with a lawyer.
6. You have the right to record your interaction with immigration agents as long as you do not interfere.

KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS

ACLU

IF ICE AGENTS SHOW UP AT YOUR DOOR

1. You do not have to open the door. If you do, stay calm—you have rights.
2. Ask what they are there for (and ask for an interpreter if you need one).
3. If they ask to enter, ask if they have a warrant signed by a judge and if so, ask to see it (through a window or slipped under the door).
4. If they do not have a warrant **signed by a judge**, you may refuse to let them in. Ask them to leave any information at your door.
5. If they force their way in, do not resist. Tell everyone in the residence to remain silent.
6. If you are arrested, you have the right to remain silent. Do not sign anything until you speak with a lawyer.

KNOW
YOUR
RIGHTS

ACLU

Know your rights *if*
stopped by **police in D.C.**

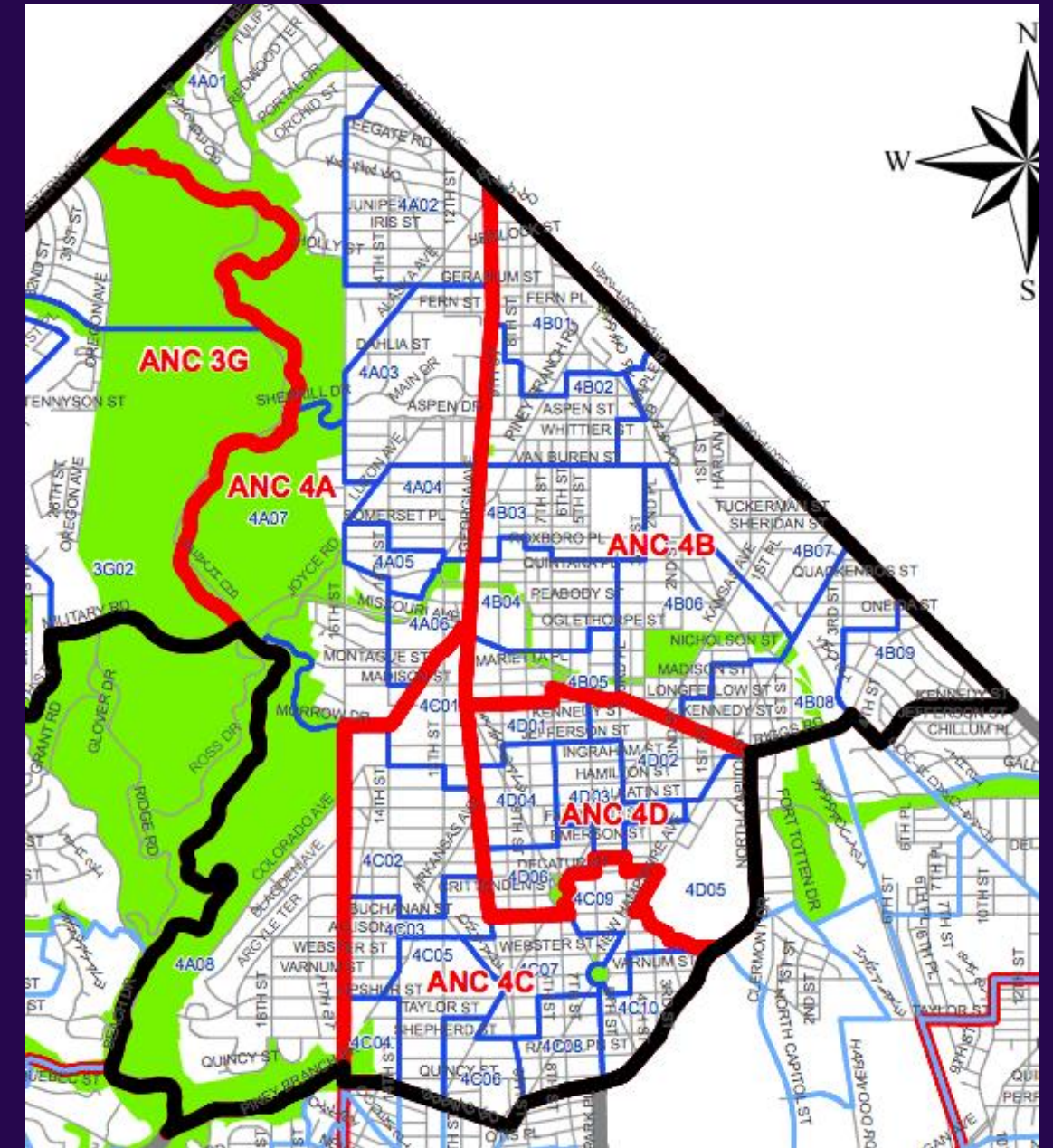
- You have the right to remain silent—verbally invoke this right.
- Ask: “**Am I free to leave?**” and “**Am I under arrest?**”
- You can **refuse a search** of yourself or your belongings if there is no judicial warrant.
- If stopped by D.C. police, you have the **right to an attorney**. If stopped by ICE, you have the right to consult with an attorney and can request a list of free or low-cost legal help.
- It can be dangerous for people to argue about police misconduct in the street, especially for Black and brown people. **Keep yourself safe** and file a complaint later.

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Stay Safe and Look Out for One Another

- Travel with others when possible, especially on federal land
- Share your location with close family and friends
- Carry ID when away from home
- Know where your children are, particularly before and after school
- Be aware of drug or alcohol use, especially in public spaces
- Be mindful when using public transportation
- Be joyful, but be cautious
- Don't put yourself in a position of danger

Don't give agents an excuse or a photo op.



Organizing in DC

1. Free DC

- Who they are: Movement of District residents organizing for dignity and self-determination.
- Next orientation: Wednesday, August 20th at 12pm. RSVP at freedcproject.org

2. Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid

- Who they are: Network of community organizations and volunteers supporting migrants in DC, anchored by Peace House DC, Beloved Community Incubator, East of the River Mutual Aid, and Sanctuary DMV.
- Learn more: dcmigrantmutualaid.org

3. Metro DC DSA

- Who they are: Local chapter of DSA organizing for justice in labor, housing, the environment, and immigration.
- Learn more: mdcdsa.org
- Next event: Be Prepared, Not Scared – Undocumented Workers Rights Training on Tuesday, August 19th at 6:30pm



None of us want to be in this moment in our history, but this is position we are in. Be smart and look out for one another.

How to get in contact with our office:

- **Main office line: (202) 724-8052**
- **Email: teamjaneese@dccouncil.gov**
- **Website: www.janeeseward4.com**

Questions?