



December 10, 2024

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Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Ward 2, DC Council
Chair, DC Council Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 106
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OFFICERS

Chairperson
Edward Ryder

The Honorable Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Suite 406
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Vice Chair
Vince Mareino

Secretary
David Sobelsohn

DELIVERED VIA EMAIL: bpinto@dccouncil.gov; muriel.bowser@dc.gov

Treasurer
Frank Avery

Re: ANC 6B Support for the Vocational Education for a New Generation Act of 2024 and Youth Mentorship Through Community Engagement Act of 2024

At a properly noticed general meeting on December 10, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted unanimously, based on the unanimous recommendation of its Public Safety Committee, to submit the following request.

Parliamentarian
VACANT

COMMISSIONERS

Dear Councilmember Pinto, Mayor Bowser, and Members of the DC Council:

- SMD 01 Frank Avery
- SMD 02 Jerry Sroufe
- SMD 03 David Sobelsohn
- SMD 04 Frank D’Andrea
- SMD 05 VACANT
- SMD 06 Chander Jayaraman
- SMD 07 Vince Mareino
- SMD 08 Edward Ryder
- SMD 09 Matt LaFortune

On behalf of the residents of Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B, ANC 6B expresses its enthusiastic support for *the Vocational Education for a New Generation Act* and *Youth Mentorship Through Community Engagement Act of 2024*, sponsored by Councilmember Robert White.

Between 2016 and 2022, Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers made an average of 2,235 annual juvenile arrests for individuals under the age of 18, according to the [D.C. Policy Center](#). Concurrently, the DC Department of Youth Rehabilitative Services (DYRS) reports that the average youth entering its system has few, if any, high school credits and typically tests at fourth- or fifth-grade levels in reading and math proficiency. Most of these youth have experienced multiple failures in school, creating a cycle of disadvantage that negatively impacts both public safety and youth development.

Generations Z and Alpha face a critical need for local legislative action to foster educational and vocational opportunities within our community. These generations deserve collective and proactive support to promote their advancement and well-being, rather than being met with fear and indifference stemming from crime concerns.

**Please note that the ANC 6B mailing address has changed as of January 2023*

On November 25, 2024, the ANC 6B Public Safety Committee hosted At-Large Councilmember Robert White -- as part of a series of elected presenters this past year -- to discuss the legislative landscape surrounding youth criminal activity and the availability of opportunities for DC youth to not only survive but thrive. During the meeting, Councilmember White provided an in-depth overview of the Safer Today, Safer Tomorrow legislative package aimed at preventing youth violence. He began by describing the feedback loop his team implemented through district-wide, face-to-face engagement with DC youth. This engagement highlighted a pressing need for mentorship and apprenticeship opportunities.

Councilmember White detailed how these insights informed the development of the proposed legislation, including the Vocational Education for a New Generation Act of 2024. This act seeks to expand career and technical education opportunities in vocations and trades for high school students. It mandates that any program receiving specified funding from the state superintendent must culminate in an industry-recognized certification, thereby enabling high school students to enter the job market upon graduation while extending similar opportunities to adult learners.

The Youth Mentorship Through Community Engagement Act of 2024 would pair youth who have faced adverse childhood experiences with a paid, professional mentor trained in crisis response – meeting at least three times a week. This bill would also establish community service leave for District government employees to be volunteer mentors.

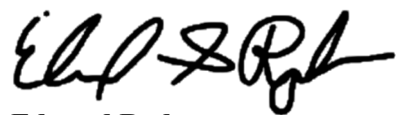
ANC 6B believes that all reasonable legislative measures aimed at addressing these systemic issues should be fully considered to ensure balanced, well-crafted policies that reflect diverse perspectives. The *Vocational Education for a New Generation Act* and *Youth Mentorship Through Community Engagement Act of 2024* present promising paths forward to address some of the critical challenges facing our community.

ANC 6B is in full support of these bills and urges you, Chair Pinto, to ensure that they are fully considered and deliberated on to ensure the community is receiving vetted, well-crafted legislation that draws on a wide variety of possible solutions.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding this request. Frank Avery, the 2024 Chair of the ANC 6B Public Safety Committee, can be contacted at 6B01@anc.dc.gov for further discussion or clarification.

We appreciate your attention to this urgent matter and look forward to working collaboratively to enhance public safety for all residents.

Sincerely,



Edward Ryder
2024 Chair, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 6B

CC:

Deputy Mayor of Judiciary and Public Safety Lindsey Appiah – Lindsey.Appiah@dc.gov

At-Large Councilmember Robert White, DC Council – rwhite@dccouncil.gov

Ward 6 Councilmember Charles Allen, DC Council – callen@dccouncil.gov



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