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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: More Than Two Dozen Organizations Unite to Release 2026 DC Public Safety Policy Agenda for DC's Next Mayor and Council

Thursday, April 9, Washington, D.C - Today, a group of more than two dozen organizations representing policing experts, former law enforcement, crime survivors, youth advocates, violence interrupters, public health experts, legal practitioners, and reentry providers gathered on the steps of the John A. Wilson Building to release the collaboratively-developed, community-informed [2026 DC Public Safety Policy Agenda](#) for the District's next mayor and DC Council.

"This is not a wish list," said Clinique Chapman, chief executive officer of DC Justice Lab. "The 2026 DC Public Safety Policy Agenda is a tool to educate, to inform, and to hold leaders accountable."

The agenda outlines 70 evidence-driven, community-rooted, racially just recommendations across policing, youth justice, behavioral health, reentry, and violence prevention, informed by organizations that work directly with the DC residents most impacted by public safety policies. Key policy priorities include recommendations across four priority areas:

1. Invest in Safe and Thriving Communities

Expand access to community-based supports that address the root causes of violence.

2. Protect and Support DC's Young People

Advance youth-centered approaches that prioritize care, stability, and opportunity over punitive responses.

3. Advance Community-Centered Safety

Scale community violence intervention programs and expand non-police responses to behavioral health crises.

4. Reduce Incarceration and Support Reentry

Address harmful jail conditions, reduce barriers to successful reentry, and limit policies that drive reincarceration for technical violations.

The release comes at a critical moment as DC faces ongoing federal interference in its local public safety decisions and as various policy and budget processes will impact how over [one billion dollars](#) in resources are spent to achieve safety goals in the District of Columbia.

With a new mayor set to take office next year and a new DC Council shaping the city's direction, this agenda provides a clear, community-driven framework to advance public safety policies that are effective, equitable, and grounded in evidence. The agenda has been shared with the public and directly with all candidates currently running for mayor ahead of the press conference.

The 2026 DC Public Safety Policy Agenda can be found on DC Justice Lab's website:
<https://dcjusticelab.org/publicsafetypolicyagenda/>

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ABOUT DC JUSTICE LAB

DC Justice Lab is a team of law and policy experts researching, organizing, and advocating for large-scale changes to the District of Columbia's criminal legal system. We develop smarter safety solutions that are evidence-driven, community-rooted, and racially just. We aim to fully transform the District's approach to public safety and make it a national leader in justice reform.