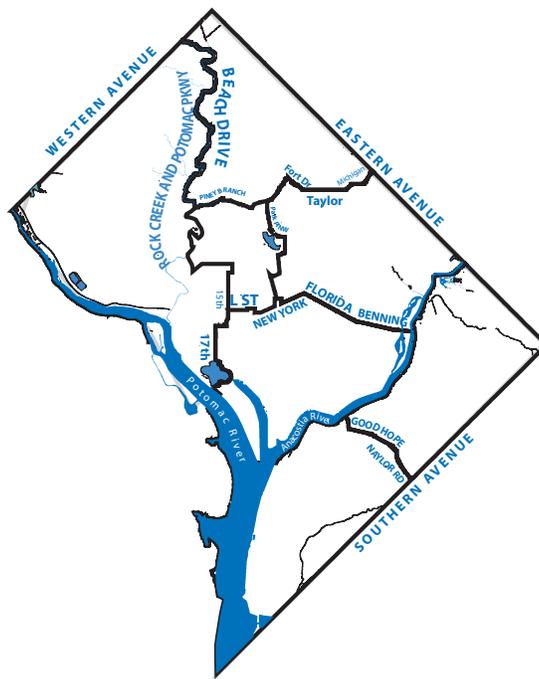


School Safety & Security: School Year 2009/2010

District of Columbia



Adrian M. Fenty
Mayor



Cathy L. Lanier
Chief of Police

December 2009

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL SECURITY & SAFETY PROGRAM

On the morning of February 2, 2004, a student fatally shot a fellow student in the hallway of Ballou Senior High School. This tragic event precipitated a review by the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) of school safety measures at DC Public Schools (DCPS). In the wake of this incident and subsequent review, the Council of the District of Columbia enacted the *School Safety and Security Procedures Act of 2004*, delegating the sole contracting authority for security services at DCPS facilities to MPD. After a statement of work for a new security contract was developed in the spring of 2004 and a contract awarded in June 2005, MPD assumed full responsibility for contractual school security at DCPS. In 2008, the Council amended this legislation further in the *School Safety and Security Contracting Amendment Act of 2008*, which requires MPD to develop and provide to the Council a plan “for **protecting children walking to and from school** and for **protecting children from gang and crew violence** on, in, and around DCPS property.” This report is provided to comply with this Act.

The three key partners who work together to provide a safe and secure environment at schools are DCPS, MPD, and the security agency providing contractual services. Each has its own responsibilities, resources and duties.

- **District of Columbia Public Schools:** DCPS has a School Security Division (DCPS-SSD), which operates under the leadership of the DCPS Director of Operations. DCPS-SSD coordinates with MPD on all safety and security matters, and coordinates information and policies with the principals and administrations leading the more than 120 DCPS schools. It also conducts internal investigations for DCPS and has a Gang Intelligence Unit.
- **Metropolitan Police Department:** MPD’s School Security Division, (MPD-SSD) under the leadership of the Assistant Chief of the Patrol Services and School Security Bureau, coordinates MPD resources related to school security. These resources include the deployment of School Resource Officers and contract security guards, and coordination of other divisions in the Department – such as the Patrol Districts and the Intelligence Division – with government agencies and community interests in the city. School Resource Officers are MPD police officers with specialized training designed to enhance their policing with youth and schools. In addition to their responsibilities as police officers, they also:
 - Coordinate conflict mediations and response to information about conflicts that do or may happen off school grounds;
 - Coordinate the Safe Passage Program to provide safe routes for youth to and from schools;
 - Visit and work with the schools that feed into their primary assigned school;
 - Provide more intensive support to at-risk youth, such as home visits to chronic truants; and
 - Support MPD management of the security contract at DCPS.
- **Contractual Security:** Under the school security contract, almost 300 contract security guards are deployed at over 120 sites every school day to promote order and protect DCPS students, employees, and property. With contractual security guards, deployment and even staffing levels can be rapidly changed to address emerging issues. Additional guard hours are provided at certain sites for before and after care programs, sports, and other activities at school facilities which may or may not involve students (i.e., community groups meeting in school facilities).

In addition, as noted elsewhere in this report, MPD partners with a number of other agencies to address safety issues for District youth around DCPS facilities and events.

CHANGES IN SCHOOL YEAR 2009/2010

In School Year (SY) 2008/2009, the closing and consolidation of 23 DCPS schools and the transfer of school crossing guards to the Department of Transportation (DDOT) led to considerable discussions on resource deployment to address school safety. To plan the deployment of all security resources, a joint MPD-DCPS team analyzed crime data at and near each school, student enrollment, and reported student behavior. As with all public safety deployments, this can be and is reviewed and adjusted whenever circumstances change to address emerging issues. The move of school crossing guards to DDOT has allowed a rational division of labor between MPD and DDOT, enabling each agency to better focus on its area of expertise. The school crossing guard plan developed by DDOT is attached.

Although there were fewer changes in facilities for SY2009/2010, there were different issues to address. This year, as the city found itself at the end of the security contract for government buildings and in the final year of the school security contract with Hawk One, Inc., the District chose to pursue a new acquisition strategy for security services. Competition for the services was increased by combining the two security contracts into one contracting vehicle and opening up the contract to more providers. The end result will be lower prices and high performance. The Invitation for Bid was issued by the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) in June, and the transition period for school security was planned for December 2009, with the full transition to be implemented by January 1, 2010. However, because of financial issues, at 4:00 p.m. on October 1, Hawk One notified the District that it would no longer be able to provide security services as of 5:00 p.m. that same day.

Although this was three months before the anticipated end of the Hawk One contract, OCP immediately issued emergency letter contracts to the two vendors who had been selected at the end of the contracting process conducted over the summer. The new security vendors – Securitas Security Services USA, Inc., and US Security Associates, Inc – worked throughout the weekend to ramp up operations, and security officers began returning to the schools by Monday, October 5. In the meantime, MPD and DCPS were able to quickly activate staffing contingency plans to ensure the safety of staff and students at DCPS during the ramp-up period. Schools were staffed by MPD officers and DCPS Special Police Officers, with additional support provided by the DRES Protective Service Division and the Department of Parks and Recreation’s Roving Leaders.

CONTINUING ISSUES

Gang & Crew Violence in Schools

The presence of criminal and often violent gangs in the District of Columbia remains of significant concern to Mayor Fenty, MPD, and the community. Gangs contribute both to tragic violence as well as other destabilizing crime, disorder, and intimidation in the city. In order to properly address gang issues, it is vital to understand them and use a common vocabulary. Although some gangs use the word “crew” in their name, MPD identifies as **a gang** any group that meets the definition of a **criminal street gang** under District law:

“(1) "Criminal street gang" means an association or group of 6 or more persons that:

(A) Has as a condition of membership or continued membership, the committing of or actively participating in committing a crime of violence, as defined by D.C. Official Code § 23-1331(4); or

(B) Has as one of its purposes or frequent activities, the violation of the criminal laws of the District, or the United States, except for acts of civil disobedience.” D.C. Official Code § 22-951(e).

For groups that do not meet the definition of a criminal street gang, MPD refers to them generically as **neighborhood crews**. Some of these groups may actually use the name of a gang, but may not be engaged in any criminal activity. Whether a group is a criminal street gang or a neighborhood crew, in the District most of these are neighborhood-based groups. As a result, gang members are enrolled in all high schools and most middle schools in the city. On a broad level, there is evidence of success in addressing gang violence in the District. In particular, early in 2009, Chief Lanier launched an innovative intelligence-led policing strategy to support homicide investigations and prevent retaliatory violence, some of which is associated with gang violence. Intelligence analysts immediately examine key factors in shootings (e.g., location, people, and weapons) to identify relevant trends. Information about potential groups – including gangs – or locations that might be involved in retaliatory violence is quickly disseminated. MPD and partner agencies can rapidly respond with a variety of tactics, such as enhancing visible police presence, increasing visits to high risk individuals under court supervision, and mediating conflicts. As the District looks to close out calendar year 2009 with potentially the lowest number of homicides in decades and significant reductions in assaults with a dangerous weapon, this targeted effort to address the retaliation that is often a signature of gang violence appears to be having a significant impact. The same approach to preventing retaliatory violence is employed in school policing.

While many juveniles are members of gangs and crews, and gang members attend most secondary schools in the District, it is important to note that the majority of the violence associated with gangs is committed by adults, and the overwhelming majority of youth are not involved in violent crime. In terms of gang violence in schools, in SY08/09 there were 40 serious crimes of violence involving students on school property – 20 robberies and 20 assaults with a dangerous weapon. A majority of the assaults were against teachers, and the next most common cause was conflict arising from other interpersonal relationships (i.e., domestic violence). That said, it is not always possible to identify an incident that may have gang-overtones. Although MPD investigates each incident fully to try to identify links to gang issues, this cannot be determined with absolute certainty. Moreover, violent crime is not the only negative impact of gangs. Gangs can also contribute to an environment of intimidation or bullying.

A strong resource to assist youth in addressing problems both in and out of the school is an MPD School Resource Officer. The SROs work with youth in the schools daily, developing a strong rapport with students and learning about their communities and concerns. Strong, positive relationships with adults are a benefit to youth in their own right, but these relationships also lead youth to share important information with SROs about developing “beefs” or feuds arising among neighborhood gangs and crews. Relevant information is then shared with the Intelligence Division, which works closely with other government agencies and community groups to identify youth in need so that they can work to provide services and mediate conflict. The Intelligence Division incorporates this data into the information it gathers from many other sources and uses it to help disrupt gang activity in the city. Additionally, SROs may hear information each morning about incidents that occurred outside of school the night or weekend before. In these instances, the SROs are able

to quickly identify the persons involved in the incident and then marshal resources and assistance to diffuse the incident and to support a peaceful learning environment. The Department works closely with the DCPS Gang Intervention Unit in these efforts to deter violence and to provide preventative support to youth.

TRAVEL TO & FROM SCHOOLS

While success in addressing violent incidents in schools is of critical importance, it is only part of the concern. Thus MPD's overall school safety strategy also addresses the violence and crime that youth in the District may encounter specifically while traveling to and from school. In addition to gang-related issues that may flare up when students leave the safety of school, students may also fall victim to the same types of crimes against persons that any individual may face. As such, MPD works both to reduce crimes of opportunity and to deter potential violence.

Through the Safe Passage program, MPD works with other agencies and resources to identify and support safe routes to and from major transportation points (e.g., Metro train and bus stops) after school dismissal. Both the SROs and the police district personnel coordinate with Metro Transit Authority Police, as well as other resources, to optimize safety and security in these areas. MPD patrol officers on foot or bike beats – members of MPD's Operation Full Stride – are deployed to these routes to support Safe Passages. Depending on the specifics of the school, other resources may include school crossing guards, the Department of Parks and Recreation's Roving Leaders, and private businesses along the route. These stakeholders ensure students are able to travel in certain areas safely and without incident. Deployment and action plans to address hot issues are checked through daily conference calls with MPD, DCPS, Metro Transit, Roving Leaders, and contract security. Information is shared about incidents that may affect student safety at dismissal time, and additional resources are deployed if necessary.

Lastly, it is important to recognize that youth can also be victimized by violence as a result of bullying or other destructive relationships. For instance, domestic violence is not limited to just the individuals in relationships; it can also involve real or potential rivals, friends, or family members of youth in relationships. Thus the support and programs offered by MPD do not just focus on gang conflict and violent crime. Mediation services are available for any interpersonal conflict. The SROs also receive training on issues related to youth dating violence (as well as working with youth who may witness domestic violence in the home). In addition, DCPS, the Mayor's Office of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, MPD, and others have collaborated to develop an improved centralized response to bullying and harassment in schools. This system includes posters and flyers that provide students with specific information on whom to contact in their school to report being bullied or harassed and a phone number to call if they are not comfortable reaching out to the school staff.

In addition to the measures outlined above, DDOT's School Crossing Guard program also plays a major role in ensuring students are safe as they travel to and from school. The attached School Crossing Guard Manual outlines specifics with regard to qualifications, standard operating procedures, training, and deployment locations.

All of the efforts described in this report support a safe school environment, Safe Passages, and a safer community for all.

SY 2009/2010 DEPLOYMENT OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS & SECURITY GUARDS

School	TYPE	ADDRESS	# SROs	# Contract Guards
Brightwood Education Center	EC	1300 NICHOLSON ST NW	0	1
Brookland Education Center at Bunker Hill	EC	1401 MICHIGAN AVE NE	0	1
Francis-Stevens Education Center	EC	2425 N ST NW	0	4
LaSalle-Backus Educational Center	EC	501 RIGGS RD NE	1	4
Powell Education Center	EC	1350 UPSHUR ST NW	0	2
Raymond Education Center	EC	915 SPRING RD NW	0	1
Reed Learning Center	EC	2200 CHAMPLAIN ST NW	0	2
Takoma Educational Center	EC	7010 PINEY BRANCH RD NW	0	2
Truesdell Education Center	EC	800 INGRAHAM ST NW	0	1
Walker-Jones / R.H. Terrell Educational Center	EC	100 L ST NW	1	4
Webb/Wheatley Elementary School	EC	1299 NEAL ST NE	1	3
West Education Center	EC	1338 FARRAGUT ST NW	0	1
Winston Educational Center	EC	3100 ERIE ST SE	2	4
Youth Services Center	EC	1000 MOUNT OLIVET RD NE	0	0
	EC Total		5	30
Aiton Elementary School	ES	533 48TH PL NE	0	1
Amidon-Bowen Elementary School	ES	401 I ST SW	0	1
Bancroft Elementary School	ES	1755 NEWTON ST NW	0	1
Barnard Elementary School	ES	430 DECATUR ST NW	0	1
Beers Elementary School	ES	3600 ALABAMA AVE SE	0	1
Brent Elementary School	ES	301 NORTH CAROLINA AVE SE	0	1
Bruce-Monroe Elementary School @ Park View	ES	3560 WARDER ST NW	0	1
Burroughs Elementary School	ES	1820 MONROE ST NE	0	2
Burrville Elementary School	ES	801 DIVISION AVE NE	0	2
C.W. Harris Elementary School	ES	301 53RD ST SE	0	1
Capitol Hill Cluster-Peabody and School-within-School	ES	425 C ST NE	0	1
Capitol Hill Cluster-Watkins Elementary School	ES	420 12TH ST SE	0	1
Cleveland Elementary School	ES	1825 8TH ST NW	0	1
Davis Elementary School	ES	4430 H ST SE	0	1
Drew Elementary School	ES	5600 EADS ST NE	0	2
Eaton Elementary School	ES	3301 LOWELL ST NW	0	1
Emery Elementary School	ES	1720 1ST ST NE	0	1
Ferebee-Hope Elementary School	ES	3999 8TH ST SE	0	2
Fillmore Arts Center East	ES	915 SPRING RD NW, 3RD FLOOR	0	1
Fillmore Arts Center West	ES	1819 35TH ST NW	0	1
Garfield Elementary School	ES	2435 ALABAMA AVE SE	0	1
Garrison Elementary School	ES	1200 S ST NW	0	1
H.D. Cooke Elementary School @ K.C. Lewis	ES	300 BRYANT ST NW	0	1
Hearst Elementary School	ES	3950 37TH ST NW	0	1
Hendley Elementary School	ES	425 CHESAPEAKE ST SE	0	1
Houston Elementary School	ES	1100 50TH PL NE	0	1
Hyde Elementary School	ES	3219 O ST NW	0	1
J.O. Wilson Elementary School	ES	660 K ST NE	0	1
Janney Elementary School	ES	4130 ALBEMARLE ST NW	0	1
Kenilworth Elementary School	ES	1300 44TH ST NE	0	1
Ketcham Elementary School	ES	1919 15TH ST SE	0	1
Key Elementary School	ES	5001 DANA PL NW	0	1
Kimball Elementary School	ES	3375 MINNESOTA AVE SE	0	1
King Elementary School	ES	3200 6TH ST SE	0	2
Lafayette Elementary School	ES	5701 BRD BRANCH RD NW	0	1
Langdon Elementary School	ES	1900 EVARTS ST NE	0	1
Leckie Elementary School	ES	4201 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SW	0	1
Ludlow-Taylor Elementary School	ES	659 G ST NE	0	1
M.C. Terrell/McGogney Elementary School	ES	3301 WHEELER RD SE	0	2
Malcolm X Elementary School	ES	1351 ALABAMA AVE SE	0	1
Mann Elementary School	ES	4430 NEWARK ST NW	0	1
Marshall Elementary School	ES	3100 FORT LINCOLN DRIVE NE	0	2
Maury Elementary School	ES	1250 CONSTITUTION AVE NE	0	1

School	TYPE	ADDRESS	# SROs	Contract # Guards
Miner Elementary School	ES	601 15TH ST NE	0	1
Montgomery Elementary School	ES	421 P ST NW	0	1
Moten @ Wilkinson Elementary School	ES	2330 POMEROY RD SE	0	3
Murch Elementary School	ES	4810 36TH ST NW	0	2
Nalle Elementary School	ES	219 50TH ST SE	0	1
Noyes Elementary School	ES	2725 10TH ST NE	0	1
Orr Elementary School	ES	2200 MINNESOTA AVE SE	0	1
Oyster @ Oyster & Oyster @ Adams	ES	2020 19th ST NW	0	3
Patterson Elementary School	ES	4399 SOUTH CAPITOL TERRACE SW	0	2
Payne Elementary School	ES	305 15TH ST SE	0	1
Plummer Elementary School	ES	4601 TEXAS AVE SE	0	1
Randle Highlands Elementary School	ES	1650 30TH ST SE	0	1
River Terrace Elementary School	ES	420 34TH ST NE	0	1
Ross Elementary School	ES	1730 R ST NW	0	1
Savoy Elementary School @ Birney	ES	2501 MARTIN LUTHER KING JR AVE SE	0	2
Seaton Elementary School	ES	1503 10TH ST NW	0	1
Shaed Elementary School	ES	301 DOUGLAS ST NE	0	1
Shepherd Elementary School	ES	7800 14TH ST NW	0	1
Simon Elementary School	ES	401 MISSISSIPPI AVE SE	0	1
Smothers Elementary School	ES	4400 BROOKS ST NE	0	1
Stanton Elementary School	ES	2701 NAYLOR RD SE	0	2
Stoddert Elementary School	ES	4001 CALVERT ST NW	0	1
Thomas Elementary School	ES	650 ANACOSTIA AVE NE	0	1
Thomson Elementary School	ES	1200 L ST NW	0	2
Tubman Elementary School	ES	3101 13TH ST NW	0	1
Turner at Green Elementary School	ES	1500 MISSISSIPPI AVE SE	0	1
Tyler Elementary School	ES	1001 G ST SE	0	1
Whittier Elementary School	ES	6201 5TH ST NW	0	1
	ES Total		0	87
Browne Education Center	MS	850 26TH ST NE	2	4
Capitol Hill Cluster-Stuart-Hobson Middle School	MS	410 E ST NE	1	2
Deal Middle School	MS	3815 FORT DRIVE NW	1	4
Eliot-Hine Middle School	MS	1830 CONSTITUTION AVE NE	1	5
Hardy Middle School	MS	1819 35TH ST NW	0	2
Hart Middle School	MS	601 MISSISSIPPI AVE SE	3	5
Jefferson Middle School	MS	801 7TH ST SW	2	3
Johnson Middle School	MS	1400 BRUCE PL SE	2	4
Kelly Miller Middle School	MS	301 49TH ST NE	2	4
Kramer Middle School	MS	1700 Q ST SE	2	3
MacFarland Middle School	MS	4400 IOWA AVE NW	2	2
Ronald H. Brown Middle School	MS	4800 MEADE ST NE	2	4
Shaw at Garnet-Patterson MS	MS	2001 10TH ST NW	2	4
Sousa Middle School	MS	3650 ELY PL SE	1	4
	MS Total		23	50
CHOICE Academy Middle School/SHS (@ Hamilton)	Other	1401 BRENTWOOD PKWY NE	1	0
Hamilton Center	Other	1401 BRENTWOOD PKWY NE	1	4
Incarcerated Youth Program, Correctional Detention Facility	Other	1901 D ST SE	0	0
Jackie Robinson Center	Other	821 HOWARD RD SE	0	1
Mamie D. Lee School	Other	100 GALLATIN ST NE	0	1
Prospect Learning Center	Other	920 F ST NE	0	1
Sharpe Health School	Other	4300 13TH ST NW	0	1
Transition Academy at Shadd	Other	5601 EAST CAPITOL ST SE	2	7
Youth Engagement Academy (@ Eliot/Hines)	Other	1830 CONSTITUTION AVE NE	1	0
	Other Total		5	15
Anacostia Senior High School	SHS	1601 16TH ST SE	5	8
Ballou STAY / Senior High School	SHS	3401 4TH ST SE	7	14
Banneker Senior High School	SHS	800 EUCLID ST NW	1	2
Cardozo Senior High School	SHS	1200 CLIFTON ST NW	5	7
Columbia Heights Education Campus (Bell HS/Lincoln MS)	SHS	3101 16TH ST NW	5	8
Coolidge Senior High School	SHS	6315 5TH ST NW	5	7
Dunbar Senior High School	SHS	1301 NEW JERSEY AVE NW	5	10

School	TYPE	ADDRESS	# SROs	Contract # Guards
Eastern Senior High School	SHS	1700 EAST CAPITOL ST	3	5
Ellington School of the Arts Senior High School	SHS	3500 R ST NW	1	3
H.D. Woodson at Fletcher-Johnson	SHS	4650 BENNING RD SE	4	6
Luke C. Moore Academy Senior High School	SHS	1001 MONROE ST NE	2	4
McKinley Technology High School	SHS	151 T ST NE	2	6
Phelps Architecture, Construction, and Engineering High School	SHS	704 26TH ST NE	1	4
Roosevelt Senior High School / STAY	SHS	4301 13TH ST NW	5	7
School Without Walls Senior High School	SHS	2130 G ST NW	1	2
Spingarn Senior High School / STAY	SHS	2500 BENNING RD NE	6	11
Woodrow Wilson Senior High School	SHS	3950 CHESAPEAKE ST NW	4	6
	SHS Total		62	110
	Grand Total		95	292

Please note that this is a snapshot only, and deployment of officers and guards is subject to change to match resources with need.