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**May 9, 2016**

**John A Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Suite 506  
(202) 724-8028**

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## **The Ward 5 Report**

Dear Resident,

April was an extremely busy month for the Council. I thank you for engaging with my office and for testifying regarding the Fiscal Year 2017 (FY 2017) budget. Your voice as an advocate for Ward 5 priorities is critical. The FY 2017 budget is significant, particularly, as the District celebrates the budget autonomy ruling allowing the District to spend its own locally raised dollars without congressional appropriation. This is a major victory for the District and builds momentum toward our continued fight for full congressional voting representation and statehood.

On April 22, we celebrated Earth Day and all throughout the weekend, many residents rolled up their sleeves to beautify their neighborhoods. I applaud the residents that came together and those that organized each successful event. Let's all keep the momentum going and commit to keeping Ward 5 clean for all of the future generations to come.

In Service,

Kenyan

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## **Legislative & Committee Updates**

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### **McDuffie Recognizes National Reentry Week**



On Tuesday, April 19, Councilmember McDuffie presented a ceremonial resolution recognizing April 24-April 30 as “[National Reentry Week](#).” It is estimated that more than 8,000 individuals return each year to the District from various prison populations. Returning citizens remain one of the District’s most vulnerable populations. Often they need guidance and assistance navigating toward valuable resources that will allow them to get back on their feet and live productive and fulfilling lives.

It is important that as a community, we support our returning citizens and ensure that we are preparing them for success outside of confinement. We applaud the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for designating April 24-30 as National Reentry Week and for coordinating reentry events to raise awareness.

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## **Committee on the Judiciary Approves Bill to Protect Seniors and Vulnerable Residents**

On Thursday, April 21, the Committee on the Judiciary voted out of Committee, Bill 21-0326, the “Financial Exploitation of Vulnerable Adults and the Elderly Amendment Act of 2016,” affectionately known as the “Hilda Mason Act.” This bill aims to protect senior citizens in the District from financial exploitation, hold accountable those who take advantage of them, and allow the Attorney General and U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia to take quick, decisive steps to move forward with a civil or criminal action against the perpetrator.

Financial abuse of vulnerable populations, including our seniors, has been identified as a growing

problem throughout the country. The Bureau of Justice Statistics found that nationally, 2.6 million people over the age of 65 had their identities stolen, 1.7 million had their credit cards misused, 800,00 had their bank accounts misused, and 200,000 had accounts opened in their names. A survey by the District of Columbia's Collaborative Training and Response for Older Victims found that 14 percent of those surveyed reported financial abuse at the hands of family members. Thirty-five states have enacted statutes criminalizing the financial exploitation of elderly or incapacitated persons. At least nine states have enacted laws defining undue influence in their criminal codes. The District of Columbia is not among either of these groups.

Additionally, anyone who resorts to using "undue influence" can be penalized under the legislation. Undue influence is described as someone who uses mental, emotional, or physical coercion that adversely affects the free will or judgment of a vulnerable adult or elderly person and causes them to act in a manner that is inconsistent with his or her financial, emotional, mental, or physical well-being.

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## **McDuffie Introduces Bill to 'Ban the Box' for Housing**

On Tuesday, April 19, Councilmember McDuffie introduced the "[Fair Criminal Record Screening for Housing Act of 2016](#)."

The [Fair Criminal Record Screening for Housing Act of 2016](#) is much like the "Ban the Box" legislation. The bill prohibits a housing provider's inquiry into personal and private information. More specifically, this bill will assist in the successful reintegration of our returning citizens into the community by removing barriers to securing adequate housing.

Accordingly, under the bill, a housing provider would be prohibited from considering an applicant's arrest record during the application process and would restrict a housing provider's inquiry into an applicant's prior convictions until after a conditional offer of housing.

Finding and securing adequate housing is one of the most difficult challenges faced by formerly incarcerated people and homelessness within this population is prevalent. One-tenth of individuals entering prisons have recently been homeless, and many of those returning citizens end up homeless as well.

With this legislation, a housing provider will be required to address a list of factors when taking into account certain portions of an applicant's criminal background. Certain exemptions are established within the bill to remain in accordance with already existing federal and District laws as well as to protect certain owner-occupied housing accommodations.

Also like Ban the Box, the bill establishes penalties and provides for a complaint process through the Office of Human Rights.

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## **Kenyan in the Community**

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## **Team McDuffie Participates in 5E Beautification Day**



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On Saturday, April 23, ANC 5E in collaboration with the Bloomingdale Civic Association hosted their annual Beautification Day. Despite the rain, neighbors still came out and planted during the day of service. Thank you to ANC 5E and the Bloomingdale Civic Association for your donations. We look forward to next year!

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## **McDuffie Holds Ward 5 Leadership Budget Meeting**



On Tuesday, April 19, 2016, McDuffie hosted his second Ward 5 Leadership Meeting at Trinity University. In preparation for the Council's vote on the Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, Councilmember McDuffie along with the Council's Budget Office, met with Ward 5 ANC Commissioners, Civic Association Presidents, and other community stakeholders to discuss the District's budget process and how it has changed because of the recent Budget Autonomy ruling. Additionally, leaders received additional information about how the current proposed budget intersects with Ward 5, and were given the opportunity to share their Ward 5 budget priorities.

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## **McDuffie's Ward 5 Professional Networking Mixer a Big Hit**



Back by popular demand, Councilmember McDuffie hosted his second Professionals Networking Mixer in Ward 5 at Smith Public Trust. Over 150 guests were in attendance. Stay tuned for the next Mixer and follow the buzz at #Ward5PNMixer.

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## Community Bulletin Board

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**JOIN COUNCILMEMBER KENYAN R. MCDUFFIE  
ANNUAL CAPITAL PRIDE PARADE**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Saturday, June 11, 2016**

**Please RSVP: [Ldougherty@dccouncil.us](mailto:Ldougherty@dccouncil.us) or (202) 724-8028**

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## MPD Announces Three Safe Zones

In an effort to combat robberies in the District, on Thursday, April 21, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) announced three designated Exchange Zones. These zones will serve as safe places for residents and visitors to exchange and complete transactions of online purchases. Several individuals have been targeted after using mobile marketplace applications to buy or sell items. The Exchange Zones will deter robberies by providing a well-lit, public place where individuals can buy, sell and trade online goods. The three Exchange Zone locations include:

- **Special Operations Division's Harbor Patrol/ 550 Water Street, Southwest**
- Third District/ 1620 V Street, Northwest,
- Sixth District/ 5002 Hayes Street, Northeast

MPD has also provided the following public safety tips for selling and purchasing items from strangers:

- **Never meet anyone alone**
- **Never list your home address, phone number, or any other identifiable information;**
- **Never meet at night.**

If residents or visitors have any information related to a robbery, they can anonymously text MPD at 50411 or call 202-727-9099.

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### Stay Connected

For more information, please visit <http://www.kenyanmcduffie.com> or contact our office at (202) 724-8028. Follow Councilmember McDuffie at [twitter.com/CM\\_McDuffie](https://twitter.com/CM_McDuffie) and/or [facebook.com/KenyanRMcDuffie](https://facebook.com/KenyanRMcDuffie).

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