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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

August 22, 2025

Attorney General Pamela Jo Bondi  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20530

Secretary Doug Burgum  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Secretary Pete Hegseth  
U.S. Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301

Secretary Kristi Noem  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Attorney General Bondi and Secretaries Burgum, Hegseth, and Noem,

We are writing to request information regarding President Trump's questionable and unprecedented Monday, August 11, invocation of Section 740 of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, directing Mayor Bowser to provide him with the services of the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).<sup>1</sup> We are also seeking answers about the justification, seemingly based on factually inaccurate claims, for mobilization and deployment of the District of Columbia National Guard, in addition to personnel from numerous federal law enforcement agencies.

We have serious doubts about the effectiveness of the Trump Administration's policies towards public safety in Washington, D.C. We also have concerns about the President's abuse of emergency powers.

There is no debate that crime at any level is unacceptable and must be taken seriously. However, supplanting a local community's police force is a serious step and should only be taken if it is appropriate and effective policy based on the facts. It is clear President Trump's declaration of a crime emergency in the District of Columbia is not fact-based. For example, President Trump stated crime in D.C. is "getting worse, not getting better," but a Department of Justice report showed that violent crime is down 35% since 2023, putting D.C. violent crime rates at a 30-year low.<sup>2 3</sup> Additionally, mobilizing federal law enforcement to this mission introduces questions of appropriate resource allocation. It is critical we ensure our nation's

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<sup>1</sup> Exec. Order No. 14333, 90 Fed. Reg. 39301 (Aug. 11, 2025).

federal agents (including the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Drug Enforcement Agency, Homeland Security Investigations, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms, etc.) are deployed where they can deter and intercept the most serious crimes, not staffing traffic stops to enforce seatbelt and taillight infractions.<sup>4</sup>

On August 14, Attorney General Pam Bondi named DEA Administrator Terrence Cole MPD's "Emergency Police Commissioner for the duration of the emergency declared by the President."<sup>5</sup> However, Section 740 of the Home Rule Act only stipulates that the President may direct the mayor to provide MPD services at the request of the President, and the mayor shall provide such services. It does not provide the President authority to replace local law enforcement leadership or rescind local policies.<sup>6</sup> On August 15, D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb sued the federal government in the U.S. District Court, where the Justice Department reached an agreement with D.C.<sup>7</sup> Attorney General Bondi revised her order, directing Mayor Bowser to require MPD to provide the services found necessary by her designee, Terrence Cole.<sup>8</sup> However, threats of executive overreach still remain. The President has alluded to extending emergency control beyond 30 days, without Congressional approval.<sup>9</sup> We are concerned about what this power grab means for democracy, both in our nation's capital and nationwide, particularly as the President has already suggested implementing these tactics across the country.<sup>10</sup>

Therefore, we request that you respond to the following questions by September 3, 2025:

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<sup>2</sup> *FACT FOCUS: Trump exaggerates, misstates facts on Washington crime*, Associated Press (August 11, 2025) ([www.apnews.com/article/trump-washington-crime-factcheck-violent-homelessness-db6f809a13800ccc1f4606bb9bf506a8](https://www.apnews.com/article/trump-washington-crime-factcheck-violent-homelessness-db6f809a13800ccc1f4606bb9bf506a8)).

<sup>3</sup> United States Attorney Matthew Graves: *Violent Crime in D.C. Hits 30 Year Low* (Jan. 3, 2025) ([www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/violent-crime-dc-hits-30-year-low](https://www.justice.gov/usao-dc/pr/violent-crime-dc-hits-30-year-low)).

<sup>4</sup> *Checkpoint with ICE agents met by protesters in D.C.*, The Washington Post (August 14, 2025) ([www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/08/14/dc-checkpoint-homeland-security-trump/](https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/08/14/dc-checkpoint-homeland-security-trump/)).

<sup>5</sup> *Bondi names DEA head as DC's 'emergency police commissioner,' but capital leaders push back*, Associated Press (August 15, 2025) ([www.apnews.com/article/washington-trump-homeless-national-guard-police-a0d326fcd3731c564c2c566893385674](https://www.apnews.com/article/washington-trump-homeless-national-guard-police-a0d326fcd3731c564c2c566893385674)).

<sup>6</sup> District of Columbia Home Rule Act, Pub. L. No. 93-198, Sec. 740.

<sup>7</sup> *Trump admin agrees to allow DC police chief to remain in charge after court challenge*, CNN (August 15, 2025) ([www.cnn.com/2025/08/14/politics/pam-bondi-dc-sanctuary-city-policies-emergency-police-commissioner?brand-site=cnn&language=en&agent=any&region=any](https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/14/politics/pam-bondi-dc-sanctuary-city-policies-emergency-police-commissioner?brand-site=cnn&language=en&agent=any&region=any)).

<sup>8</sup> Attorney General Pamela Bondi, X post, (August 15, 2025) ([www.x.com/AGPamBondi/status/1956497104383430938](https://www.x.com/AGPamBondi/status/1956497104383430938)).

<sup>9</sup> *Trump floats taking over D.C. police for more than a month*, Axios (August 13, 2025) ([www.axios.com/2025/08/13/trump-dc-police-30-day-extension](https://www.axios.com/2025/08/13/trump-dc-police-30-day-extension)).

<sup>10</sup> *These are the cities Trump targeted next after federalizing D.C. police*, Axios (August 11, 2025) ([www.axios.com/2025/08/11/trump-law-enforcement-new-york-oakland-baltimore-chicago](https://www.axios.com/2025/08/11/trump-law-enforcement-new-york-oakland-baltimore-chicago)).

## **Duration of Federalization of MPD**

1. On August 13, President Trump stated that his administration intends to seek a “long-term extension” of its control of the MPD, which he said can be done without Congressional approval in the event of a national emergency, despite the District of Columbia Home Rule Act making no such allowance.<sup>11</sup> Do you believe a president’s control of the MPD can exceed the 30-day duration stipulated in the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, and if so, what statute grants a president this authority?
2. What specific conditions must be met for you to determine the declaration of a crime emergency in D.C. under Executive Order 14333 is no longer necessary?

## **National Guard Deployment**

1. Is it the intent of the Administration to deploy the D.C. National Guard beyond the statutory 30-day limit for the emergency control of the D.C. Metropolitan Police Department in the Home Rule Act?
2. Under what specific authorities are you deploying non-D.C. National Guard units to the District of Columbia?

## **Interagency Coordination, Cost, and Scope of Emergency Control**

1. On August 11, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14333 declaring a crime emergency in the District of Columbia.<sup>12</sup> This order directs the U.S. Attorney General to “monitor and regularly consult” with other senior officials on the nature of the crime emergency. What data, metrics, or other information do you intend to use to monitor the nature of the “crime emergency”?
2. How are your respective agencies managing interagency coordination for military and law enforcement officers under your operational control in Washington D.C., including Metropolitan Police Department officers, for the duration of the emergency declared under Executive Order 14333 and deployment of the National Guard under the Presidential Memorandum? Have you each placed individuals at your agencies in charge of such coordination? If so, please identify their name and position.
3. What data, metrics, or other information do your respective agencies intend to use to target the placement of military or law enforcement officers within Washington, D.C. for the duration of the emergency declared under Executive Order 14333 and the period of National Guard deployment under the Presidential Memorandum? What local officials, if any, do you intend to consult with on the placement of these officers?

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<sup>11</sup> *Trump floats taking over D.C. police for more than a month*, Axios (August 13, 2025) ([www.axios.com/2025/08/13/trump-dc-police-30-day-extension](https://www.axios.com/2025/08/13/trump-dc-police-30-day-extension)).

<sup>12</sup> Exec. Order No. 14333, *supra* note 1, at 1.

4. What is the total anticipated cost, including any indirect costs, to your respective agencies associated with invoking Section 740 to direct Metropolitan Police Force services, deploying the National Guard under the Presidential Memorandum, surging other military and federal law enforcement officers in D.C., and any other law enforcement activities associated with President Trump's August 11 announcement?
5. Please list all military and federal law enforcement entities deployed in D.C. to help mitigate the "crime crisis" in the city as described in Executive Order 14333 and the Presidential Memorandum and describe their specific responsibilities. For each military and federal law enforcement unit deployed, what missions and responsibilities are they not carrying out because of their deployment in D.C.?
6. What additional training, if any, did your respective agencies provide to the National Guard, the U.S. Park Police, and any other federal law enforcement officers under your control prior to their deployment to mitigate crime in D.C.?
7. What directives, if any, have you issued or intend to issue to the Metropolitan Police Department within the duration of the emergency declared under Executive Order 14333? Please describe the specific federal purposes that these directives will help accomplish. Please provide all copies of issued directives.
8. Please provide any data, metrics, or other information you have collected to date on the impact of the deployment of the D.C. National Guard and other federal law enforcement officers in D.C. Where have these individuals been deployed within D.C. and what impact have they had in those locations? Please provide details on the number of arrests, the location of those arrests in the city, and for what crimes.

### **Federal Public Safety Staffing**

1. The Justice Department in January fired more than a dozen federal prosecutors at the U.S. attorney's office in Washington, D.C. that worked on January 6 prosecutions.<sup>13</sup> However, on August 12, U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro complained that her office was severely understaffed.<sup>14</sup> Does the Administration plan to correct its actions and rehire qualified prosecutors to work on the most serious crimes in D.C.?

### **D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force**

1. On March 27, 2025, President Trump issued Executive Order 14252 establishing the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force.<sup>15</sup> This order directs the U.S. Attorney General to "assess

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<sup>13</sup> *More Than a Dozen Prosecutors at Washington U.S. Attorney's Office Are Dismissed*, New York Times (Jan. 31, 2025) ([www.nytimes.com/2025/01/31/us/politics/prosecutors-us-attorneys-office-trump-firings.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/31/us/politics/prosecutors-us-attorneys-office-trump-firings.html)).

<sup>14</sup> *As Trump Seizes D.C.'s Police, Critics Say He's Undercut Its Ability to Fight Crime*, New York Times (August 14, 2025) ([www.nytimes.com/2025/08/14/us/politics/trump-washington-dc-crime-police.html](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/14/us/politics/trump-washington-dc-crime-police.html)).

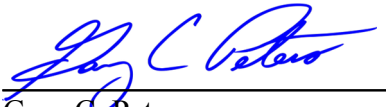
<sup>15</sup> Exec. Order No. 14252, 90 Fed. Reg. 14559 (Mar. 27, 2025).

whether public-safety circumstances in the District of Columbia require additional executive action” and report that information to the White House. Prior to the August 11<sup>th</sup> invocation of Section 740, did you provide any such notification to the Assistant to the President or the Homeland Security Advisor regarding safety in D.C.?


2. Did the task force established under Executive Order 14525 ever request additional operational assistance from the Metropolitan Police Department prior to the August 11 invocation of Section 740? Please provide documentation of these requests.
3. Did the task force established under Executive Order 14252 ever “work closely with local officials to share information, develop joint priorities, and maximize resources to make the District of Columbia safe” as outlined in section 3 of the order prior to the August 11 invocation of Section 740?<sup>16</sup> Please provide documentation of these activities.
4. Prior to the August 11 invocation of Section 740, what other concrete steps, if any, did the task force establish under Executive Order 14252 to make D.C. “Safe and Beautiful”? Please provide documentation of these activities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member, Committee  
on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs



Andy Kim  
United States Senator

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<sup>16</sup> *Id.*