

Council of the District of Columbia
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

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OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY

COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY

ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE ON

HATE CRIMES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND THE FAILURE TO PROSECUTE
BY THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 10:00 a.m.
Room 412, John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004

On Wednesday, October 23, 2019, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public oversight roundtable to discuss "Hate Crimes in the District of Columbia and the Failure to Prosecute by the Office of the United States Attorney". The roundtable will take place in Room 412 of the John A. Wilson Building, 1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., at 10:00 a.m.

On August 21, 2019, the *Washington Post* published an article revealing that "hate-crime prosecutions and convictions are at their lowest point in at least a decade." Although there were 204 bias-motivated crimes reported in the District in 2018, the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia ("USAO") prosecuted only three cases as hate crimes. Similarly, in 2017, of the 178 reported hate crimes, the USAO charged only two cases as such, and both were ultimately dismissed. The USAO's failure to prosecute bias-motivated crimes is especially problematic given that reported hate crimes in the District have nearly doubled since 2016. This roundtable will be an opportunity to explore the prevalence of hate crimes in the District, the effect hate crimes have on vulnerable or marginalized communities, the District government's response, and the reasons underlying the USAO's lack of prosecutions.

The Committee invites the public to testify or to submit written testimony. Anyone wishing to testify at the roundtable should contact the Committee via email at judiciary@dccouncil.us and provide their name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), by **close of business Wednesday, October 16**. Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. Witnesses should bring **twenty copies** of their written testimony and, if possible, also submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to judiciary@dccouncil.us.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the roundtable, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.us. **The record will close at the end of the business day on Wednesday, November 6.**