

Mayor Fenty, Police Chief Lanier, Councilman Graham, Commander McCoy:

As residents of LeDroit Park, we are outraged at the continued violence in our neighborhood. Most recently, the LeDroit Market was robbed at gunpoint by two men, who also pistol-whipped two people who were in the market. This is the sixth time the market has been robbed in the last year – twice by men with guns and four times by burglaries.

We have heard it said, from people who should know better, that this is the price you pay for living in the city. We think that this attitude is, in fact, part of the problem. We want to state clearly that we cannot, and will not, accept this violence. We have been organizing our community to deal with these issues, and we are asking for the city's support.

While our neighborhood has had some recent success building relationships with MPD, we believe that their response is still reactive rather than proactive. Our neighborhood has raised \$2,500 towards the \$4,500 cost of a private crime camera to be placed at the intersection of 4<sup>th</sup> and T Streets NW. We believe that this will play a significant role in both reducing crime and providing evidence to solve crimes in our neighborhood.

We want the following services:

- A sustained, more visible police presence, including foot patrols and bicycle patrols.
- We would like the officers to interact with our residents, so that we can point out trouble spots and let them know what is happening in our neighborhood.
- Better protection of our merchants. This is essential. We cannot overstate the negative consequences if we lose the LeDroit Market. It is in many ways at the heart of our community.

The owners of our corner stores are having serious trouble finding anyone to work for them. The owner of the LeDroit Market has had guns put to his head enough times that he is afraid for his life. The owner of Window's Café on 1<sup>st</sup> Street had to watch his wife be pistol whipped. The owner of another store on 1<sup>st</sup> Street was murdered last year, and his case remains unsolved. The market on Flagler Street has been robbed multiple times. And on, and on, and on.

The District – our beautiful city – has made great improvements in recent years, but there is so much more that needs to be done. Creating safe neighborhoods for our citizens is at the top of the list.

Respectfully,

the LeDroit Park community