

DC Wards 7, 8 see drop in crime during federal law enforcement surge

Story by Randi Bass 9/3/2025

WASHINGTON ([DC News Now](#)) — Now more than three weeks into President Donald Trump's executive order declaring a crime emergency in the District, people are getting used to seeing a stronger law enforcement presence, including Washingtonians in Wards 7 and 8.

Many of the federal officers who have hit city streets could be staying on patrol. D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser's [order this week](#) allows for continued cooperation with federal law enforcement agencies after the crime emergency ends.

Neighbors living and working in Wards 7 and 8, primarily consisting of neighborhoods east of the Anacostia River, told DC News Now that they're seeing and feeling that law enforcement presence. Recent numbers reflect big changes in criminal activity for Wards 7 and 8.

[D.C. Police crime statistics](#) show a 32% drop in crime overall in Ward 8, and a 25% drop in crime in nearby Ward 7, compared to the same four-week period last year. That's greater than the 13% drop in crime overall citywide.

Homicides across the two wards are down 60% in that same late-summer time frame.

Neighbors say they are feeling the impacts of that drop in violent crime, though some are mixed on the idea of keeping federal agents and the National Guard on D.C.'s streets.

[White House boasts that 'crime crackdown' is working in DC](#)

"In this neighborhood in particular, it's a lot of murders and crime," said Tanae Molden, who works in Ward 8's Skyland neighborhood. "I kind of, like, feel at ease and safe. I feel like there's been a drop in the crime rate since [federal law enforcement has] been here, and kind of scary all in the same sense. If you look at this area, it's not a bunch of people out anymore; they want to avoid interactions with [police]."

D.C. Police say gun recoveries are up 12% citywide. Similarly, violent crimes involving guns in Wards 7 and 8 are down 46%.

"It's good, it keeps the city safe. It stops so much crime. We need to slow this crime down," said Ward 8 resident Decarlos Smith. "I appreciate the cops being out, because I don't do nothing wrong over here. So, I feel comfortable here because we're in a bad, bad neighborhood, and the crime goes on all the time around here, so I feel safe."

Deadly DC gunfire as federal crime emergency set to expire

Story by Melanie Alnwick 9/8/2025

WASHINGTON - A man was shot and killed Sunday afternoon in D.C., marking the city's seventh homicide since the federal crime emergency began on August 11.

What we know

The shooting happened around 3 p.m. near the 2600 block of Birney Place in southeast Washington. As of Sunday night, no arrests had been made, but police say they are searching for three juvenile males in connection with the case. The victim has been identified as 20-year-old Najii Mercer, of Oxon Hill in Maryland.

Critics say the president's actions violate federal law, while the White House says he is acting within his authority.

The National Guard is expected to remain in the city through November 30. In addition to patrol duties, Joint Task Force D.C. reports troops have been assisting with civil projects, including trash removal, mulching, and fence painting, primarily in Hains Point and Rock Creek Park.

While Congress is not expected to vote on extending the federal oversight of the Metropolitan Police Department, the House Oversight Committee is scheduled to meet Wednesday to begin reviewing more than a dozen bills that could impact D.C.'s Home Rule and judicial system.

Among the proposals include granting the president sole authority to appoint D.C. judges and the city's attorney general.

The Source

Information in this article comes from the Metropolitan Police Department and previous FOX 5 reporting.

Trump's Labor Day crime crackdown in DC nets 70 arrests, including illegal immigrants

Story by Peter Pinedo, Patrick Ward 9/2/2025

Federal agents working at the direction of the Trump administration arrested 70 individuals on Labor Day evening in [Washington, D.C.](#), including 27 illegal immigrants and individuals charged with assault and stalking.

According to a [White House](#) official, many of those arrested had prior criminal histories for assault, driving while intoxicated, anti-stalking order violation, fraud, burglary and peeping into a dwelling.

To date, there have been 1,669 total arrests since the Trump administration intervened. Among those arrested as part of the operation are 16 known gang members, including members of the MS-13 and Tren de Aragua gangs, which have been designated "foreign terrorist organizations" by the [State Department](#).



Metro Transit Police and Homeland Security Investigations officers search the vehicle of a person detained for a driver's license issue in Washington, D.C., Aug. 13, 2025.

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“The difference between this 20-day period of this federal surge and last year represents an 87% reduction in carjackings.”



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Members of the National Guard patrol the National Mall and seek shade on a hot September day in Washington, DC, on September 3, 2025. Austin DeSisto/NurPhoto/Shutterstock

Trump has indicated he wants to send National Guard troops — who have not been carrying out arrests in DC but have helped protect federal property — to other cities across the US, [including New Orleans, Chicago](#) and New York.

The president has said he wants Democratic governors to ask for assistance before he sends in the troops — but promised that crime could be cleaned up “very quickly” if the leaders enlisted federal help.