

Trump's DC crime operation 'puts safety of families first' as arrests surge past 1,800: FBI director

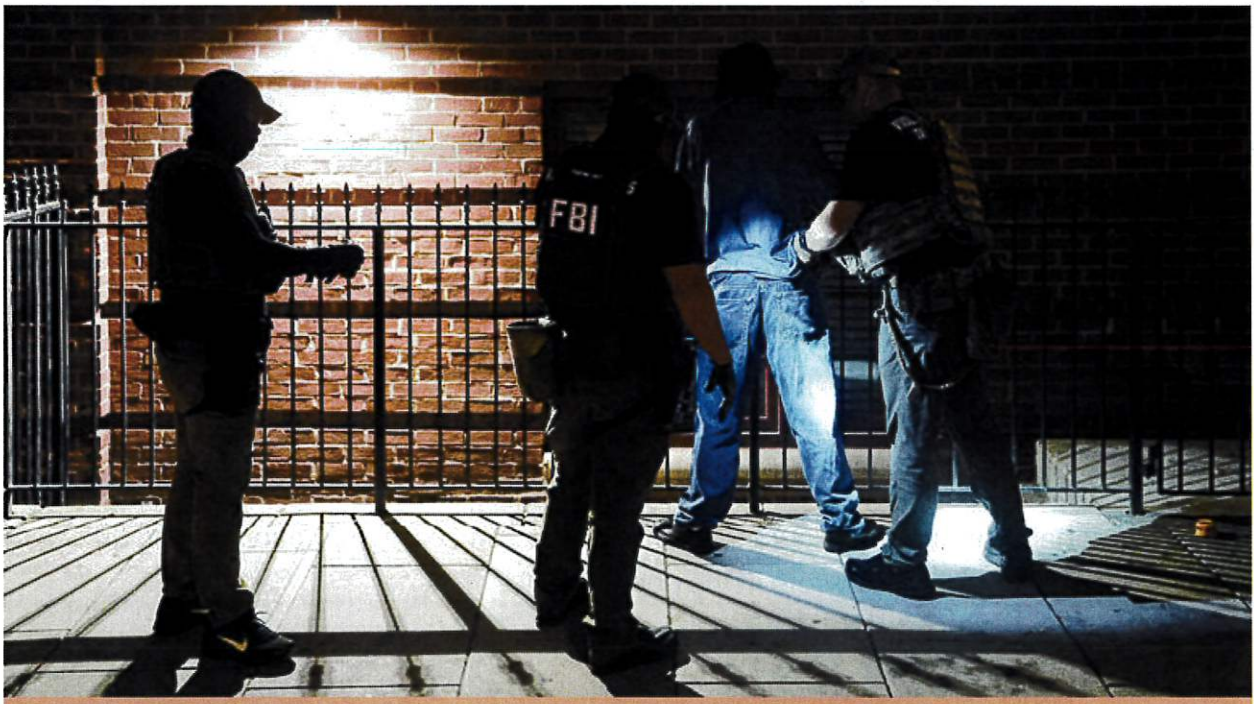
Opinion by Alexandra Koch 9/4/2025

FBI Director [Kash Patel](#) said President Donald Trump's "'Make DC Safe Again' operation is delivering real results," announcing on Thursday the initiative surpassed 1,800 arrests with dozens of guns and drugs seized in recent days.

From Wednesday to Thursday morning, [FBI agents](#) reported 28 arrests, 12 gun recoveries, 10 drug seizures, and 80 total arrests by federal partners.

Patel said the crackdown is taking violent criminals off the streets and restoring law and order.

"President Trump's 'Make DC Safe Again' operation is delivering real results," Patel said. "By working hand-in-hand with our federal, state and local partners, we are taking violent criminals off the streets and restoring law and order in our nation's capital. This is exactly what it looks like when the federal government puts the safety of American families first."



Members of the U.S. Secret Service and the FBI detain a man outside the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., Aug. 14. Reuters© Reuters

Trump federalized D.C.'s [Metropolitan Police Department](#) on Aug. 11 for 30 days under the District of Columbia Home Rule Act.

Army Secretary [Dan Driscoll](#) in a memo on Wednesday extended the mobilization through Nov. 30.

The federalization was set to expire next week, and an extension seemingly needed to be approved by Congress.



Army Sec. Dan Driscoll said he extended the action in D.C. Fox News© Fox News

About 30 minutes after Patel released the latest figures, D.C. Attorney General Brian Schwalb shared on X that he filed a lawsuit to curb the administration's efforts in the nation's capital, arguing the deployment of 2,300 armed [National Guard](#) troops under federal command is unlawful.

"D.C. did not request or consent to the deployment of National Guard troops. Yet there are 2,300 National Guardsmen on our streets in military gear, carrying weapons, and driving armored vehicles," Schwalb wrote in the post.



A U.S. military member holds a child near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., Aug. 14. Reuters© Reuters

He added the deployment violates the Posse Comitatus Act, threatens democracy and civil liberties, and damages [D.C.'s economy](#) and public trust.

The White House defended the action, saying the president acted within his authority and that the operation has been effective in combating violent crime.

Violent crime down 45% in DC during federal law enforcement surge, local leaders say

Story by Randi Bass 8/27/2025

WASHINGTON ([DC News Now](#)) — D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser shared new crime statistics during a situational update on the surge of federal law enforcement in the District, sharing that violent crime is down 45% during the last few weeks of the federal oversight compared to the same span of time last year.

The mayor also said she spoke with President Donald Trump ahead of the press conference, following a more substantial conversation with U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi.

This comes as arrests during the August law enforcement surge topped 1,500 — up 20% from this time last year.

Bowser said during her phone calls with Trump and Bondi, she was not able to gauge their plans to end or extend federal oversight beyond the initial 30 days.

As for what's not working, the mayor and police chief say there's been an erosion of trust in police in the community, specifically when it comes to masked Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and bringing in the National Guard from other states.

"There's a lot of anxiety right now," said Bowser, noting the focus for federal officers needs to be on violence, not immigration enforcement.

"I'm devastated by people living in fear," she said.