

Good Morning My name is Myisha Richards and I'm a firefighter paramedic with Dc fire and Ems . I have been in the fire service since 2009 I began as a volunteer and loved every minute of my Duties. My dream was to become a firefighter paramedic in the Nation's Capital. I spent countless hours perfecting my craft in hopes of being able to serve the citizens of Washington DC. My hard work finally paid off and I was hired on October 16<sup>th</sup> 2017 .

When I graduated from the academy I was assigned to Engine 32 In ward 8 . I have loved every minute while working in the community and being able to help the citizens in any way I could. One of my favorite things to do is to engage with the community and talk with MPD officers- sometimes we've even played basketball together with neighborhood kids when we had downtime.

On July 31<sup>st</sup> 2020 My partner and I responded to a 911 call for a 19 year old female in respiratory distress . When we arrived on scene we had to get fully dressed from head to toe in full COVID PPE before we could enter the home. In the academy, they teach us that scene safety is one of the most important things on a call. As a provider, you have to be safe, to make sure your partner is safe, to make sure you can treat your patient safely.

My partner and I did what we were trained to do which is get out of the house and call a 10-33 code to bring police for help. I made it to the landings of the steps, reached for my radio and before I could call the 10-33 Both of the females jumped over the banister onto the landing and began to punch and kick me while pulling my hair and holding my head down in place naturally making the radio fall down a flight of stairs . The man on scene stood holding my partner at the top of the stairs. 2 mins went by before I was able to get free and get to my radio to call for help. I suffered a severe concussion and had a laceration above my eye which required stitches . These were the physical wounds that in time healed however, the mental Impact will last a lifetime . Since this event I have been to the center of excellence which is a rehab and mental health facility for firefighters. I'm having to learn how to live with PTSD and still do the job I love without being anxious and fearing the worse on of every call .

Prior to 2020 I felt like MPD respond to these routine medical calls in Ward 8 more . Their police presence was all that was needed to ensure our safety and to make sure the citizens were safe and able to get care without any violent interruptions. I feel safer on the job when I know MPD is either there or just a quick call away, and we as a department are grateful for them especially when they're looking out for us on the streets. The amount of assaults, violence, and shootings in the district are skyrocketing, and it makes me feel less safe- especially after my incident. Just this week my coworkers can be heard screaming over the radio for a 1033 because an agitated patient tried to climb into the drivers compartment, maybe even trying to steal the ambulance. During all of this chaos a gun shot wound victim was dropped off in the same place.

This year I received a phone call from The DA telling me nothing was going to happen to the two women who assaulted me . I was told that the one women would receive community service not because of what she did to me but because while in the process of prosecuting her for this crime she picked up additional charges . The other women's charges would be dropped

I love this city, but we need to do better and our first responders need to feel safe. The nations capitol is no longer a a place where firefighters and EMS workers can render care to those in need without the worry of becoming a patient Themselves . Several Times a month we are on calls running from nearby gunshots or having to stage prior to getting to a violent scene because we are waiting for police officers to respond.

I want to thank you all for this opportunity to share my story in hopes to find a solution to this detrimental uptick in violence and crime we have in the nations capitol and that our first responders are being looked out for, so we can look out for the citizens of DC who need our help.