

Katrice Fuller
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice
Wednesday, April 10th, 2024

Hello, Councilmember Pinto and DC Council staff. My name is Katrice Fuller and I am a Ward 5 resident and I serve as a PAVE Citywide member. I am also a proud mother of four boys who attend Monument Academy and Miner Elementary. Additionally, I am a bonus mom, teacher, counselor, and confidant to the hundreds of students and families I serve under my role as Chief of Family and Community Engagement at Monument Academy Public Charter School; a place that I consider to be a gem within our city due to the plethora of programming and resources we can provide for our school environment.

I want to begin by expressing my support in the Mayor's Budget for the \$7.2 million to maintain the DC School Connect program and the \$6.5 million increase for the OSSE special education transportation program as well as the \$8.7 million to create 40 new community safety officers and fund new civilian positions within MPD to free up sworn officers for more critical tasks, which I hope can at least partly be used to hire more School Resource Officers.

In the past 2 school years at Monument, we've lost a lot of students and their guardians to violence. The more digging we did we learned so much of it was when getting to and from school, crossing into different neighborhoods, and school-to-school conflict (which we didn't have any idea about). We lost our School Resource Officers, who were heavily involved in our community, and with them, we lost a lot of intel and help. I've learned there are so many different sectors of Safe Passage and yet I feel and see its effects, especially being on the East side of the River. Needless to say, once we did some digging with other LEAs in our communities, collaborated with other school leaders, and more, we noticed that we needed to buckle down and address this problem together like staggering half days, building relationships with our local Metropolitan Police Department, and more which has been super instrumental as an administrator and a mom whose kids attend these schools. Communication has been key. We've created a lot of meaningful partnerships and I've seen firsthand what school communities need to help kids feel safe traveling to and at school. Making sure that everyone convenes on the citywide and local level can bring a lot of positive change, which is something I encourage the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice to coordinate.



As the leaders of Public Safety, we need you to collaborate with us to ensure the safety of our children when they travel to and from school. Because of all that I shared above, myself and other PAVE parents the Deputy Mayor of Public Safety and Justice to:

- 1) Partner with the Office of the Student Advocate to add information on all safety opportunities, resources, LEA security contacts, and services that are available for school leaders on their respective websites;
- 2) Work with DCPS and public charter schools, the DME, and MPD to review the structure, re-implementation, training, and hiring of the school resource officer program together;
- 3) Regularly aggregate and release public data on Safe Passage program effectiveness and usage including, but not limited to Safe Passage, Safe Blocks.

It is our collective responsibility to ensure our children are safe at all times, especially when doing something as trivial as going to school. With the help of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice and with mutual coordination with parents, students, school leaders, Safe Passage Workers, and more, we can make safe passage of all students a reality in our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to future collaboration and am available for questions at the end.

Sincerely,

Katrice Fuller

Chief of Family and Community Engagement at Monument Academy PCS

Citywide and Ward 6 PLE Board Member, PAVE (Parents Amplifying Voices in Education)