



## **CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER**

# **Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia**

## **Executive Order #14333**

**Date Issued:** August 11, 2025

**Topic:** Law Enforcement, Criminal Justice

### **WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?**

- This executive order declares a state of emergency in Washington, DC and authorizes the use of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) for federal purposes.
- The order invokes the [1973 Home Rule Act](#), which allows DC residents to elect their mayor and other local representatives, but also permits federal intervention under certain circumstances, including emergency conditions.
- Under the Home Rule Act, the executive branch of the federal government can take control of DC for 30 days. Beyond that, Congress would have to pass a resolution to extend the emergency conditions.





## HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- This executive order is primarily enforced by the Attorney General (AG).
- The order grants the AG the authority to oversee the MPD and confer with any senior official she deems necessary to maintain law and order and protect federal property.
- The order also compels the AG to report on the progress of the federal intervention and decide if emergency conditions persist or if federal intervention is no longer necessary.

## HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- Black people comprise more than 40% of the D.C. population, and this executive order will disproportionately impact Black communities because it contributes to over policing in Black communities and further criminalizes homelessness.
- This executive order, combined with President Trump's deployment of the National Guard and ICE officials, will likely increase Black Americans' interactions with law enforcement officials in a harmful way. A 2020 study found that expanding police forces in cities with the largest Black populations disproportionately increased low-level arrests without equivalent public safety benefits. Moreover, a 2023 audit of police movements found that police officers spend significantly more time in Black neighborhoods than other areas with similar socioeconomic demographics and crime rates. In 2023, over 90% of people in the D.C. Department of Corrections were Black, and this order would likely increase that percentage, bringing more people into the carceral system. The federalization of the MPD could also contribute to increased police violence for Black DC residents. From 2018–2020, Black Americans were more than twice as likely as white Americans to experience a threat or nonfatal use of force during police interactions. In 2024, 25% of individuals killed by the police in the US were Black, although Black people only comprise 14.4% of the U.S. population.



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- Homelessness is a serious concern for Black communities in DC, as [over 75%](#) of unaccompanied unhoused individuals in D.C. are Black. D.C. homeless shelters are consistently [full and overcrowded](#), and homelessness rates have [increased](#) over time. President Trump has signed multiple executive orders that impacted unhoused populations. On March 14, he signed an [executive order](#) limiting the funding of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, an organization that addresses homelessness across the United States, and currently, the full staff is on administrative leave. On March 28, he issued an executive order where he [abolished encampments](#) on federal land, displacing unhoused people. On July 24, he released an [executive order](#) that made it easier for states and municipalities to hospitalize people presumed to be having a mental health crisis and unhoused individuals without their consent. Together, these executive orders will have a significant impact on low-income Black communities and could lead to increased incarceration rates.

## HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- Congresswoman **Eleanor Holmes Norton** has represented Washington, DC in Congress since 1991 and is the longest serving member of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC). Congresswoman Norton issued the following statement in response to this executive order:
  - “President Trump’s decision to federalize MPD and activate the D.C. National Guard to address crime is an historic assault on D.C. home rule, is a counterproductive, escalatory seizure of D.C.’s resources to use for purposes not supported by D.C. residents, and is more evidence of the urgent need to pass my D.C. statehood bill. Crime in D.C. reached a 30-year low in 2024 and is down 26% this year compared to the same time period last year. The administration is justifying the decision by misleadingly citing years-old statistics.” [Full Statement](#)