

WE ARE KIDS NOT TARGETS



THE ISSUES:

1. SUSPEND SUSPENSIONS

TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SUSPENSIONS AMONG BLACK AND BROWN CHILDREN BEGIN TO DEVELOP FAIR POLICIES, AND ADOPT RESTORATIVE ALTERNATIVES

2. END POLICE VIOLENCE

TO END POLICE BRUTALITY, DEVELOP FAIR RESTORATIVE ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION, TO REDUCE RELIANCE ON POLICE POWER BY INCREASING RESOURCES IN COMMUNITY

3. END INTRA COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSES OF GANG INVOLVEMENT, VIOLENCE AND CRIME, INCREASE ACCESS TO SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, IMPROVE ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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THE BLACK SWAN ACADEMY

Making the exception...the Rule

SUSPEND SUSPENSIONS

Black students are nearly 7x times more likely to be suspended than their white peers

Reduce the number of suspensions among Black and Brown children, begin to develop fair policies and adapt restorative and trauma-informed alternatives

Did you know?

- School suspensions have negative short and long term consequences
- ranging from missed days in school to increased likelihood of interacting with the juvenile justice system
- Punitive approaches to young people, "acting out" criminalizes what is often their response to trauma. Students who are experiencing homelessness, are economically insecure, or have experienced abuse are more likely to be suspended.
- National and local trends show that students who are experiencing homelessness, are economically insecure, or have experienced abuse are more likely to be suspended. These approaches deepen racial disparities, fail to address the trauma our students often experience and thus hinders students from receiving the community supports they need to thrive

Demands

1. All schools must develop programs and initiatives to address the root causes of behaviors that lead to suspensions and expulsions.
 - a. All school faculty and adults serving youth in publicly funded programs should be trained in and utilize anti-racist, trauma informed and restorative approaches.
 - b. Students should have the opportunity to participate in alternative disciplinary approaches before being suspended such as speaking on the behalf of themselves with administration.

End Police Violence

Only 4% of arrests are for violent crimes.

To end police brutality, develop fair restorative alternatives to incarceration and reduce the reliance of police power by increasing resources within the community

Did you know?

- Far too often in DC, our young people are criminalized and targeted by law enforcement. Their encounters tend to be negative, inciting fear and mistrust. This is not unique to DC.
- People of color, particularly black youth have historically experienced systemic racism and state sanctioned violence at the hands of law enforcement. In DC, we have seen recent incidents of excessive force being used by police on a group of high school girls and are still awaiting justice for the deaths of Terrence Sterling and Alonzo Smith.
- Increased police presence has not resulted in increased public safety and does little to reduce violent crimes. National and local trends suggest that the majority of arrests being made are for survival crimes, misdemeanors and drug offenses.

Demands

Policies should be reviewed and amended by a non-bias entity to ensure that:

- Use of excessive or deadly force is discouraged and never used on community members who do not have a weapon.
- Body-cameras are used effectively and footage is accessible.
- Youth's rights are protected and parents/guardians are contacted immediately during an encounter with law enforcement.

Police violence needs to be taken as a serious criminal offense .

- All accusations should be immediately investigated. If evidence shows excessive force, police officers should be terminated.
- Victims should be free to report an incident without harassment or fear.

Police officers should be personally invested in the communities they serve and receive more training in:

- De-escalation techniques;
- Anti-racist (implicit bias), trauma informed and restorative approaches.



End Intra Community Violence

While violent crime in D.C. is down by 25% according to District's Crime Data, there have already been 41 homicides and 1,579 reports of violent crimes this year.

Address the root causes of gang involvement, violence and crime, increase access to social and economic opportunities, improve access to mental health services.

Did you know??

- While violence is never acceptable, we know that intra- community violence is often linked to the lack of opportunities and the continued divestment of resources available to members of that community.
- Ward 7 & 8 have a poverty rate of 27% and 38% respectively. The unemployment rate is 19% and 23%. Both wards have the highest percentages of households who are economically insecure in D.C and also have the highest ratio of violent crimes.
- These rates are in addition to and/or a symptom of the limited access to quality community resources such as housing, transportation, education, youth services, and mental health supports. Furthermore, our current response to crime is punitive without restoration. It creates a vicious cycle once those formerly incarcerated, particularly youth return to their communities and are met with little opportunities to rebuild.

Demands

1. **Invest in community resources that increase access to jobs, healthcare, mental health services, quality education and strong community-led preventions and/or interventions to violence**
 - a. **Fully Fund the Near Act which would establish the Office of Neighborhood Safety and support community-led violence prevention efforts and increase access to tailored social services.**
 - b. **Pass and fund Safe Way Home Act which would establish a Safe Passage Community Outreach Program and provide support for community programming in Wards 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8.**
- Reform the Youth Rehabilitation Act; implement alternatives to incarceration and support efforts to ensure young people are given proper opportunities to e**

