

ZACHARY
PARKER
DC COUNCIL | WARD 5

Year in Review

January 2023 - January 2024



Dear Ward 5 neighbors,

I can hardly believe a year has passed since I took office as your Ward 5 Councilmember. Serving this community I love is truly the honor of my life. The District faced many challenges over the past year: rising crime, Congressional interference, and looming budget pressures just to name a few.

Yet in all of this, I witnessed time and again the resilience of Ward 5 neighbors and your commitment to working with my office to build healthy communities. **Together**, we secured historic investments in too-long-ignored Ward 5 neighborhoods and coordinated across agencies to help curb crime. **Together**, we introduced bold legislation and took care of each other in moments of crisis. That's who we are as a community: good neighbors, caring for each other and demanding a more accountable government.

Truly, none of this would be possible without you. And while there is still work to do, I am more optimistic and confident about the District's and Ward 5's future than ever. Neighbors coming together to find solutions, advocate for change, testify at hearings, flag issues for my team, and do the work to build healthy communities is how we will keep moving forward. Thank you for all you invested in Ward 5 last year. Onward!



Councilmember Zachary Parker

  @cmzparker5

  councilmemberzacharyparker

202-724-8028

ward5contact@dccouncil.gov



2023 BY THE NUMBERS



29 pieces of legislation introduced, including:

- **District Child Tax Credit Amendment Act of 2023:** This measure would provide up to \$1,000 per child to District families and is a proven anti-poverty proposal.
- **School Safety Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023:** Improving the safety of all District residents is essential. This legislation seeks to close critical gaps in current school safety supports and coordination.
- **Black Queer History Commission Establishment Act of 2023:** This bill will establish a first-of-its-kind commission to chronicle and preserve DC's Black queer history.
- Co-introduced more than 140 additional pieces of legislation.

To learn more, visit zacharyparkerward5.com/legislation

52 weekly newsletters

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Highlights of Ward 5 Budget Wins

\$115 million for future capital projects improving major arterial corridors including North Capitol St, New York Ave, Bladensburg Ave, and a new metro entrance at the NoMa-Gallaudet Metro Station

\$200K for a Substance Abuse and Behavioral Health Targeted Outreach Pilot in Trinidad to combat rising opioid death rates

\$24.7 million for a new DCPL branch library in Edgewood/Eckington

Protected funding for Ward 5 schools, libraries, recreation centers, and programs, including:

An additional **\$15 million** for the new community center at the Crummell School in Ivy City

\$19 million for modernization at the Harry Thomas Recreation Center

Maintained funds for previously scheduled redevelopment at Langdon Community Center and modernizations at Burroughs Elementary, Browne EC, Bunker Hill Elementary, and Langley Elementary

9 Street Designation Bills in Celebration of Ward 5 Black History

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- William R. Spauling (the first Ward 5 Councilmember) – Woodridge
- Julius Hobson, Sr. – Queens Chapel
- Sterling A. Brown – Brookland
- Edna Brown Coleman – Trinidad
- Alexander Crummell – Ivy City
- Rayford Logan – Truxton Circle
- Jesse Mitchell – Bloomingdale
- Lee Elder – Carver-Langston
- Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee – Bloomingdale

More than 1,250 constituent services requests processed:

Top categories:

- Missed trash/recycling pick-up
- Traffic safety requests
- Housing and utilities assistance



MORE THAN 50 PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT AND BUDGET HEARINGS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, AND LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS



HOUSING

→ Led the fight against rent increases at rent-controlled properties, resulting in legislation capping rent increases at 6%



→ Expanding housing options in Ward 5 across several major developments:

- Roberts Residences by SOME (So Others May Eat): 139 deeply affordable units at 1515 North Capitol St NE
- Providence Reimagined (Varnum St NE in Brookland)
- WMATA Joint Developments (at Brookland-CUA and Fort Totten Metro Stations)
- Howard University East Campus (1400 Shepherd St NE)
- McMillan Sand Filtration Site (Reservoir District, community center and pool to open this year)



SCHOOLS AND RECREATION

- Visited all Ward 5 DCPS school facilities to assess maintenance and preparedness for SY23-24
- Secured funding in FY24 for new parks at 19th St and L St NE in Carver Langston and South Dakota Ave NE and Riggs Rd NE, which neighbors have sought for 10 years
- Introduced the School Improvement Amendment Act of 2023, which would establish the first-ever school support office within the Office of the State Superintendent for Education to improve low-performing schools

- Secured capital budget funds for improvements at Burroughs Elementary (\$231,721), McKinley Tech (\$100,000), Langdon Elementary (\$125,000), and Noyes Elementary (\$50,000)



PUBLIC AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Closed 8th Street gap on the Metropolitan Branch Trail
- Secured \$1 million for traffic safety improvements to South Dakota Ave NE
- Launched the Ward 5 Bus Task Force to inform WMATA's Better Bus Project Network Redesign

- Voted to fully fund the District's public safety apparatus and government partners, and voted in favor of public safety legislation to address the city's crisis of rising violence
- More than 3 dozen traffic safety and public safety walks with key government agencies including MPD, DBH, DDOT, violence interruption programs, DPW, and more to direct crime reduction resources to hot spots
- Secured additional CCTV cameras across Ward 5 strategically located to improve public safety
- Established the North Capitol Trust Builders Pilot to comprehensively address long-standing issues along the corridor



- Introduced the Establishment of Reasonable Controls for the Firearm Industry Amendment Act of 2023
- Co-introduced the Office of Unified Communications Transparency and Accuracy Amendment Act of 2023 to improve operations at the District's 911 call center



ENVIRONMENT AND INDUSTRIAL SPACE

- Introduced the Environmental Justice Amendment Act of 2023 to address environmental racism in Ward 5 and across the city
- Aided local businesses with Building Energy Performance Standards compliance
- Launched exploratory effort to exercise eminent domain of National Engineering Products, Inc., a notorious source of neighborhood pollution in Ivy City



BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT



- Ward 5 Business Roundtables with local entrepreneurs and business owners
- Introduced the Ward 5 Small Business Development Center Establishment Act of 2023 to provide resources and workforce development opportunities to local entrepreneurs and small businesses
- Advocated for and won expansion of Great Streets grant funding to make eligible previously excluded small businesses in Trinidad, Eckington, Arboretum, and Woodridge
- Convened and launched Community Wealth Building coalition to revive Marion Barry's cooperative economic development strategies



HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Established the inaugural Ward 5 Senior Advisory Committee to center seniors in my approach to policy-making
- Hosted the Brookland Manor Health and Wellness Fair
- Co-hosted the Carver Langston Multi-Agency Resource Fair
- Brought back Ward 5 Day at Turkey Thicket Recreation Center (originally hosted by former Ward 5 Councilmember Harry Thomas, Sr.), enjoyed by hundreds of neighbors
- Hosted the inaugural Ward 5 Awards—recognizing remarkable neighbors
- Hosted Ward 5 Day at Nationals Park
- Provided over 300 turkeys to Ward 5 neighbors during the holiday season



COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Iona Senior Services	PHONE: (202) 895-9448 WEBSITE: www.iona.org	Iona provides a range of services and resources for senior residents, including the comprehensive Iona Resource Guide, available on their website.
Capital Area Food Bank	HUNGER LIFELIFE: (202) 644-9807 WEBSITE: Capitalareafoodbank.org	Providing food to more than 400 community partners including food pantries, senior programs, and more. Find a location with food near you using their website's interactive map.
Office of the Tenant Advocate (OTA)	PHONE: (202) 719-6560 WEBSITE: ota.dc.gov	Assistance for individuals who are facing eviction or confronting potentially unlawful rental housing conditions (flooding, rodent issues, lack of utilities, etc).
DC Front Door	WEBSITE: FrontDoor.dc.gov	Resources for current and future homeowners looking for assistance with home purchasing or maintenance.
Office of People's Counsel (OPC)	PHONE: (202) 727-3071 WEBSITE: opc-dc.gov	Contact regarding disputes with utility companies, including gas, electric, water, internet, and phone.
Emergency Shelter	PHONE: (202) 399-7093 or dial 317 WEBSITE: community-partnership.org/	Contact to request emergency shelter. The shelter hotline is open every day from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 a.m. and 24/7 during hypothermia season (November 1 - April 15).
Department of Behavioral Health (DBH)	HELPLINE: 1-888-7WE-HELP or 1-888-793-4357	Contact 24/7 to refer a caller to immediate help or ongoing care and can activate mobile crisis teams.
DBH Community Response Team	PHONE: (202) 673-6495	Contact to request including homeless outreach, mobile crisis, and pre-arrest diversion.
DBH Assessment and Referral Center (ARC) 75 P Street NE, Washington, DC 20002	HOURS OF OPERATION: Mon-Fri 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. For same day service, please arrive before 3:30 p.m.	Services include detoxification, treatment including medication assisted treatment, individual and group counseling, self-help and recovery activities, and, in some cases, residential treatment.
MPD Online Reporting Tool	WEBSITE: mpdc.dc.gov/service/file-police-report	Use to report certain property crimes, including damage to or destruction of property, theft, theft from auto, etc.
MPD Fifth District Station 7805 Bladensburg Road NE, Washington, DC 20002	PHONE: (202) 698-0150 WATCH COMMAND: (202) 327-4392 WEBSITE: mpdc.dc.gov/page/welcome-fifth-district	Contact for non-urgent police requests, including information about recent incidents in MPD's 5th District (most of Ward 5, except for north of Michigan Ave and west of North Capitol St).
MPD Fourth District Station 6001 Georgia Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20017	PHONE: (202) 775-7400 WATCH COMMAND: (202) 3971-7177 WEBSITE: mpdc.dc.gov/page/welcome-fourth-district	Contact for non-urgent police requests, including information about recent incidents in MPD's 4th District (north of Michigan Avenue).
MPD Third District Station 1620 V Street NW, Washington, DC 20009	PHONE: (202) 673-6815 WATCH COMMAND: (202) 276-7462 WEBSITE: mpdc.dc.gov/pa9e/welcome-third-district	Contact for non-urgent police requests, including information about recent incidents in MPD's 3rd District (west of North Capitol Street).
Office of Human Rights (OHR) 441 4th Street NW, Suite 570-N Washington, DC 20001	PHONE: (202) 727-4559 WEBSITE: ohr.dc.gov	Contact regarding complaints of unlawful discrimination in employment (private companies and government), housing, public accommodations (restaurants, for-hire-vehicles), and educational institutions.

ZACHARY PARKER

DC COUNCIL | WARD 5

STAFF LIST AND CONTACT INFO:



RACHELLE ROBERTS,
Chief of Staff
rroberts@dccouncil.gov
202-724-8918



CARLOS MCKNIGHT,
Constituent Services
Coordinator, 5A & 5C
cmcknight@dccouncil.gov
202-478-2456



CONOR SHAW,
Deputy Chief of Staff,
cshaw@dccouncil.gov
202-724-8172



OLIVER STOUTE,
Constituent Services
Coordinator, 5B & 5D
ostoute@dccouncil.gov
202-724-8107



KENDRA WILEY,
Legislative Director
kwiley@dccouncil.gov
202-724-8192



SAM BONAR,
Scheduler, Constituent Services
Coordinator, 5E & 5F
sbonar@dccouncil.gov
202-724-1344



MELISSA LITTLEPAGE,
Communications Director
mlittlepage@dccouncil.gov
202-724-8028

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 **202-724-8028**

 ward5contact@dccouncil.gov

 zacharyparkerward5.com

  Councilmember Zachary Parker

  @cmzparker5