

FIGHTING FOR DC YOUTH

In January 2025, I was appointed Chair of the Council's **Committee on Youth Affairs**. In the committee's first year, we conducted robust and incisive oversight, met with countless DC youth and advocacy stakeholders, and advanced the **C.A.R.E. for Youth Plan**.

CARE FOR YOUTH PLAN

As a result of months of oversight, site visits, and engagement with key stakeholders across the city, I introduced the **C.A.R.E. (Coordinating Assistance, Rehabilitation, and Empowerment) for Youth Plan** in Fall 2025—a 16-bill policy package aimed at improving youth well-being in the District. The plan addresses a range of issues facing young people, including truancy, financial stability, neglect, parent engagement, and more.

COMMITTEE BUDGET WINS

Through the District's FY26 budget process, the Committee on Youth Affairs was proud to advance significant budget wins for youth:

- Securing funding for two grant pilots to provide **workforce training and re-entry services** to youth at Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS) facilities.
- Expanding the capacity of the **Truancy Reduction Pilot Program**, focusing on intensive family outreach and support for chronically absent middle school students.



10 OVERSIGHT HEARINGS

Addressed overcrowding at DYRS, performance and budget for agencies under the committee's purview, facilities safety at DYRS, and more.

3 HEARINGS ON LEGISLATION

Heard testimony from public and government witnesses on bills to address youth employment, foster care, KinCare subsidies, rehabilitating justice-involved youth, and more.

1 CONFIRMATION HEARING

Received testimony from public and government witnesses on the confirmation of Tanya Torres Trice as the next permanent director of the Child and Family Services Agency (CFSA).

4 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT FORUMS

Convened young people from across the District to hear their priorities and concerns, develop strategies for engagement, and get their feedback on policy proposals impacting youth.

REDUCING TRUANCY

Through legislation, truancy pilot programs, and the budget process, we've advanced real solutions to ensure students stay in school and succeed.



2026 UPCOMING EVENTS

IMPORTANT COUNCIL DATES

JANUARY-MARCH

APRIL-JULY

OCTOBER 1

Performance Oversight of District Agencies

Budget Oversight and FY27 Budget Process

New Fiscal Year Begins (FY27)

FEB 11 WARD 5 BUDGET FORUM

February 11, 2026 | 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom ward5.us/budgetforum

Attend the Annual Ward 5 Budget Forum. Learn more about the budget process and share your priorities at the Council prepares to work through the FY27 budget proposal.

APR 1 WARD 5 AWARDS CEREMONY

April 1, 2026 | 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Location TBA — Mark your calendar!

Come celebrate the winners of the Ward 5 Awards, honoring remarkable neighbors who make Ward 5 a better place. Nominate a neighbor today! ward5.us/nominate

STAY CONNECTED

NEWSLETTER

Sign up to receive the Ward 5 Weekly Newsletter at ward5.us/newsletter

EVENTS

Check ward5.us/events regularly to stay up-to-date!

PODCAST

Tune in to the Ward 5 Wave Podcast at ward5.us/podcast



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DEAR WARD 5 neighbors,

I am looking back on these first three years in office as your representative on the DC Council with deep gratitude. Together, we have accomplished so much for our community. While it hasn't been easy, every moment has been worth it, marked by **resilience and results**.

In this Progress Report, I am proud to share with you the highlights of these past three years. We've endured major shifts in our city's landscape, fought for transformative economic wins for everyday Washingtonians, reached historic declines in crime, and moved forward Ward 5 projects that improve neighbors' quality of life.

The work isn't done. As we look toward what's to come, my hope is that this progress report will inspire you to keep linking arms with us for **a Ward 5 future worthy of every neighbor**. Whether that's participating in Council oversight, showing up at community meetings, organizing neighborhood improvement projects, or simply continuing to share your priorities with us, we all have a role to play.

It is the honor of a lifetime to serve the community that I love. I invite you to explore even more about these past three years by visiting ward5.us/2026progress or scanning the QR code below.

Yours in service and community,

Zachary



SCAN ME



STAY IN TOUCH WITH COUNCILMEMBER PARKER

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Official Business

Last year brought a new federal administration, and with it, sweeping changes for the District and threats to local autonomy.

MY OFFICE STAYED FOCUSED ON BRINGING NEIGHBORS TOGETHER, SHARING RESOURCES AND INFORMATION, AND DEFENDING HOME RULE.

- 300+ neighbors attended the Ward 5 Town Hall on Federal Overreach, where we shared critical information to keep neighbors informed, had local officials provide updates on their activities and answer questions, and gave resources for how to engage amid the federal surge.
- 50+ Ward 5 neighbors joined my office on the Hill at the Hart Senate building to talk about the importance of DC's Home Rule and share their experiences.

WINS

- No longer a declared "crime emergency" in the District of Columbia
- None of the 16 bills introduced in the House to increase federal control of DC have moved forward
- The latest Congressional spending bill protects DC's budget and doesn't introduce any new restrictions on DC's spending



PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

Over the past three years, I've advanced legislation for symbolic street designations and park designations to preserve our history and serve as a reminder of the shoulders we stand on.

★ UPCOMING UNVEILING CEREMONIES

- Alfred Dudley, Sr. Way** – 2900 block of Mills Ave NE
- Philip Reed Memorial Park** – Triangle park at 28th St, Douglas St, and Bladensburg Rd NE

★ COMPLETED

- Alexander Crummell Way** 1900 block of Gallaudet St NE
- Dorothy Celeste Boulding Ferebee Way** 1800 block of 2nd St NW
- Edna Brown Coleman Way** 1400 block of Morse St NE
- Jesse Mitchell Way** W St between First St and Flagler Pl NW
- Julius Hobson, Sr. Way** 4600-4800 blocks of Queens Chapel Terrace NE
- Lee Elder Way** 800 block of 26th St NE
- Rayford Logan Way** 100 block of N St NW
- Sterling A. Brown Way** 1200 block of Kearny St NE
- William R. Spaulding Way** 1900-2200 blocks of Randolph St NE

★ IN PROGRESS

- Joseph Bowser Way** 4800 block of 7th St NE
- Ralph J. Bunche Way** 1500 block of Jackson St NE
- Union Wesley Way** alleyway behind 1860 Michigan Ave NE

CONSTITUENT SERVICES

- 15,000+ constituent services requests processed
- 30+ multi-agency blitzes
- 20+ public safety and traffic safety walks
- 12 Ward 5 Public Safety Calls

CENTERING WARD 5

- 3 Annual Ward 5 Day Celebrations
- 3 Ward 5 Thanksgiving Giveaways
- 2 Ward 5 Awards Ceremonies
- Ward 5 Senior Advisory Committee
- Ward 5 Bus Network Task Force
- Walk Thru Ward 5 Exhibit



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2,900+ NEW HOUSING UNITS DELIVERED

- One Hawaii** (1 Hawaii Ave NE) - Close to completion, will deliver 70 units of multifamily affordable housing.
- Ionia Apartments** - (2911 Rhode Island Ave NE) Under construction, will deliver 100 units of affordable housing.
- Cut the ribbon on 146 newly opened townhomes (22 affordable) in the Reservoir District, with 699 total new units coming in the next few years.
- Edgewood Commons - Bringing 151 new senior affordable units to the Edgewood Commons campus.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE

- 3 new grocery stores - Aldi in Fort Totten, Trader Joe's in Edgewood/Brookland, and Sprouts Farmers Market on the way in Stronghold/Reservoir District.
- 2 new parks coming soon to Carver-Langston (19th and L St NE) and Fort Totten/Riggs Park (Riggs Rd and South Dakota Ave NE)
- Bladensburg Bus Garage** - Completed Phase I of III in revitalizing one of Metro's oldest assets and largest bus facilities, supporting 500 operations employees and achieving LEED® Platinum status to advance our climate goals.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

- Closed the 8th St NE gap on the **Metropolitan Branch Trail** and opened the newest connection on the trail from Fort Totten Metro Station to Takoma Metro Station.
- Transformed the dangerous "**Dave Thomas Circle**" (Florida Ave, New York Ave, and 1st St NW), building a new park and streamlining traffic flow.
- Secured more than **\$1 million** for the South Dakota Ave Corridor Safety Study, with DDOT set to deliver spot treatments in 2026.
- Worked with DDOT to deliver **200+** speed humps and intersection improvements across Ward 5.

SCHOOL & REC IMPROVEMENTS

- Burroughs Elementary School Modernization (under construction)
- Fort Lincoln Campus Improvement Project (under construction)
- Crummell Community Center (nearing groundbreaking)
- Langdon Park Recreation Center (nearing groundbreaking)
- Harry Thomas Recreation Center (in procurement)
- Brentwood Recreation Center (in design process)
- Taft Field and Dwight Mosley Park Improvements (close to completion)
- Turkey Thicket Playground and Splash Pad Improvements (close to completion)

SECURING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT

The first major piece of legislation I introduced as Councilmember was the **District Child Tax Credit**, and I have been bullish about bringing it to fruition. After years of pushing, I'm excited to share it is finally on the way!

Starting in tax year 2026, we will deliver a fully refundable credit of up to \$1,000 per child for all children under 18 to individual filers making below \$70,000 annually and joint filers making below \$95,000 annually. This means cash in the pockets of everyday Washingtonians facing enormous financial strains. Independent researchers estimate the **child tax credit will slash child poverty in the District by 20%**, lifting the economic floor for thousands.

FIGHTING FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

For generations, **Ward 5 has been treated as a dumping ground for DC's industrial-use land.** In fact, we are home to the majority of the District's industrial-use space, including two of the District's three asphalt plants, one of DC's three permanent concrete plants, a chemical plant, transfer station, and multiple bus depots. These compounding factors are no accident. They are the result of decades of racist policy decisions. Over the past three years, **I've introduced a number of bills to address environmental injustice** and secure cleaner water, breathable air, and healthy soil for Ward 5 neighbors.

- Cumulative Impacts Analysis Amendment Act of 2025** - seeks to minimize harm of industrial land-use in Ward 5.
- Strengthening Air Pollution Permitting Amendment Act of 2026** - seeks to improve air quality in Ward 5.
- Ivy City Climate Resilience Hub Eminent Domain Authority Act of 2024** - targets the harmful NEP factory and improve environmental health in Ivy City.



LEGISLATION BY THE NUMBERS

67

PERMANENT BILLS INTRODUCED

39

CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS INTRODUCED

100+

BILLS CO-INTRODUCED

DIG DEEPER

- Secured thousands of good-paying union jobs in the **RFK Deal**
- School Safety Enhancement Amendment Act of 2023**
- Co-introduced **STEER Act** of 2023
- School Improvement Amendment Act of 2023**
- Child Behavioral Health Services Dashboard Act** of 2024
- PrEP DC Act** of 2025
- Supporting Businesses** in Ward 5 and the District
- and more!

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