



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
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**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL**

The Honorable Muriel Bowser  
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The Honorable Phil Mendelson  
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Dear Mayor Bowser and City Council Members:

It has become painfully apparent that Washington, D.C., can protect neither its residents nor the thousands of Virginians who commute daily to the city for work or entertainment. As the chief law enforcement officer for the Commonwealth of Virginia, I feel responsible for the safety of all 8.642 million Virginians.

**Unfortunately, due to the proximity of our communities, D.C.'s crime problem has become Virginia's crime problem.**

I refuse to stand by quietly as you continue to deny, reject, and refuse to address your very prevalent crime spike that is impacting D.C. residents and its visitors and commuters. Your unwillingness to enforce your laws and hold violent offenders responsible puts your residents and mine at risk.

Over the weekend, Christy Bautista, an innocent young woman from Virginia, was murdered in the supposed safety of her hotel room less than an hour after checking in to attend a concert in your city. A Capitol Hill staffer was brutally attacked in broad daylight. Over the summer, [a young Arlington woman was harassed on the metro](#), and countless Virginians have been murdered in D.C. over the last three years, including [Aaron Bourne](#), [Kenithy Manns](#), [Christian Gabriel Monje](#), and [Ahmad Clark](#).

Yet, D.C. Council Chairman Mendelson [recently denied that D.C. had a crime crisis](#). According to the Metropolitan Police Department, D.C. has seen two consecutive years of over 200 homicides – a distinction the city hasn't reached in nearly two decades. In addition, carjackings have been steadily rising for the last five years. [Homicides in Washington, D.C., have increased](#) by 31% since this time last year, sexual assault increased by 84%, and motor vehicle theft has increased by 107%. In general, crime in 2023 has risen by 23%.

**Washington, D.C., is dealing with a crime explosion.** Actions speak louder than words – and the only actionable items taken by Washington D.C. leadership have been ways to lessen criminal penalties, further fostering an environment for criminal activity. There is no deterrent for illegal behavior in Washington, D.C., as these repeat offenders know they will either not be charged or let back on the streets in no time.

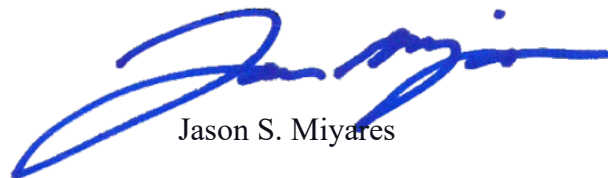
That's why we lost Christy Bautista. D.C.'s lenient policies and perspectives are responsible for her murderer's release when he should have been in custody. An innocent woman lost her life to someone who should have been in jail.

**Her murder is a tragedy that should have never happened.**

To keep our communities safe – Washington D.C. and Northern Virginia - we need to work together to address the issue of rising crime. But that means acknowledging it is a problem and committing to finding a solution rather than sweeping it under the rug.

Our nation's Capital should be a beacon of hope and freedom for the entire world, not known as a place where attending a concert can end one's life. I urge the city's leadership to address the scourge of violent crime that is growing more intolerable by the day.

Sincerely,



Jason S. Miyares