

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Office of At-Large Councilmember Kwame R. Brown**



PRESS RELEASE

**BROWN'S BILL PASSES TO CREATE TASK FORCE TO
END MURDER IN DC**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
December 6, 2006

For More Information Contact:
LaToya Foye at 202-724-8174

During the D.C. Council's legislative meeting held on December 5, 2006, Councilmember Kwame R. Brown offered an amendment to the "Homeland Security, Risk Reduction and Preparedness Act of 2006," to establish a Homicide Elimination Strategy Task force to develop a plan to end murders in the District of Columbia. With the amendment accepted, Council passed by the bill unanimously.

Brown believes that while the District takes proactive measures to ensure federal protection of the nation's capital, the city should also act proactively to prevent crime in District neighborhoods. "We need to move with the same urgency, if not more to protect our home fronts and prevent acts of violence in our neighborhoods," commented Brown. "One murder in DC is one murder too many. The resources to end murder in DC exist, but there needs to be a comprehensive, proactive and permanently sustained approach to working to end murder in DC. There are things we can do on the front-end to provide an environment for our youth to succeed."

The amendment will require the Mayor to appoint a Task Force, comprised of representatives from the government, non-profit organizations, businesses, schools, victim service organizations and advisory neighborhood commissioners to bring back to the Mayor and the Council recommendations for how the city can eliminate homicides.

The task force would also analyze studies about the causes of murder nationally and locally. The task force should propose recommendations that would lead to a reduction and ultimately an end to murder in DC. The task force would identify agencies to be responsible for taking the proposed actions. The task force report would include estimates of costs and timetables for implementation.

Last week, the Council's Committee on the Judiciary reviewed Councilmember Brown's original bill "Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Strategy Task Force Act of 2006," where residents and community activists overwhelmingly expressed their support of the legislation and desire to work collectively to prevent violence in their communities.

"NO MURDERS DC applauds Councilman Brown for his leadership in moving the Comprehensive Homicide Elimination Task Force bill one step closer to final passage. After six years of working for a MURDER FREE D.C., we believe the Task Force will play a critical role in suggesting strategies that can help end murder in our city. We hope this will lead to a more comprehensive and sustained effort by a wide range of community stakeholders in the work to save lives and end the devastation caused by murder in our city," said Rev. David Bowers, Founder of NO MURDER DC.

##