



Brianne K. Nadeau

____ Councilmember, Ward 1 ____

WARD 1 TOWN HALL

On Recent Federal Action Impacting D.C.

Thank you for joining. We'll get started shortly.

August 18, 2025

Understanding Home Rule



- What is Home Rule?
- How does Home Rule work?
- What would it take to end Home Rule?

Public Safety & Crime in D.C.



- Council has passed 2 major public safety bills:
 - Secure DC Omnibus Amendment Act
 - Peace DC Omnibus Amendment Act
- 52% drop in violent crime over the last two years
- Some of the lowest crime rates we have seen in 30 years
- I will never be satisfied with any level of crime. We need to be clear about what *could* help, and why what the Administration is doing *is not* helping.

Protecting Our Immigrant Neighbors



- ICE Emergency Hotlines
 - MSMA: 202-335-1183
 - CASA (Maryland & Virginia only): 888-214-6016
- Migrant Solidarity Mutual Aid (MSMA)
 - 202-335-1183
 - dcmigrantmutualaid.org
- Ayuda
 - 202-387-4848
 - ayuda.com
- Amica Center for Immigrant Rights
 - 202-331-3320
 - amicacenter.org
- CARECEN
 - 202-328-9799
 - carecendc.org

More resources: brianneknadeau.com/immigration-resources/

Protecting Our Unhoused Neighbors



- Shelter hotline: 202-399-7093
- For youth (ages 18-24), call the Runaway and Homeless Youth Hotline: (202) 547-7777
- Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless: 202-328-5500
- Outreach/service providers:
 - Miriam's Kitchen: 202-452-8926
 - Pathways to Housing: 202-529-2972
 - Community Connections: 202-546-1512

More resources: brianneknadeau.com/resources/

What You Can Do



- Free DC
- Mutual Aid
- Way Home
- Call Congress
- Contact Councilmembers, Mayor, Congress

★ ★ ★
FREE DC

FREE DC

fuck you kavanaugh
fuck you gorsuch
fuck you conrad

FREE DC

About Free DC

Free DC is a renewed
movement to protect DC
Home Rule and win dignity for
the people of the District of
Columbia.

What is Home Rule?

Home Rule gives DC the power to elect our local Mayor and Councilmembers (and ANCs!), control our own budget, and decide our own laws.

Every function of our government is only possible because of home rule.

Examples: DC Public Schools, garbage pick-up, parks, senior services, food programs, and so much more.

This movement's history



Marion Barry's 1966
"Free DC" campaign
helped win Home
Rule



Anise Jenkins of Stand
Up For Democracy



Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton
during the Hands Off DC
organizing in 2023



Free DC in 2025

...and many others not named

The Problem

Potential interference from Congress:

- Restricting how we spend local funds
- Terminate DC's Office of Racial Equity or Office of LGBTQ+ Affairs
- Lower the qualifications required for for early childhood educators
- Restrict ballot access in our local elections
- Eliminate vaccination requirements
- Requiring DC to recognize concealed carry permits issued by states, and also allow "any magazine(s)" to be used in those guns
- Permanently prohibit DC funds from being spent on abortion
- Prohibit DC from using funds for emergency migrant housing

These are all real bills introduced by Congress.

Potential interference by executive action:

- Illegally firing thousands of workers and causing a spike in local unemployment
- Increasing sweeps of unhoused neighbors
- Increasing enforcement by ICE
- Prohibiting drag and censoring the arts
- Inciting fear to legitimize increased policing
- Pressuring our local elected officials to obey in advance

Many of these are already happening.

The Context

The Authoritarian Playbook



**Direct
Investigations
Against Critics**



**Give License
to
Lawbreaking**



**Regulatory
Retaliation**

**Deploy
Military
Domestically**



**Federal Law
Enforcement
Overreach**



**The Autocrat
Won't Leave**



What to Expect

- They will stoke **fear and chaos** to keep us off-balance.
- They will make threats to get people to **obey in advance**.
- They will weaponize **fear of subgroups** to keep us divided and apart.



What Works

1

Do Not
Obey in
Advance

2

Prioritize
Joy

3

Take Up
Space

4

Practice
Solidarity

5

Organize

**A condensed version*

The Research

- “Why Civil Resistance Works: The Strategic Logic of Nonviolent Conflict” by Erica Chenoweth and Maria J. Stephan
- "A Force More Powerful: A Century of Non-violent Conflict" by Peter Ackerman and Jack DuVall
- “CANVAS Core Curriculum: A Guide to Effective Nonviolent Struggle” by Popovic et al
- “From Dictatorship to Democracy” by Gene Sharp

Free DC's organizing

Our Structure

Ward Teams

- Our **basebuilding** engine
- Hold community events
- Welcome in new people
- One for each of the 8 Wards plus MD+VA
- Led by co-chairs

Working Groups

- Our **response** engine
- Work on specific issues or serve key functions
- Build relationships that allow for higher trust actions
- Work with allied partner organizations
- Coordinate in Signal

Where to Start

STARTING TONIGHT:

GET VISIBLE

- We want your help making the demand for a #FreeDC **visible everywhere.**
- **Make signs, posters, banners, and flags** and put them in your window, on your home, or anywhere else they will be seen.
- **Wear Free DC t-shirts, pins, buttons, or patches** everywhere you go. If you don't have these, make some and for you and your neighbors.



STARTING TONIGHT:

GET LOUD

- Silence is compliance, so we need to get loud.
- **Starting tonight and every night of this occupation, go outside at 8:00 PM and bang pots and pans, sing, chant, or make noise for five minutes.**
- When your neighbors come out and ask what's going on, talk with them about what's happening.
- Post your noisemaking to social media. Invite friends to come and join you.



A background image of a protest. In the foreground, a large banner with the words 'FREE DC' is visible, featuring a stylized American flag design with stars and stripes. Behind the banner, two individuals are seen shouting into microphones. The person on the left is wearing a mask with large eyes and a mustache. The person on the right is wearing a dark hoodie with a circular logo that reads 'HARRIET'S WILDEST DREAMS'.

Courage is contagious

★ ★ ★
FREE DC



Know Your Rights: Law Enforcement

For Ward 1 Councilmember Brianne Nadeau

***FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES
ONLY, THIS IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE**

**ASST. PROF. EMILY CASSOMETUS
UDC DAVID A. CLARKE SCHOOL OF LAW**



OVERVIEW

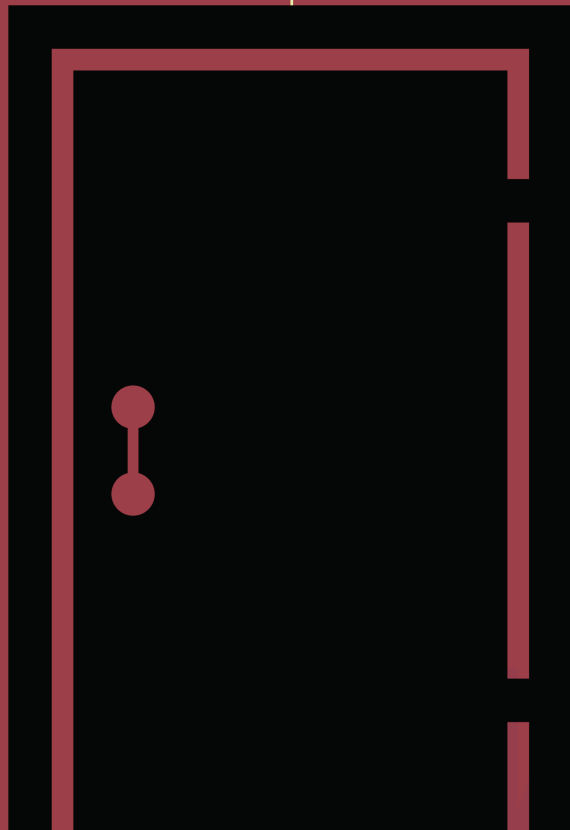
**WHAT IF LAW ENFORCEMENT
KNOCKS ON MY DOOR?**

**WHAT IF LAW ENFORCEMENT
STOPS ME IN A PUBLIC AREA?**

**WHAT IF IT LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE ELSE NEEDS HELP?**



WHAT IF LAW ENFORCEMENT KNOCKS ON MY DOOR?



**ASK: DO YOU
HAVE A WARRANT?**



**CHECK THE
DETAILS**



**WHAT IF LAW
ENFORCEMENT STOPS
ME IN A PUBLIC AREA?**

1

2

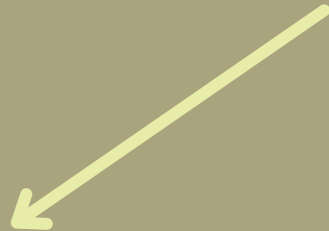
3

4

5

1

AM I FREE TO GO?



YES



NO



2

**I DO NOT CONSENT TO
A SEARCH**



3

AM I UNDER ARREST?



YES



NO





**I WANT TO SPEAK TO
A LAWYER NOW**



5

**I WISH TO REMAIN
SILENT**



**WHAT IF IT LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE NEEDS HELP?**



**CAN YOU
COMMUNICATE
WITH THEM?**



WHAT IF IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE NEEDS HELP?

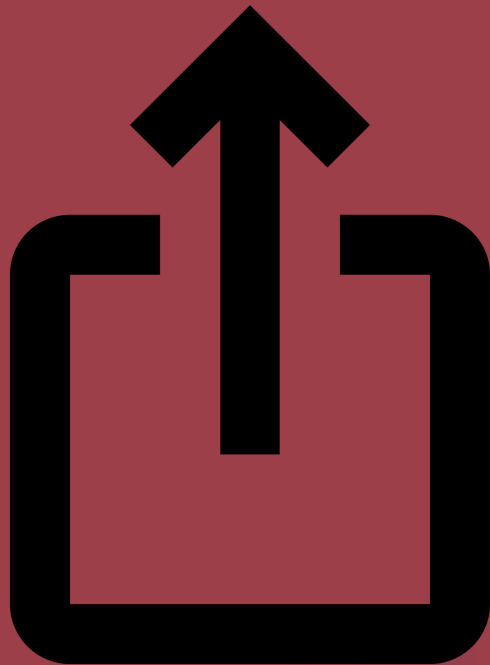


IF LAW
ENFORCEMENT IS
ALREADY PRESENT





**WHAT IF IT LOOKS LIKE
SOMEONE NEEDS HELP?**



**SHARE VIDEO AND
OTHER
INFORMATION**



ICE: MSMA Hotline

202-335-1183



Other Law Enforcement:

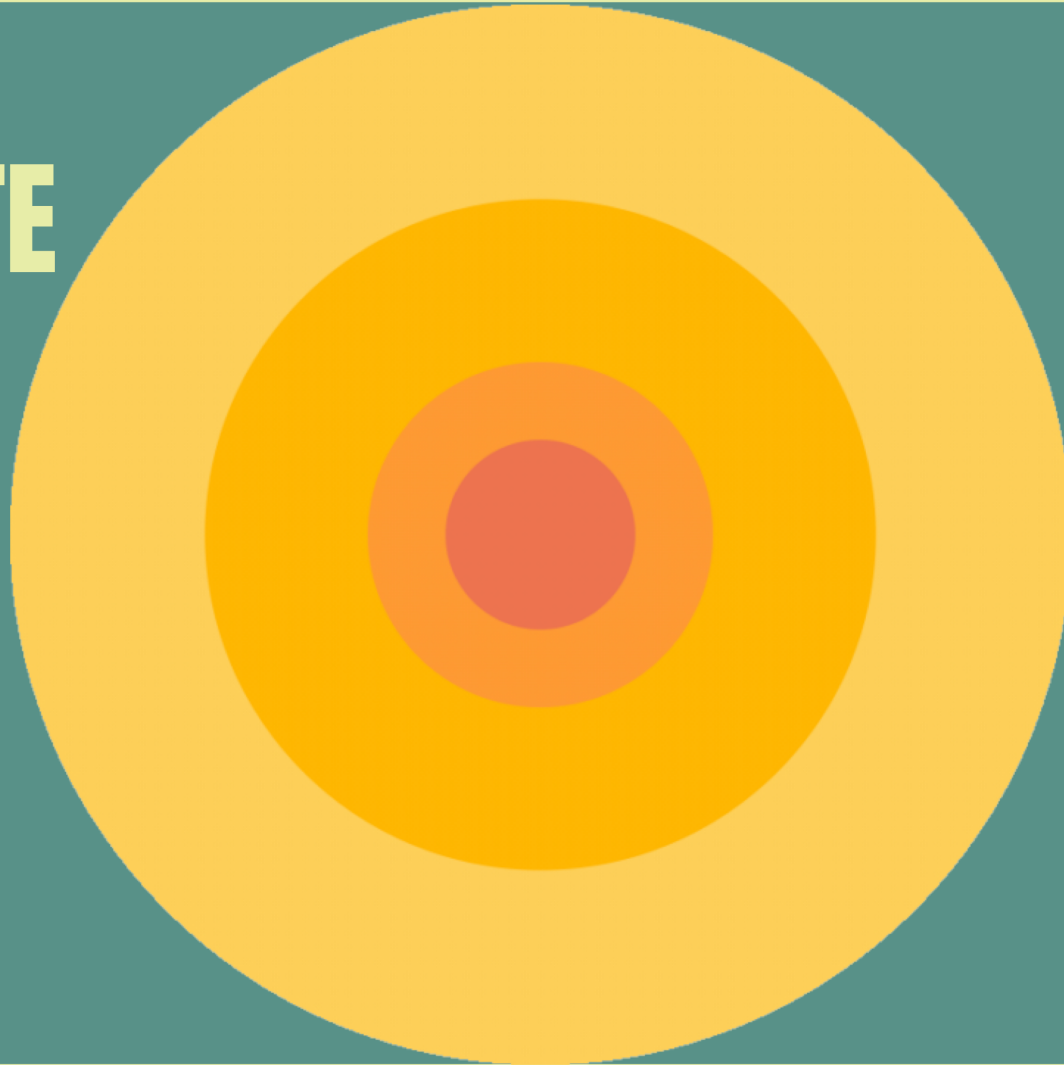
DC Safety Squad

DCSAFETYSQUAD@PROTON.ME





DE-ESCALATE





MEMBERS OF SELF DETERMINATION FOR D.C. DUMP TEA CRATES INTO THE POTOMAC RIVER



DC PUBLIC LIBRARY, THE PEOPLE'S ARCHIVE, WASHINGTON STAR PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION
APRIL 15, 1973



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Thank you for joining.

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