



## COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

THE JOHN A. WILSON BUILDING  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20004

July 9, 2026

The Honorable Albert Bryan, Jr.  
Governor, U.S. Virgin Islands  
5047 (21-22) Kongens Gade  
St. Thomas, VI 00802-6487

Dear Governor Bryan:

We write as elected officials representing the District of Columbia to thank the members of the Virgin Islands National Guard for their service in helping protect residents and visitors during the July 4th and America 250 celebrations in Washington, D.C., and to respectfully request that you withdraw all troops currently deployed to the District now that the principal America 250 celebrations have concluded.

We recognize that these events presented significant public safety and logistical challenges for the District and required coordination across multiple jurisdictions. We are grateful to the Guard members who left their homes and families to support the nation's capital during this exceptionally busy period. Now that these events have concluded, however, we respectfully request that you recall all Virgin Islands National Guard personnel currently assigned to Washington, D.C. and decline any extension of their deployment.


Temporary, event-specific assistance for a major national celebration is fundamentally different from an open-ended military presence in District neighborhoods. The continued deployment of out-of-state Guard personnel after these events, in addition to the Joint Task Force's use of Guard personnel to conduct patrols in District neighborhoods, outside the scope of event-specific security, raises serious concerns about mission creep, militarization of civilian spaces, and the erosion of local democratic control.

D.C. residents pay federal taxes, serve in the military, and host our nation's democratic institutions, yet are denied full voting representation in Congress and full control over our own local affairs. As the governor of a U.S. territory, we hope you understand the injustice of facing outside military forces indefinitely occupying our communities without statehood-level accountability and local control.

We again thank the members of the Virgin Islands National Guard for their service during the July 4th and America 250 celebrations. Their assistance during that defined period is

appreciated. Now that the principal event-related need has concluded, we respectfully ask that they be permitted to return home.

Sincerely,



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



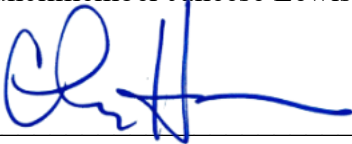
Chairman Phil Mendelson



Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Councilmember Matthew Frumin



Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Anita Bonds



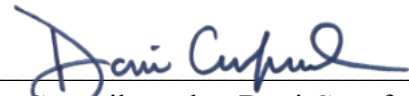
Councilmember Brianne Nadeau



Councilmember Brooke Pinto



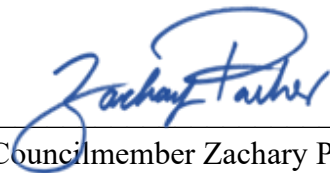
Councilmember Charles Allen



Councilmember Doni Crawford



Councilmember Wendell Felder



Councilmember Zachary Parker



Councilmember Trayon White, Sr.