

July 11, 2024

The Hon. Andrew Garbarino  
United States House of Representatives  
2344 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Garbarino:

I write to follow up on my online request to meet with you to provide information on the Office of the D.C. Auditor and particularly our public safety-related work. I applaud your willingness to consider a wide variety of viewpoints on issues and your leadership in bipartisan approaches to legislative issues. I hope I have an opportunity to speak with you in person in the next few weeks.

My office was created in the District's Home Rule Charter in 1973 and I have served as D.C. Auditor—a position appointed and confirmed by the Council of the District of Columbia—since late 2014. From 1995 to 2007 I served on the D.C. Council, including four years chairing the Committee on the Judiciary with oversight for the Metropolitan Police Department.

In my elected and appointed positions, I have welcomed a productive working relationship with the District's last four Chiefs of Police—Charles Ramsey, Cathy Lanier, Peter Newsham, and Robert Contee. Each would affirm that constructive relationship. The current chief, Pamela Smith, told news media she appreciated our latest report for noting the department's "strengths in diversity and recruiting, First Amendment protections, community engagement, and dealing with individuals in crisis." As a legislator I had an excellent working relationship with the department's rank and file, evidenced by the police union's endorsement in my re-election campaign in 2002.

This office's work has included case studies of officer-involved fatalities and a follow-up to the District's landmark use of force reforms in partnership with the Department of Justice described in a Washington Post article. More recently we detailed factors underlying the termination and reinstatement of officers, a report that prompted criticism and litigation from the police union. We will shortly publish a lengthy study of police staffing and time utilization which should be helpful to the department and policymakers in assuring the very best deployment of our men and women in uniform.

I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to meet you and respond to any questions you might have about the ongoing work of the Office of the D.C. Auditor, including any concerns you may have that prompted your proposed amendments touching on the work of my office.

Thank you for your consideration and for your leadership. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathleen Patterson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Patterson  
District of Columbia Auditor

cc: D.C. Council Chairman Phil Mendelson  
D.C. Councilmember Brooke Pinto, Council Committee on the Judiciary & Public Safety