

## Former cops divided over Trump's threat amid rising juvenile crime rates in DC

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U.S. President Donald Trump weighs in on a Diddy pardon after the rapper's trial verdict. (Credit: Bill Pugliano/Getty Images)



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WASHINGTON, D.C. (7News) — President Donald Trump is threatening to take over the locked-in situation in Washington again.

This time, after a group of teens attacked a man who happened to be a former DOGE employee. Now the president says D.C. needs to get it together or he will.

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7News spoke to former law enforcement officers and reached out to MPD and the Office of the Attorney General.

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From those in law enforcement, 7News heard two sides: some who aren't blinking an eye at the President's threats and others who feel people are not taking the threats seriously enough.

**SEE RELATED STORY | [Trump again threatens DC takeover in post linked to alleged DOGE employee assault](#)**

Two former Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) officers said people should remain aware because federal involvement could influence which laws are enforced and their severity. 7News also spoke to 24-year MPD vet Ronald Hampton and asked what could or should be done with the President's request.

"I would like to see our local leaders use a little bit more imagination and vision when it comes to crime prevention programs," Hampton said. "For example, the mayor of Baltimore has implemented several programs and things that we used to do years ago. The schools in Baltimore are staying open late. The rec centers are staying open late."

7News also spoke to Trial attorney Timothy Maloney.

"I think it's a lot of chest-beating on the part of the President, but the fact is that there are things the president can do to put pressure on the local government, such as taking over the police department or pressuring Congress to nullify some laws," said Maloney. "For instance, Congress nullified the DC criminal revisions, criminal code revision, a few years ago. So the federal government is not without power, and the reason is that the District of Columbia is a federally created district. It's been that way since 1789."

The Office of the Attorney General prosecutes juvenile crimes. 7 News asked: Do the sentiments shared (by the President) match the reality of what the OAG is seeing?

Attorney General Schwalb said, "No one who lives in, works in, or visits DC should experience this; it is horrific and disturbing. I cannot comment on specific cases, but know that when MPD brings us cases with sufficient evidence of juveniles who have broken the law and hurt people, we will prosecute them and ensure they face consequences for their actions."

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Additionally, below are our CY2024 prosecution rates (note that our office only has jurisdiction over juvenile crime and some adult misdemeanors; everything else, including adult felonies, is prosecuted by USAO).

For the most serious juvenile offenses in CY24, OAG's prosecution rates per arrest were:

- Over 90% of homicide and attempted homicide cases
- 87.1% of carjacking cases
- 85.7% of gun possession cases
- 78.9% of robbery cases
- 88.1% of violent assault cases
- MPD says the two 15-year-olds arrested were from Maryland.

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MPD is still looking for multiple other suspects.

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# Conversation

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