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NVRDC'S STATEMENT ON MAYOR BOWSER'S PROPOSED FY24 BUDGET

WASHINGTON, DC—March 23, 2023— Network for Victim Recovery of DC is disheartened at the Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget shared by DC's Mayor Muriel Bower on March 22nd. This budget cuts 31% from the DC Office of Victim Services & Justice Grants (OVSJG), which is the main governmental agency that funds the organizations supporting survivors/victims of crime in the District.

In the past couple of months, District residents and leaders have frequently discussed the [rise in violent crimes](#). The Revised Criminal Code Act, legislation which hoped to address historical public safety challenges and criminal legal reform in a holistic manner was vetoed by the Mayor and resulted in intervention by Congress, setting back a decade's worth of work.

This budget does not reflect an administration that is prioritizing and centering the impact of crime and trauma on its residents. "Why are we continuing to invest in responses to crime that are not grounded in empirical research and data and have not been successful at preventing harm in our community?" asks Bridgette Stumpf, NVRDC's Executive Director. "It is difficult to believe the sincerity of concerns about crime and public safety in the District when the budget for the resources that support and respond to DC survivors is being slashed by 31%." NVRDC is calling on DC leaders to ensure our budget reflects a true prioritization of addressing increases in crime and demonstrates efforts to reduce the much larger community costs of unaddressed trauma.

Victim service organizations have been struggling with flat funding for years despite increasing requests for services, only to have received the requested dollars for the first time ever this year. Now, these critical resources are facing a 31% cut to the agency that funds them going into the following year despite the rising rates of violent crime in the District. If this budget remains, the true cost could be the loss of critical services for survivors.

We ask our community members to stand by survivors and the resources dedicated to support them by calling their Councilmember and Mayor Bowser to demand additional funding for OVSJG and the organizations it funds. We demand that our leaders invest with fidelity in what they say their priorities are.