GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of Mayor Muriel Bowser

Public Roundtable on

**Exploring Non-Law Enforcement Alternatives
to Meeting Community Needs**

Testimony of

**Sam Quinney
Director
The Lab @ DC
Office of the City Administrator**

Before the
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Charles Allen, Chairperson
Council of the District of Columbia

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004
December 17, 2020
10:00 AM

Good morning Chairperson Allen, members, and staff of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety. I am Sam Quinney, the Director of The Lab @ DC within the Office of the City Administrator, and I am providing the Executive's testimony on "Exploring Non-Law Enforcement Alternatives to Meeting Community Needs."

The Lab @ DC is an applied scientific team launched by Mayor Muriel Bowser in the Office of the City Administrator. The Lab @ DC was created because Mayor Bowser knows District residents deserve a government that asks questions, tests policies, and iteratively improves how it serves the community. The Lab @ DC partners with District agencies to do just that.

The Lab @ DC works side-by-side with our agency partners to design resident-centered, evidence-based services and to evaluate their effectiveness. As Mayor Bowser has said, "Improving public safety requires more than just the police. Violence prevention requires everyone's support—families, community and faith-based organizations, and government agencies." We are proud to support Mayor Bowser's efforts to promote community-oriented, public health approaches to public safety that are based on scientific rigor and analysis.

As we consider alternatives to law enforcement in the District, we want to highlight the importance of approaching this work in a collaborative, participatory, and evidence-based manner. A framework emphasizing the following criteria is critical to ensuring that the policies the District pursues 1) respond to the needs of our diverse community; 2) leverage the vast knowledge and buy-in of those closest to these issues now, including police; and 3) allow us to understand what works and what doesn't so we can best optimize the District's scarce public resources.

What might this look like in practice?

Last year, the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice and the Office of the City Administrator asked The Lab @ DC to partner with research institutions in reimagining the role of police stops in public safety. This particular effort was initiated at the request of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) immediately following the department's first release of the stops data in September 2019, and aims to address three key questions:

1. Is there racial bias in stops made by MPD? If so, at what level(s) is this bias operating — among individuals, the department as a whole, and/or District-wide?
2. What are the effects of police stops? What are its benefits? What are its harms?
3. What research and policy efforts can the District and other jurisdictions undertake to better understand police stops and reduce harm while promoting equitable public safety?

The first phase of this effort was a virtual seven-part workshop series in October co-hosted by the Georgetown University Law Center's Innovative Policing Program, Howard University, and The Lab @ DC. Over 130 participants including members of law enforcement, advocacy groups, community organizations, and academic institutions participated in the series, sharing a diverse range of experiences and expertise across six days of workshops. Notably, not only did the series offer an opportunity to hear these perspectives, but also for interaction among them, to hash out difficult, complicated issues.

Over nearly 24 total hours of workshop conversations, we heard participants describe their assessment of the current state of police stops and how to reimagine this practice and its role in public safety.

This work is ongoing and will proceed in stages. In close partnership with Howard and Georgetown, we will take what we heard from this inclusive process and informing alternatives to police stops with:

1. An academic white paper detailing the discussions/findings emerging from the workshops;
2. A suite of expert and evidence-based recommendations for harm-reducing policy and programmatic interventions related to stops; and
3. A literature review and measurement guide for quantifying bias, harms, and benefits from stops, along with a research agenda on the role of stops in public safety for the District to continue building evidence on what's working in DC.

These documents will provide clear, feasible, evidence-based and community-centered direction on next steps for both policy and practice in the District and other jurisdictions nationally.

Alternatives to police stops are one component of what is being discussed here today, but we present this effort as an example of how we might effectively approach the broader conversation in a collaborative manner.

We conclude with an emphasis on three points:

First, we must ensure the programs we pursue are based on the best evidence available and build in evaluations of those programs here in the District. This will allow us to have the best chance at success as well as build the knowledge base to improve in the future.

Second, as we look ahead to the design and implementation of alternatives, we must pay close attention to what kinds of information sharing and collaboration can facilitate better delivery of these services and optimize the response.

Third, in addition to weighing alternatives to law enforcement response, we encourage consideration of opportunities the District has to intervene at earlier points in the chain of events, before someone is in crisis.

I want to thank the Georgetown University Law Center and Howard University for their partnership, collaboration, and inspiration in our collective work to reimagine police stops. I also want to thank MPD for demonstrating that it is willing to listen to many perspectives on challenging issues and engage in new approaches to community engagement.

Reimagining Police Stops Workshop Series

October 12 - 22, 2020 | Virtual Convening

Workshop #1: What are police and community perspectives on stops?
Monday, October 12, 2020 | 11:00 am - 3:30 pm (Eastern Time)

11:00 am - 11:40 am　**Welcome**

Danielle Holley-Walker | Howard University School of Law
Peter Newsham | DC Metropolitan Police Department
William Treanor | Georgetown Law
Christy Lopez | Georgetown Law and D.C. Police Reform Commission
Bahiyyah Muhammad | Howard University Graduate School

11:40 am - 12:20 pm　**A Keynote Conversation About Police Stops**

Paul Butler | Georgetown Law
Robert Contee | DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

12:20 pm - 1:15 pm　**Police Point-of-View Panel Discussion**

Why do police make stops? How do they assess the motivation and impact of stops? What benefits and harms do police perceive? What tradeoffs are considered?

Ron Davis | 21CP Solutions, LLC
Stephen Benson | DC MPD
Paul Figueroa | Oakland Police Department
Tracie Keesee | Center for Policing Equity
Chris Magnus | Tucson Police Department
James VanderMeer | DC MPD

1:15 pm - 1:45 pm　**Break**

1:45 pm - 2:40 pm　**Community Point-of-View Panel Discussion**

How do community members assess the motivation and impact of stops? What benefits and harms do they perceive?

Kristin Henning | Georgetown Law
DeMarcus Edwards | Melanin Coalition
Monica Hopkins | ACLU of the District of Columbia
Brenda Richardson | PSA 702 Outreach Committee
Bridgette Stumpf | Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)
Patrice Sulton | DC Justice Lab & DC Police Reform Commission

2:40 pm - 3:20 pm　**Breakout Discussion**

Facilitator-led small group discussions with participants

3:20 pm - 3:30 pm　**Closing Remarks**

Christy Lopez | Georgetown Law and D.C. Police Reform Commission

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Workshop #2: What experiences inform our views on stops? Where are our blind spots?
Wednesday, October 14, 2020 | 11:00 am - 2:30 pm (Eastern Time)

11:00 am - 11:20 am	**Welcome** Bahiyyah Muhammad	Howard University
11:20 am - 11:50 am	**Keynote: Justice Through Analysis: More Than Data on Racism in Policing** Phil Goff	Center for Policing Equity and Yale University
11:50 am - 12:30 pm	**Breakout Discussion** *How does your experience inform your assessment of the benefits and harms of stops?*
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm	**Break**
1:00 pm - 2:15 pm	**Breakout Discussion** *How might we maintain the benefits we currently get from stops AND cause less harm?*
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	**Closing Remarks** Sam Quinney	The Lab @ DC

Workshop #3: Measuring bias and discrimination
Friday, October 16, 2020 | 11:00 am - 1:30 pm (Eastern Time)

11:00 am - 11:20 am	**Welcome** Katie Gan and Sam Quinney	The Lab @ DC Anita Ravishankar	DC MPD and The Lab @ DC
11:20 am - 12:10 pm	**Measuring Bias: The Denominator Problem** Christopher Winship	Harvard University Dean Knox	University of Pennsylvania Jonathan Mummolo	Princeton University
12:10 pm - 12:30 pm	**Break**
12:30 pm - 1:30 pm	**Getting Measurement Right: What Can We Learn from Other Jurisdictions?** Andrea Headley	Georgetown University Sharad Goel	Stanford Computational Policy Lab Frank Baumgartner	University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill Felix Owusu	DC MPD, The Lab @ DC, and Harvard University
1:30 pm - 2:00 pm	**Break**

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Workshop #4: What do we know today and how do we measure it?
Friday, October 16, 2020 | 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm (Eastern Time)

2:00 pm - 2:10 pm **Welcome**

Katie Gan | The Lab @ DC // Anita Ravishankar | DC MPD, The Lab @ DC

2:15 pm - 3:30 pm **What Does the Research Say about the Effects of Stops?**

Vesla Weaver | Johns Hopkins University

Charles Epp | University of Kansas

Jack Glaser | University of California Berkeley

Jeff Fagan | Columbia Law School

Joseph Richardson | University of Maryland College Park

3:30 pm - 4:00 pm **Large Group Discussion**

What questions do you think are most important for research to answer? What answers would you need to propose better policy alternatives?

3:55 - 4:00 pm **Closing Remarks**

Katie Gan | The Lab @ DC // Anita Ravishankar | DC MPD, The Lab @ DC

Workshop #5: What have we overlooked?
Monday, October 19, 2020 | 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm (Eastern Time)

2:00 pm - 2:20 pm **Welcome**

Anita Ravishankar | DC MPD, The Lab @ DC // Sam Quinney | The Lab @ DC

2:20 pm - 3:05 pm **What have We Overlooked?**

David Abrams | University of Pennsylvania

Christian Davenport | University of Michigan

Tracy Meares | Yale University

Joseph Richardson | University of Maryland College Park

David Rudovsky | University of Pennsylvania

3:05 pm - 3:25 pm **Break**

3:25 pm - 4:20 pm **How Can We Answer These Questions?**

Hakeem Jefferson | Stanford University

Nicholas Camp | University of Michigan

Christian Davenport | University of Michigan

Jessica Gillooly | Policing Project at NYU School of Law

Jack Glaser | University of California Berkeley

Andrea Headley | Georgetown University

4:20 pm - 4:30 pm **Closing Remarks**

Reimagining Police Stops Workshop Series

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Workshop #6: Where are the opportunities for change?
Wednesday, October 21, 2020 | 12:00 pm-4:30 pm (Eastern Time)

12:00 pm - 12:30 pm   **Welcome**

Paul Monteiro | Howard University
Roger Mitchell | DC Interim Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

12:30 pm - 1:35 pm   **Where are the Opportunities for Change? Individual, Departmental, and Citywide Solutions**

Lynda Garcia | Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Ashley Carter | Advancement Project
Darius Charney | Center for Constitutional Rights
Puneet Cheema | NAACP Legal Defense Fund
Michael Davis | Northeastern University
Setareh Yelle | DC Office for Neighborhood Safety and Engagement

1:35 pm - 1:55 pm   **Break**

1:55 pm - 3:10 pm   **Breakout Discussion**

How can we reimagine police stops at the individual, departmental, and citywide levels?

3:10 pm - 3:25 pm   **Break**

3:25 pm - 4:20 pm   **How Do these Opportunities Fit in the DC Context? How Will We Know if these Solutions Worked?**

Christy Lopez | Georgetown Law and DC Police Reform Commission
Delante Gholston | PeaceWalksDC and Peace Fellowship Church
Ben Haiman | DC MPD
Michael Perloff | ACLU of the District of Columbia
Patrice Sulton | DC Justice Lab and DC Police Reform Commission
Michael Tobin | DC Office of Police Complaints

4:20 pm - 4:30 pm   **Closing Remarks**

Paul Monteiro | Howard University

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Workshop #7: Where do we go from here?
Thursday, October 22, 2020 | 11:00 am-1:00 pm (Eastern Time)

11:00 am - 11:20 am   **Welcome**

Christy Lopez | Georgetown Law & DC Police Reform Commission
Sam Quinney | The Lab @ DC

11:20 am - 12:10 pm   **What Did We Come Up With?**
What are the key open questions for research in this space? How can we leverage new methods to advance a research agenda? Where are the opportunities for policy change at the individual, departmental, and citywide levels?

Christy Lopez | Georgetown Law and D.C. Police Reform Commission
Jack Glaser | University of California Berkeley
Andrea Headley | Georgetown University
Michael Perloff | ACLU of the District of Columbia
Brenda Richardson | PSA 702 Outreach Committee
Ebony Russ | Howard University & George Washington University
Antonio Thomas | Melanin Coalition

12:10 pm - 12:20 pm   **Break**

12:20 pm - 12:50 pm   **Where Do We Go from Here?**

Bahiyyah Muhammad | Howard University
Karima Holmes | DC Office of Unified Communications
Del McFadden | DC Office of Neighborhood Engagement and Safety
Peter Newsham | DC MPD

12:50 pm - 1:00 pm   **Closing Remarks**

Christy Lopez | Georgetown Law & DC Police Reform Commission
Sam Quinney | The Lab @ DC

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Speakers and Discussion Leaders:

David Abrams, Penn Law

Frank Baumgartner, UNC-Chapel Hill

Stephen Benson, DC Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)

Camilla Brandfield-Harvey, Georgetown Law

Paul Butler, Georgetown Law

Nicholas Camp, University of Michigan

Ashley Carter, Advancement Project

Darius Charney, Center for Constitutional Rights

Puneet Cheema, NAACP Legal Defense Fund

Robert Contee, DC MPD

Christian Davenport, University of Michigan

Michael Davis, Northeastern University

Ronald Davis, 21CP Solutions, LLC

DeMarcus Edwards, Melanin Coalition

Charles Epp, University of Kansas

Jeff Fagan, Columbia Law School

Eduardo Ferrer, Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic & Initiative

Paul Figueroa, Oakland Police Department

Lynda Garcia, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Delonte Gholston, PeaceWalksDC and Peace Fellowship Church

Jessica Gillooly, Policing Project at NYU School of Law

Jack Glaser, UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy

Sharad Goel, Stanford Computational Policy Lab

Phil Goff, Center for Policing Equity and Yale University

Ben Haiman, DC MPD

Andrea Headley, Georgetown University

Kristin Henning, Georgetown Law

LaShunda Hill, Students in the Care of DC and D.C. Police Reform Commission

Danielle Holley-Walker, Howard University School of Law

Karima Holmes, DC Office of Unified Communications

Monica Hopkins, ACLU of the District of Columbia (ACLU-DC)

Hakeem Jefferson, Stanford University

Tracie Keesee, Center for Policing Equity

Corey Knight, D.C. Police Reform Commission

Dean Knox, University of Pennsylvania

Christy Lopez, Georgetown Law and D.C. Police Reform Commission

Chris Magnus, Tucson Police Department

Del McFadden, DC Office of Neighborhood Engagement and Safety

Tracey Meares, Yale University

Roger Mitchell, DC Interim Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

Paul Monteiro, Howard University

Bahiyyah Muhammad, Howard University Graduate School

Jonathan Mummolo, Princeton University

Peter Newsham, DC MPD

Rebba Omer, Georgetown Juvenile Justice Clinic & Initiative

Felix Owusu, DC MPD, The Lab @ DC, and Harvard University

Michael Perloff, ACLU of the District of Columbia (ACLU-DC)

Natasha Pratt-Harris, Morgan State University

Sam Quinney, The Lab @ DC

Anita Ravishankar, DC MPD & The Lab @ DC

Jacqueline Rhoden-Trader, Coppin State University

Brenda Richardson, PSA 702 Outreach Committee

Joseph Richardson, University of Maryland College Park

David Rudovsky, Penn Law

Ebony Russ, Howard University & George Washington University

Elsie Scott, Howard University

Bridgette M Stumpf, Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)

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