



## **The Federation of Citizens Associations of the District of Columbia statement on the January 6, 2021 on the violent attack on the United States (US) Capital**

January 14, 2021

The District of Columbia (DC) Federation of Citizen Associations hereby release the following statement in response to the violent attacks on the United States (US) Capitol on January 6, 2021, as well as the threat of further attacks on DC from extremist groups.

On behalf of our member organizations, who represent residents, businesses and other organizations throughout DC, we condemn in the strongest terms the violence that took place at the US Capitol on January 6, 2021. We demand a stop to any further encouragement of such violence, and any further armed or violent political activity in relation to the transfer of presidential power in this or any future election.

The events of January 6, 2021 at the US Capitol have had and will continue to have insidious and profoundly damaging effects on the 700,000+ residents of this city, as well as DC businesses and those who work and visit here. The people of DC desire to live peacefully and in security, and we strive to create and maintain a diverse community and thriving economy.

Unlawful insurrectionist activity, and the justifiable security counter-measures which they necessitate, undermine and diminish many of the basic freedoms that residents of DC, just as any American citizens, have a right to enjoy. These include:

- The right to feel safe and secure in one's own home and neighborhood. This is especially true for black, brown, Latinx, Jewish, and LGBTQ+ residents who have faced bigotry, harassment, direct personal threats, and physical assault from the white-supremacist insurrectionists who have descended on our City.
- The right to travel the city freely, without fear of harassment. This impacts residents' ability to get to work and to have gainful employment, to make use of the City's many cultural and recreational amenities, and to visit friends and family.
- The right to operate a business and own property, without fear of its pillaging or destruction. The violent activity of the insurrectionists has forced businesses to



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close, curfews to be imposed, and a state of emergency to be declared. This political violence damages the local economy at a time that it is already struggling in the face of the global coronavirus pandemic.

We affirm that racist hatred and political violence have no place in this city.

We demand that local and federal officials take all measures necessary to swiftly bring an end to this assault on our democracy and our way of life.

We expect prosecutors to vigorously pursue and prosecute to the full extent of the law any individual engaging in criminal activity in association with this domestic terrorism and political violence.

Finally, we urge Congress to move swiftly in enacting Statehood for the District of Columbia. Recent events have revealed the urgency of local sovereignty for the District in order to maintain our domestic security and tranquility and to deploy governmental resources in the face of federal inaction and failure. In this regard, we note the critical role played by the Metropolitan Police Department in restoring order at the Capitol when the federal police force was unable to do so. We further note the failure of the federal executive branch to activate the DC National Guard in order to timely respond to the unrest on January 6. Sovereignty for DC will, among other things, allow the DC government to respond to civil unrest, just as every other state enjoys.

The time has come for the people of the District of Columbia to demand an end to the slander and defamation of this city for political ends. DC is a wonderful city, of colorful neighborhoods, thriving local businesses, and residents from around the country and around the world. The violence brought to our city by political fanatics and domestic terrorists has no place here. We demand that it end now.

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Phil Thomas

President

Federation of Citizens Association of the District of Columbia