



COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
1350 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W.  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004

Phil Mendelson  
Councilmember At-Large

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July 2, 2010

Honorable Adrian M. Fenty  
Mayor of the District of Columbia  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 327  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mayor Fenty:

I write to you regarding the Secure Residential Treatment Program (SRTP). At risk is both the opportunity to reduce crime and the availability of substantial federal dollars. The SRTP has been in place since September 2009 and involves various local and federal entities, including, the Department of Corrections, Bureau of Prisons (BOP), Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA), and the United States Parole Commission. As your staff knows, the program is housed at the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) and has a capacity of 32 beds. These are 32 offenders who have violated either their parole or supervised release because of drugs. SRTP is a federally certified drug treatment program for District residents, supported entirely by federal funding.

Drug abuse and addiction are a plague in the District with a high correlation to crime. I believe we must make every effort to support and expand programs, such as SRTP, that proactively address this problem. The District benefits since drug treatment helps returning residents exit the vicious cycle of recidivism.

I met with your staff recently to discuss this program. The Federal partners have agreed to expand SRTP from 32 to 96 beds. The incremental cost to the District is at most \$616,000, but likely zero. My understanding is that the BOP has committed to contribute \$1.8 million in program operations and vendor support; CSOSA \$1.7 million for case management, post-release transitional housing, and outpatient treatment; and the Parole Commission will provide a program coordinator at the cost of \$74,000. In total, federal partners are pledging over \$3.5 million to pay for certified drug treatment of District residents. The District's contribution would be to house these offenders at the CTF – *but these are offenders who will be sent to our jail anyway given that drug use is violating the terms of their release.*

I am concerned that your Administration has decided not to move forward with this program. I urge you to reconsider immediately. The District can ill afford to squander this opportunity to affect crime and waste the availability of significant federal resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phil Mendelson".

Phil Mendelson, Chairman  
Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary

PM/ht