

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**



**ATTORNEY GENERAL  
KARL A. RACINE**

November 4, 2016

Denise Rucker  
ANC6B10 Commissioner

Dear Ms. Rucker,

Per our October 13th email exchange, we have looked into your request for data on prosecutions of offenses that occur on Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (“WMATA”) property. Currently, the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia (“OAG”) does not track cases by whether the offenses occurred on WMATA property. We can, however, give you approximate numbers of arrest cases WMATA officers presented to OAG during fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and numbers summarizing how our office handled those matters. Hopefully, this data will assist you.

Some context for the data below - WMATA officers present cases to two sections of OAG’s Public Safety Division – the Juvenile Section and the Criminal Section.<sup>1</sup> The Juvenile cases (committed by people under age 18) captured in the data encompass a wide variety of offenses ranging from fair evasion to robbery and serious assaults.<sup>2</sup> The Criminal offenses captured in the data include quality of life offenses (e.g. disorderly conduct, fair evasion, indecent exposure, etc.).<sup>3</sup> We have also broken the cases down into two categories of offenses: 1) Crimes against persons such as robberies, assaults, threats; and 2) Other Crimes such as fare evasions, panhandlings, vending without a license, possession of an open container of alcohol, disorderly conducts, indecent exposure, possession of prohibited weapons, unlawful entries, drug offenses, destruction of properties, etc.

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<sup>1</sup>Generally, OAG has prosecution authority over all delinquent acts committed in the District. Those cases are handled by the Juvenile Section of the Public Safety Division. OAG also has prosecution authority over traffic offenses and quality of life offenses committed in the District by adults. Those cases are handled by the Criminal Section of the Public Safety Division.

<sup>2</sup>District’s laws protect the identities of juveniles who have contact with our justice system. Therefore, there are legally imposed restrictions regarding the information we may disclose about juveniles and statistics related to juvenile cases.

<sup>3</sup>The United States Attorney’s Office for the District of Columbia has prosecution authority over most serious misdemeanors and all felony offenses committed by adults in the District and over some cases of serious felonies committed by 16 and 17 year olds. OAG does not have access to those statistics.

**FY2015** – approximately **832** arrest cases presented by WMATA

Total cases no papered<sup>4</sup> – **517** (62%)

Total cases papered – **315** (38%)

1. Total cases where the lead offense is a crime against a person (i.e. robberies, assaults, threats) - **133** (16%)
  - a. Papered – **90** (68%)
  - b. No Papered – **43** (32%)

The remaining cases are other types of offenses (e.g. disorderly conduct, fair evasion, indecent exposure, possession of prohibited weapon, unlawful entry, drug offenses, destruction of property, etc.)

2. Total cases of other crimes – **699** (84%)
  - a. Papered – **225** (32%)
  - b. No Papered – **474** (68%)

**FY2016** - approximately **1254** arrest cases presented by WMATA

Total cases no papered – **795** (63%)

Total cases papered – **459** (37%)

3. Total cases where the lead offense is a crime against a person - **182** (15%)
  - a. Papered – **127** (70%)
  - b. No Papered – **55** (30%)
4. Total cases of other crimes – **1072** (85%)
  - a. Papered – **332** (31%)
  - b. No Papered – **740** (69%)

Please let me know if you have any questions or I may be for further assistance.

Sincerely,

KARL A. RACINE  
Attorney General for the District of Columbia

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<sup>4</sup> Reasons for no-papered cases include insufficient evidence, potential constitutional error by law enforcement, witness non-cooperation, and cases that are diverted into a program for services.

/s/Alicia Washington

BY: Alicia Washington

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