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Contact: Adrian Fenty

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FENTY CALLS FOR PARK POLICE PRESENCE IN UPTOWN PARKS

In a December 10 letter to Interior Secretary Gale A. Norton, Councilmember Adrian M. Fenty (D-Ward 4) called for the U.S. Park Police to maintain a presence in parks outside the National Mall. Fenty echoed an earlier statement by Park Police Chief Teresa Chambers, who has been reprimanded for expressing her concern that Park Police resources are being focused at a few downtown monuments at the expense of the many parks spread across neighborhoods in the District.

“The National Park Service has a clear responsibility to police its parks,” Fenty said.

“Many Ward 4 residents live near National Park Service lands, and redirecting Park Police resources away from parks directly detracts from the safety of neighborhoods.”

Fenty noted that serious crimes have occurred in NPS parks, including a gang rape in Rock Creek Park this summer.