

An executive order released March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2025 titled “MAKING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SAFE AND BEAUTIFUL”<sup>1</sup> turns into dysfunctional action in President Donald Trump’s federal takeover of the United States’ District of Columbia. The executive order authorizes the creation of the D.C. Safe and Beautiful Task Force, allowing the removal of homeless encampments and the continuation of extreme federal immigration arrests. On August 11th, another executive order was signed declaring a "crime emergency" in the nation's capital. With this additional executive order the President has enacted Article 740 of the Home Rule Act which federalizes law enforcement in Washington D.C. bringing with it the activation of approximately 800 National Guard servicemembers.<sup>2 3 4</sup> These measures come after President Trump shared a photo of DOGE employee Edward "Big Balls" Coristine bloodied on TRUTH Social, alleging in his post that Coristine was a victim of a violent carjacking by two young teenagers. This event prompted the president to threaten the federal takeover of the capital.<sup>5 6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order no. 14117, *Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful*, April 2, 2025, *Federal Register*, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/04/03/2025-05837/making-the-district-of-columbia-safe-and-beautiful>

<sup>2</sup> Executive Order no. 14125, *Declaring a Crime Emergency in the District of Columbia*, August 13, 2025, *Federal Register*, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/08/14/2025-15550/declaring-a-crime-emergency-in-the-district-of-columbia>

<sup>3</sup> C. Todd Lopez, “National Guard Mobilizes 800 Troops in D.C. to Support Federal, Local Law Enforcement,” *U.S. Department of Defense News*, August 14, 2025, <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/4275149/national-guard-mobilizes-800-troops-in-dc-to-support-federal-local-law-enforcement/>.

<sup>4</sup> District of Columbia. *District of Columbia Home Rule Act*. Washington, DC: Government of the District of Columbia, February 11, 2014. [https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Home%20Rule%20Act%202013%20\(2-11-14\).pdf](https://dccouncil.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Home%20Rule%20Act%202013%20(2-11-14).pdf)

<sup>5</sup> Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump). “Crime in Washington, D.C., is totally out of control. ...” *Truth Social*, August 27, 2025. <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114977985620971126>

<sup>6</sup> Nicholas Nehamas and Campbell Robertson, “Trump Threatens Federal Takeover of Washington after Member of Doge Is Assaulted,” *New York Times*, August 5, 2025,

Initially working in shifts of 100 to 200 servicemembers at a time, on August 14th, the National Guard's presence was extended to a 24-hour operation.<sup>7</sup> A post on X from FBI Director Kash Patel briefly details 45 arrests made in the overnight hours preceding the uptick in the National Guard's patrolling hours.<sup>8</sup> By August 16th, the number of National Guard increased twofold with West Virginia, Ohio, and South Carolina deploying an additional 700 troops to the capital.<sup>9</sup> <sup>10</sup>Not far behind on August 19<sup>th</sup> Mississippi, Tennessee, and Louisiana committed to the deployment of approximately 300 troops to the capital.<sup>11</sup> While D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser posted to X criticizing the oversaturation of military servicemembers policing US citizens as “#UnAmerican”, the Department of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth would officially confirm that those servicemembers will be carrying weapons on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.<sup>12</sup><sup>13</sup>

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<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/05/us/politics/trump-doge-member-assaulted.html>. Archived at <http://archive.today/j9g8W>

<sup>7</sup> Anne Flaherty and Luke Barr, “National Guard Troops Have Begun 24-Hour Operations in DC: Official,” *ABC News*, August 14, 2025,

<https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dc-wake-troops-deployed-national-mall/story?id=124629956>

<sup>8</sup> Kash Patel (@FBIDirectorKash), “The FBI and our partners made 45 arrests,” X (formerly Twitter), August 14, 2025, 7:52 a.m., <https://x.com/FBIDirectorKash/status/1955975796197044381>

<sup>9</sup> Maggie More, “National Guard Troops in DC Will Nearly Double after Saturday Deployment Orders,” *NBC Washington*, August 16, 2025, <https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/national-guard-troops-in-dc-will-nearly-double-after-saturday-deployment-orders/3976129/>

<sup>10</sup> “At Least 5 States Are Deploying National Guard Troops to D.C.,” *CBS News*, August 19, 2025,

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/west-virginia-to-deploy-hundreds-of-national-guard-troops-to-d-c/>

<sup>11</sup> Matt Brown and Mike Pesoli, “3 More GOP Governors Authorize Deployment of National Guard Troops as Part of Trump Show of Force,” *Associated Press*, August 18, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/washington-dc-federal-police-takeover-national-guard-fb91f9884c928b98036754885a7c0180>

<sup>12</sup> Muriel Bowser (@murielbowser), “American soldiers and airmen policing American citizens on American soil is #UnAmerican,” X (formerly Twitter), August 16, 2025, 8:31 p.m., <https://x.com/murielbowser/status/1956891644076154962?s=46>

<sup>13</sup> Zachary Cohen, “Hegseth Orders National Guard Troops in DC to Carry Weapons,” *CNN*, August 22, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/22/politics/hegseth-orders-national-guard-troops-dc-carry-weapons>

While the Army and Air National Guard are easily spotted in their fatigues all across high traffic areas of the US Capital, plain clothed federal agents from ICE and HSI (Homeland Security Investigations) have been making arrests throughout the city and forcibly clearing homeless encampments. Within a week of the executive order signing on August 11th, ICE had made 160 arrests of undocumented immigrants in D.C.<sup>14</sup> Additionally, the US Department of the Interior has bulldozed a total of seventy homeless encampments beginning from the end of March 2025, as stated by White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt during a press briefing.<sup>15</sup> D.C's Mayor Bowser and other local officials will oversee the launch of a new Non-Congregate Bridge Housing Program that is intended to shelter approximately 800 homeless residents. However, legal advocates for the homeless have expressed concerns that the vulnerable population is being persecuted for their circumstances and stresses that sending the homeless to jail if they fail to qualify for the services does not solve the crisis within the capital.<sup>16 17 18 19</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Brown and Pesoli, "3 More GOP Governors Authorize Deployment."

<sup>15</sup> Forbes Breaking News, "Karoline Leavitt, This Is the Plan for Homeless People in D.C. After Trump Called for Them to Leave," YouTube video, 2:24, August 12, 2025, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OtY50S2SvqY>

<sup>16</sup> Meg Kinnard, "DC's Homeless Pack Up as Sweeps Are Expected: What We Know about Trump's Plan to Clear Encampments," *Associated Press*, August 14, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/trump-homeless-washington-relocation-encampments-federal-takeover-305cb8108031ef67b31712a42852c3d5>

<sup>17</sup> Executive Office of the Mayor. "Mayor Bowser Previews E Street Bridge Housing Program." Press release by Muriel Bowser, Mayor of the District of Columbia, August 2025. <https://mayor.dc.gov/release/mayor-bowser-previews-e-street-bridge-housing-program-districts-second-non-congregate>

<sup>18</sup> Luke Lukert, "New Dorm-Style Housing Project for DC's Homeless Set to Open Next Month," *WTOP News*, August 28, 2025, <https://wtop.com/dc/2025/08/new-dorm-style-housing-project-for-dcs-homeless-set-to-open-next-month/>

<sup>19</sup> Obed Manuel and Michel Martin, "D.C.'s Homeless Need Housing, Not Jail, Says Legal Advocate Wary of Trump Plan," *NPR*, August 14, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/14/nx-s1-5500251/washington-dc-homeless-trump-jail>

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