



**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
OFFICE OF COUNCILMEMBER TRAYON WHITE, SR., Ward Eight**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Statement on the Ballou High School Investigative
Report from Councilmember White***

(Washington, D.C.) — Councilmember Trayon White released the following statement on the Ballou High School investigation:

“In the wake of the preliminary findings in the Ballou High School investigation by the Office of the State Superintendent of Education and issued by Mayor Bowser, it is clear that there is a critical need for a citywide system to be implemented in order to address the social ills and barriers to truancy and learning. There are reasons students are being tardy and absent, and we must take a step back to assess the root of the problem,” states White.

“I believe Principal Reeves had a strong belief that she was operating with good intentions— it is evident in the love and support shown by the students and their parents at the Council oversight hearing and my visits to the school. There are grave errors inherent within the infrastructure of the system that are impacting our public schools across the District. The flaws that have surfaced make this a public school system issue, not just a Ballou High School issue. As found in the recent report, Wilson Senior High School is also experiencing the same attendance challenges, reflecting an urgent need for wrap around services for students citywide.

Ballou students, their parents, and the community as a whole are in great distress. We have to make a way for teachers to file grievances and feel safe at the same time. While the investigation is underway and moving forward throughout the school year, we must focus on education equity, preparedness and excellence amongst our students across District lines. It is imperative that we continue to support our students, recognize their achievements and preserve their morale, so that no child is left behind or falls between the gray areas of a flawed or antiquated system. Therefore, active parenting and community support is a must. My administration is working diligently to restore the integrity of our school system. It is my priority to ensure that all of our students receive the education that they need and deserve to be prepared for successful collegiate and professional careers.”

About Councilmember Trayon White

Councilmember Trayon White represents Ward 8 of the District of Columbia. He provides support and empowers people who suffer from the social impact of crime, violence, drug abuse, educational disparities and poverty. He is known for his common sense approach and business acumen to combat social ills in Ward 8. Councilmember White prides himself on being a servant leader and an example for young people, a mentor for many, and a support for all youth in Ward 8 and across Washington DC.

Trayon White was elected to the D.C. Council in November 2016 and serves on the Committee on Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization; Committee of the Whole; Committee on Education; Committee on Government Operations; Committee on Human Services; and Committee on Labor and Workforce.

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