

MAYOR'S OFFICE
OF NIGHTLIFE
AND CULTURE
FY2019
ANNUAL
REPORT



*** WE ARE WASHINGTON ***
GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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Message from the Mayor



This is not your grandfather's Washington, DC. Today we have a city that offers something for everyone whether you're a DC native or a visitor. We're home to locally owned small businesses, to world-champion sports teams, from Michelin-starred restaurants to concert halls and nightclubs.

Currently, DC's nightlife and culture is thriving. We recognize small businesses are the backbone of our economy and I look forward to their continued growth. With such growth, comes many challenges such as addressing quality of life needs, noise, and cutting red tape as businesses begin to expand across our city. In order to address some of these challenges, the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture (MONC) was created, and thus far, has lived up to its mission since its inception.

I am proud of the leadership and hard work of Director Shawn Townsend and his incredible team during Fiscal Year 19, as they ensure that we are working across DC Government agencies, with businesses, and community members to build a vibrant nighttime economy that works for everyone.

Muriel Bowser
Mayor, District of Columbia

Message from the Director



During FY19 the Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture (MONC) worked effortlessly to carve out the main functions of the office, all while finding solutions to common issues that impact our nighttime economy. Additionally, we made strides in establishing an interagency network where MONC and District agencies work together to successfully resolve issues expeditiously. At the same time, we recognize that this work cannot be done without the help

of community stakeholders and nightlife advocates. During the past year, we attended 61 Advisory Neighborhood Committee (ANCs) meetings in nightlife areas and hosted 19 roundtables with Community Improvement Districts (CIDs), Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and nightlife establishments where we have discussed and addressed issues that may impact the nighttime economy. Engaging with community leaders throughout the District has equipped our office with the tools necessary to tirelessly mediate quality of life issues and business needs in our nightlife corridors. I am proud of my small but mighty team for the relentless work and I am beyond excited to share our hard work for Fiscal Year 19.

Shawn Townsend
Executive Director, Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture

Executive Summary

The District is home to 2,437 nightlife establishments. Nightlife establishments are defined as restaurants, bars, performing venues and nightclubs that operate after 5:00pm. The Mayor's Office of Nightlife and Culture MONC is responsible for identifying efficiencies for the District's after-hours economy by serving as a central point of contact between DC Government, the nightlife industry, and District residents.

inter-agency relationships, private and public partnerships with Uber and sister agencies such as The Mayor's Office on Volunteerism & Partnerships (Serve DC) and the Mayor's The Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI). This report will highlight the history of the office, our accomplishments during FY19, and key data points that demonstrates our successful engagement with our stakeholders.



▲ Director Townsend convened a press conference along with representatives from Uber, DCRCC, MPD, Director Jennifer Porter from the Mayor's Office of Women, Policy, and Initiatives (MOWPI) at Sudhouse DC to launch the "Stand Up, Don't Stand By" Campaign to raise bystander awareness to prevent sexual assault.

History of the Mayor’s Office of Nightlife and Culture

Mayor Muriel Bowser signed the Office and Commission of Nightlife Establishment Act of 2017 on October 18, 2018, establishing the District’s first Office of Nightlife and Culture. Mayor Bowser signed the legislation at The Park at 14th, a nightlife establishment in Ward 2, and was joined by the bill’s sponsor, Ward 4 Councilmember Brandon Todd.

The legislation established a 15-member Commission of Nightlife, which is comprised of government, private-sector, and community representatives. The commission advises the Mayor, the Director of the Office of Nightlife and Culture, and the DC Council on policies that affect nightlife establishments and the creative economy. The Commission of Nightlife meet quarterly to review regulations, common complaints, public safety concerns, and other relevant issues.

- ▼ Director Townsend addressed nightlife industry employees and operators during MONC’s first Nightlife Active Shooter Response Training at Penn Social.



FY19 Accomplishments

“Stand Up, Don’t Stand By”

- MONC partnered with the Mayor’s Office of Women’s Policy Initiatives (MOWPI), Uber, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and the DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC) to launch a bystander awareness campaign to prevent sexual assault. Additionally, bars and clubs placed posters in their establishments to encourage patrons not to be bystanders to sexual assault.

MONC Training Day

- MONC hosted "Training Day" and engaged over 50 businesses and 100 employees. Training Day is a quarterly workshop for the nightlife industry leaders to engage with district agencies to learn about policy and regulatory information in the night industry.

Director Townsend in partnership with the Mayor's Office of LGBTQ Affairs, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), and DMV Black Restaurant Week hosting a round-table to discuss LGBTQ issues.



▲ Director Townsend meeting with the nightclub owners, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD), Adams Morgan BID, Mount Vernon Triangle CID, DC Nightlife Council at the Gryphon to discuss public safety issues in the Dupont Circle nightlife corridor.

MONC Nightlife Active Shooter Response Training

- MONC Partnered with Nightclub Security Consultants to offer a free course available to nightlife businesses in all 8 wards to discuss how to respond to an active shooter incident.

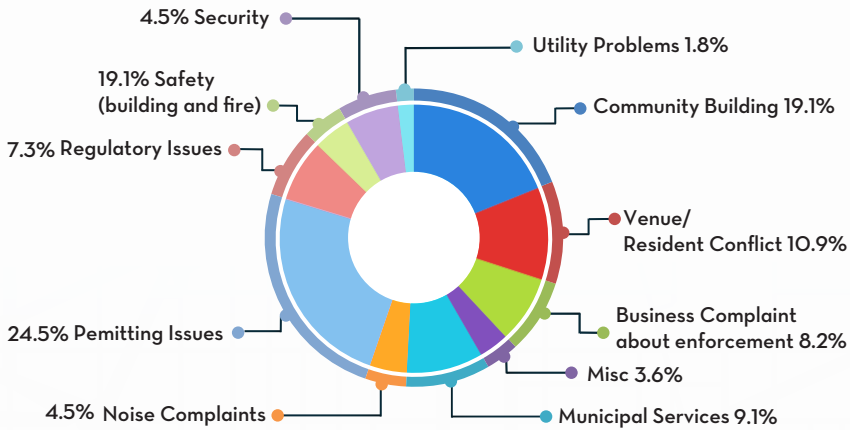


▲ Courtesy of Shutter Stock.

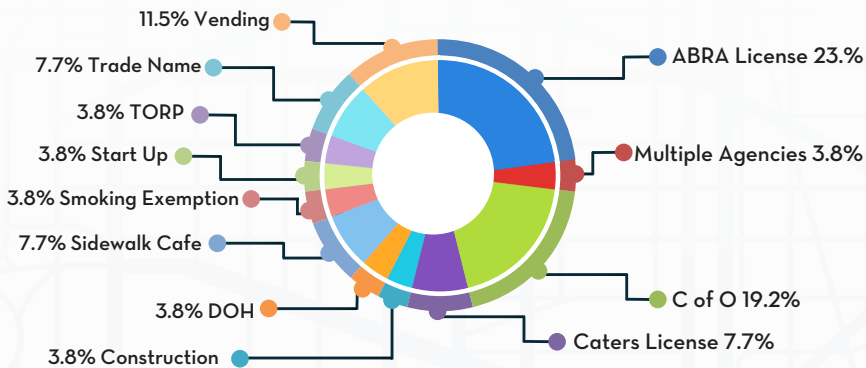
Business Engagement

- MONC engaged 105 businesses by hosting 19 roundtables throughout the District with Community Improvement Districts (CID), Business Improvement Districts (BID), and nightlife establishments. Additionally, MONC attended 61 Advisory Neighborhood Committees (ANCs) and civic associations meetings.

MONC assisted 62 businesses and addressed 98% of their issues in the following areas:



Types of Issues MONC Addressed through Q1 2020



Type of Permitting Assistance delivered by MONC FY2019 - Q1 2020

MONC spent 25% of our efforts assisting nightlife businesses navigate permitting processes. Two major types of permitting assistance displayed above are certificate of occupancy from the Department of Consumer Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) and Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) license processes.



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