

NBC's *Today*
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CRAIG MELVIN: Another major story we're following this morning, President Trump's unprecedented decision to seize control of Washington, D.C.'s police department and deploy National Guard troops. The President saying the move is needed to deal with what he says is an unacceptably high crime rate, but the mayor of Washington, D.C. and D.C.'s own police statistics appear to tell a different story.

(....)

GARRETT HAAKE: Look, President Trump has long complained about what he sees as out of control crime in cities, especially here in Washington, D.C., regardless of what police statistics and local leaders may say to the contrary. Now, he's making a dramatic move to try to combat crime in Washington and warning other cities to clean up their streets or they could be next.

(....)

MAYOR MURIEL BOWSER (D): I will work every day to make sure it is not a complete disaster.

HAAKE: Other Democrats calling it a disaster.

CONGRESSMAN JAMIE RASKIN (D-MD) [on CNN's *The Arena with Kasie Hunt*, 08/11/25]: This looks, to me, like an emergency, which is manufactured because of a public relations crisis relating to the Epstein file.

HAAKE: President Trump taking the dramatic step after a former member of DOGE was violently assaulted on Washington streets last week, painting a dire picture of crime and homelessness in the capital.

PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP: Our capitol city has been overtaken by violent gangs, roving mobs of wild youth, drugged out maniacs, and homeless people.

HAAKE: But D.C. police statistics show violent crime has fallen the last two years, including by 26 percent so far in 2025 and the U.S. Attorney's Office said in January, overall crime in D.C. was at a 30-year low. The head of D.C.'s police union says those statistics fail to capture the reality on the ground.

GREGGORY PEMBERTON: That's not the reality we feel on the streets.

HAAKE: He says D.C.'s officers welcome short-term federal help, but need more officers and changes in local laws to make a difference. [TO PEMBERTON] Can you fundamentally fix the crime problem in D.C. in a month?

PEMBERTON: No, I don't think so. I think you certainly can make an impact on the crime that would normally occur.