



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***Councilmember White's Statement on the Passing of
Ballou High School Student, Joevon Patterson-Smith***

(Washington, D.C., January 30, 2018) — Councilmember Trayon White released the following statement on the passing of Ballou High School student, Joevon Patterson-Smith.

“My heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to the family of 17 year-old Joevon Patterson Smith, a bright, young special needs Ballou High School student who departed from us on January 29, 2018.

Joevon had a promising future ahead of him, he ran track and was scheduled to graduate this year. He passed away last night after being in a coma for 2 weeks. Joevon's family is convinced that this incident happened inside the school by other students. DCPS cannot confirm that the allegations are true at this moment. The Metropolitan Police Department is currently investigating this case and the cause of Smith's death.

This is a devastating tragedy for the family, Ballou High School, and the entire community. The amount of young people we are losing in our community is a clear sign that we need to take an inventory on the hearts and minds of our people and provide them with the necessary supports,” states Councilmember White. “We as a community, must unite in solidarity to provide safe shores for our youth. Let us pray for the family of young Joevon and all those impacted.”

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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