



Justice & Consequences

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Crime has gotten so bad in our nation's capital that it's even becoming too dangerous for the criminals.

"An off-duty federal security officer on his way into work Saturday night," [reports](#) *The Washington Post*, "fatally shot a 13-year-old boy who the officer said was one of two youths who tried to carjack him in the District's Penn Quarter neighborhood, near public safety buildings and an entertainment complex, according to D.C. police."

My heart goes out to this man who was forced to defend himself. But also to this foolish 13-year-old boy, who is gone.

Carjackings in the city have more than doubled this year over

last, 821 and counting. According to the newspaper, those "involving juveniles are also up this year."

The death of this perpetrator follows a recent incident in which "a 16-year-old girl driving a carjacked vehicle crashed into a utility pole in Northeast Washington and was killed." The deceased girl's 15-year-old partner in crime, now in police custody, had been released from "the city's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services" after "robbery and theft charges" only "because the agency had no available housing for her."

"Violent crime in D.C. is up 41 percent this year," *The Post* adds, pointing out that this recent shooting was just "several blocks north of where . . . the Washington Wizards played a home game . . . about three hours before."

Good and evil have their own inertia. If crime pays, we will see more of it. And in more places. And if such acts are perceived to be easy to get away with . . .

The consequences of no consequences are proving all too consequential.

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.