



Which NFL RBs could be next to sign extensions?

SPORTS, 1B

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DC cracking down on homeless camps



Volunteers help people take down their tents and collect their belongings as city workers conduct a sweep of a homeless encampment on Aug. 14 in Washington. AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



A woman points to a note on her tent alerting her of a scheduled homeless encampment cleanup on Aug. 14 in Washington.

ANNA MONEYMAKER/GETTY IMAGES

Move follows federal takeover of police force

Christopher Cann

USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Under the blazing sun, people living in homeless encampments in Washington packed up their belongings before authorities moved in with garbage trucks on Aug. 14 as President Donald Trump’s crackdown on the nation’s capital ramped up.

At a camp a few miles from the Lincoln Memorial and the Kennedy Center, about eight people broke down their tents with the help of city workers and homeless advocacy groups.

“(The president) is targeting us and persecuting us,” said David Beatty, a man living in the encampment that Trump posted a photo of on social media Aug. 10. “He wants to take our freedom away.”

The moves came days after Trump assumed federal control of the city’s po-

lice department and mobilized the National Guard, declaring a “crime emergency” and vowing to clear homeless people off the streets.

Cities across the United States, including longtime Democratic strongholds such as Los Angeles and San Francisco, have increased homeless sweeps and encampment closures. A landmark 2024 Supreme Court decision that permitted laws banning people from sleeping outside, even if they have nowhere else to go, led to a broad crackdown in dozens of cities, towns and rural communities nationwide.

This year, the U.S. Park Police has disbanded about 70 encampments from federal parks in the capital, said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

The speedy operations came with

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Americans’ feelings on crime don’t match data

News, partisanship, distrust are among the reasons for discrepancy

N’dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump’s crack-down on crime in Washington, DC, continues a decadeslong American story: Data says crime is going down, even as many Americans feel like it’s spiraling out of control.

FBI data has shown the nation’s crime rate declined over the past three decades, but over half of Americans have said they believe there is more crime than the year before in nearly every Gallup survey since 1993.

“People don’t keep track of these things. They don’t look at statistics. ... They’re just having feelings that they’re not safe,” said Howard Lavine, a professor of political science and psychology at the University of Minnesota.

Violent crime occurs every day at rates that can vary between and within cities, which can affect the public’s perception of their safety, according to Alex Piquero, a professor at the University of Miami and the former director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

“Are we safe today? Yeah, we’re safer,” Piquero said. “But we’re not completely safe.”

There are several reasons the perceptions don’t match the data:

- **Violence in the United States:** The baseline level of violence in the United States remains higher than its peer countries, which can fuel

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President Donald Trump has deployed federal officers and the National Guard to Washington, DC.

ANDREW LEYDEN/GETTY IMAGES

Border Patrol, ICE recruit retired workers

David Ulloa Jr.
Arizona Republic
USA TODAY NETWORK

PHOENIX – U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are recruiting retired employees to return to work – with the opportunity to keep their full salary and pensions.

ICE employees were frustrated under the Biden administration because they felt they could not “do the jobs they signed up to do,” acting ICE Director Todd

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U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents continue to make arrests at immigration courts as people attend routine check-ins or show up to court for their immigration hearings.

MICHAEL M. SANTIAGO/
GETTY IMAGES

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