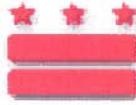

Government of the District of Columbia



Department of Corrections

Testimony

**Thomas Faust
Director**

**D.C. Department of Corrections
Performance Oversight Hearing**

Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Tommy Wells, Chair
Council of the District of Columbia

John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
Room 500

February 14, 2013
10:00 a.m.

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN WELLS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY. I AM TOM FAUST, DIRECTOR OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. JOINING ME AT THE TABLE TODAY ARE MY DEPUTY DIRECTORS, CAROLYN CROSS, AND TOM HOEY. I THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY TODAY AND ADDRESS QUESTIONS REGARDING THE DEPARTMENT'S PERFORMANCE IN FISCAL YEAR 2012 AND 2013 TO DATE.

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT IS TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC SAFETY OF CITIZENS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BY PROVIDING AN ORDERLY, SAFE, SECURE AND HUMANE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CONFINEMENT OF PRETRIAL DETAINEES AND SENTENCED INMATES, WHILE AFFORDING THOSE IN CUSTODY MEANINGFUL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RE-INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY. THE MISSION OF DOC IS A CRITICAL

COMPONENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND CONTRIBUTES TO THE WELL BEING OF OUR NEIGHBORHOODS AND COMMUNITIES.

THE OFFENDER POPULATION HOUSED WITHIN THE DISTRICT'S JAIL SYSTEM INCLUDES PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES, SENTENCED MISDEMEANANTS, FELONS AND PAROLE VIOLATORS. ON AN ANNUAL BASIS, OUR WORKFORCE PROVIDES FOR THE SECURE CARE AND CUSTODY OF APPROXIMATELY 12,000 OFFENDERS.

IN REFLECTING ON OUR WORK OVER THE PAST YEAR, I RECOGNIZE THAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED A LOT BUT STILL FACE MANY CHALLENGES IN MOVING FORWARD. MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS INVOLVE A COLLECTIVE COMMITMENT TO IMPLEMENTING POSITIVE CHANGE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT. I AM PROUD OF OUR EMPLOYEES, BOTH UNIFORMED AND CIVILIAN. EVERY DAY THEY WORK IN THE TOUGHEST JOBS AND MOST

CHALLENGING WORK ENVIRONMENTS IN PUBLIC SAFETY.
AND THEY DO THIS WHILE SUPPORTING OUR MISSION AND
PROVIDING SERVICES THAT REFLECT THEIR DEDICATION TO
DOC BECOMING A BENCHMARK CORRECTIONS AGENCY IN
THE COUNTRY.

THERE ARE MANY FACTORS THAT IMPACT OUR DAY TO
DAY OPERATIONS AND THE ISSUE OF EFFECTIVE
POPULATION MANAGEMENT IS ONE THAT REMAINS A
PRIORITY. WHEN FIRST APPOINTED TO THIS POSITION BY
MAYOR GRAY 15 MONTHS AGO, I RECOGNIZED THAT THE
DEPARTMENT NEEDED TO BETTER FOCUS ON PROACTIVE
POPULATION MANAGEMENT BY OPENING UP LINES OF
COMMUNICATION AND WORKING CLOSELY, PARTICULARLY
WITH OUR FEDERAL AGENCY PARTNERS, TO SET BOTH
SHORT AND LONG RANGE GOALS, AND INSTITUTIONALIZE
THE PROTOCOLS DEVELOPED.

REGULAR, ONGOING MEETINGS HAVE BEEN HELD WITH OFFICIALS FROM THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS, THE U.S. MARSHALS SERVICE, THE U.S. PAROLE COMMISSION AND THE U.S. ATTORNEYS OFFICE TO REVIEW AND STREAMLINE THE PROCESSING AND HOUSING OF FEDERAL INMATES. AS A RESULT OF THIS ONGOING COLLABORATION, THE AVERAGE TIME FROM DESIGNATION TO REMOVAL FOR SENTENCED FELONS AND PAROLE VIOLATORS HAS BEEN REDUCED FROM 23 DAYS TO 17 DAYS IN THE PAST YEAR. PROGRESS ON THIS FRONT IS ALSO CLEARLY REFLECTED IN OUR AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION DATA FROM JANUARY 2011 TO JANUARY 2013--AN OVERALL DROP OF ALMOST 500 INMATES IN THE TWO FACILITIES, MOST OF WHOM ARE FEDERAL DETAINEES. THIS TREND IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT BECAUSE IT IS A DIRECT BENEFIT TO DISTRICT TAXPAYERS, WHO SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUBSIDIZING FEDERAL INMATES WHO ARE READY FOR TRANSFER TO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM BUT

REMAIN IN DOC CUSTODY FOR EXTENDED PERIODS OF TIME.

THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF OUR FACILITIES REQUIRES THAT WE MAINTAIN PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SET BY NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INCLUDING THE AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION'S NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION AND STANDARDS (ACA) AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE (NCCHC)--BOTH ORGANIZATIONS THAT SET COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL STANDARDS TO SUPPORT THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, FEDERAL AND PRIVATE CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES.

I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE D.C. JAIL WAS RECENTLY AWARDED ACCREDITATION BY THE ACA'S COMMISSION ON STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION, BASED ON OUR COMPLIANCE WITH 382 MANDATORY AND NON-MANDATORY STANDARDS--STANDARDS THAT COVER

ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT, INSTITUTIONAL OPERATIONS AND SERVICES, INMATE PROGRAMS, AND PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.

THIS ACCOMPLISHMENT SETS US APART AS ONLY 7% OF OVER 3300 LOCAL JAILS IN THE COUNTRY ARE NATIONALLY ACCREDITED. THE ACCREDITATION PROCESS IS THOROUGH AND SUPPORTS A TOP TO BOTTOM ASSESSMENT OF EVERYTHING WE DO. IT FURTHER AFFORDS US THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK AT EVERY FACET OF OUR OPERATION AND OBJECTIVELY EVALUATE HOW WELL WE ARE FUNCTIONING AND WHERE CHANGES ARE REQUIRED. DURING THE PAST YEAR, THE DEPARTMENT, ALONG WITH UNITY HEALTHCARE, OUR MEDICAL SERVICES PROVIDER, ALSO ACHIEVED REACCREDITATION OF OUR JAIL HEALTH CARE SERVICES BY NCCHC, WHICH UTILIZED A SET OF STRICT NATIONAL STANDARDS TO EVALUATE THE FACILITY'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM.

THIS PAST JULY, WE IMPLEMENTED A NEW OFFENDER VISITATION PROCESS THROUGH THE USE OF VIDEO VISITATION. THE MORE STREAMLINED SYSTEM DOUBLES OUR DAILY CAPACITY FROM 200 TO 400 VISITS, ALLOWS INMATES INCREASED VISITATION TIME EACH WEEK AND PROVIDES GREATER CONVENIENCE FOR FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS BY ADDING FOR THE FIRST TIME, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY VISITATION. VIDEO VISITATION ALSO ELIMINATES THE NEED TO ADHERE TO STRICT DRESS CODES; WAIT IN LONG LINES TO ENTER THE JAIL (EVEN IN INCLEMENT WEATHER); AND TO UNDERGO INTRUSIVE SECURITY CHECKS INCLUDING FRISKING, PAT DOWNS AND SEARCHES AND METAL DETECTOR CLEARANCE.

SINCE OPENING OUR WEEKLY TRAFFIC HAS MORE THAN DOUBLED FROM 400 TO 900 VISITS PER WEEK AND CONTINUES TO RISE.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER NOTEWORTHY FY 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS, SOME OF WHICH I WILL BRIEFLY MENTION. EACH REPRESENTS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE OPERATIONS, ENHANCE FACILITY SECURITY, AND EXPAND AND REFINE INMATE PROGRAMMING.

- THE CELL DOOR REPLACEMENT PROJECT WAS COMPLETED AHEAD OF SCHEDULE AND WITHIN BUDGET. THERE WERE 1,557 SECURITY DOORS REPLACED IN 18 HOUSING UNITS.
- AN AGREEMENT WAS SUCCESSFULLY NEGOTIATED WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS TO HOUSE UP TO 200 SHORT TERM FELONS AT THE CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY, KEEPING OFFENDERS CLOSER TO HOME, AND ALSO FOR A SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED REIMBURSEMENT RATE OF \$130.99. ONE OF MY ONGOING PRIORITIES IS TO CONTINUE TO

RENEGOTIATE INCREASED PER DIEM REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR ALL FEDERAL INMATES BEING HELD.

➤ THE DEPARTMENT, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE JUSTICE GRANTS ADMINISTRATION, SUCCESSFULLY COMPETED FOR A \$600,000 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE GRANT FOR ASSESSMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FEDERAL PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA) WHICH WILL ALLOW THE DEPARTMENT TO ASSESS CURRENT PRACTICES, FURTHER TRAIN TREATMENT AND SECURITY STAFF, AND INSTITUTIONALIZE OPERATIONAL PROTOCOLS.

➤ I CONTINUE TO PRIORITIZE REENTRY PROGRAMMING FOR MALE AND FEMALE OFFENDERS. WE HAVE FOR THE FIRST TIME, CREATED A DEDICATED REENTRY COORDINATOR POSITION FOR AGENCY WIDE SERVICE DELIVERY AS WELL AS A WOMEN'S PROGRAM MANAGER TO PROVIDE FOR THE FIRST TIME, GENDER

SPECIFIC ASSESSMENT AND REENTRY SERVICES TO THE FEMALE INMATE POPULATION.

➤ WE RECENTLY COMPLETED A COMPREHENSIVE EVALUATION OF OUR HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM CONDUCTED BY AN OUTSIDE CONSULTING TEAM TO HELP IDENTIFY EFFICIENCIES OF OPERATION AND BEST PRACTICES. THE INFORMATION COMPILED WILL BE USED AS THE DEPARTMENT MOVES FOWARD WITH THE MAJOR PROCUREMENT AND SOLICITATION PROCESS OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES DUE LATER IN THIS FISCAL YEAR.

➤ IN FISCAL YEAR 2012, DOC BEGAN TO CONDUCT MONTHLY REVIEWS OF DRUG UTILIZATION AND EXPENDITURE DATA, THROUGH AN MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH'S PHARMACY WAREHOUSE. INFORMATION OBTAINED WAS SHARED WITH OUR HEALTH CARE SERVICES PROVIDER IN AN EFFORT TO ENHANCE THE TRACKING PROCESS AND IMPROVE

CLINICAL EFFICIENCIES. THIS NEW PRACTICE
COUPLED WITH ONGOING POPULATION MANAGEMENT,
RESULTED IN SAVINGS OF OVER \$1.5 MILLION IN OUR
INMATE PHARMACEUTICAL COSTS.

THIS CONCLUDES MY TESTIMONY. THANK YOU AND I WILL
NOW ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS YOU OR THE OTHER
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE MAY HAVE.