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**D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS DETENTION FACILITY  
POSITIONED TO ACHIEVE FULL ACCREDITATION**

(Washington, D.C.)--The District of Columbia Department of Corrections Director, Devon Brown, today proudly announced that the Central Detention Facility (DC Jail) has successfully achieved full accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA), having achieved 100 percent of the 31 mandatory standards and 97.29 percent of the 276 non-mandatory requirements. This latter figure in actuality represents 100 percent compliance with all of the standards in this category that apply to the jail considering its age and the physical nature of its structure. The formal presentation of this certification, which is expected during the ACA conference in Nashville, Tennessee this summer, will constitute a watershed moment for the Department of Corrections (DOC) as it will mark the first time in the 32 year history of the DC Jail that it will have obtained this highly coveted honor.

“This is truly an exciting, historical moment for the Department of Corrections and the District of Columbia,” said Director Brown. “The DOC has experienced monumental improvements throughout all areas of its functioning in recent years, particularly at the jail. To have the District’s primary correctional institution for adults become nationally accredited represents the fulfillment of yet another milestone in our overall effort to transition the Department of Corrections into national prominence,” Director Brown continued. “With respect to this accomplishment, we are now among the less than five percent of correctional systems in the country to be accredited by the ACA.”

Last year, the jail’s medical services were accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) as well as the American Correctional Association (ACA), representing a defining moment in the Department of Corrections efforts toward full accreditation.

The DOC also received the NCCHC “2008 Program of the Year Award” for its discharge planning initiative, further representing the agency’s transformation towards excellence.

This prestigious award is presented to only one correctional system each year of the more than 500 juvenile and adult penal facilities that compete for this praiseworthy recognition. The Department has also been extolled for its leadership in the diagnosis of HIV/AIDS, as it was the first correctional system in the country to introduce the automatic testing of inmates for these diseases. Its contributions in the City's campaign to control the spread of these illnesses have been significant as over one-third of the screenings in our jurisdiction have been conducted at the jail. In recognition of this success, the DOC has received an "A" rating from the DC Appleseed Center for Law and Justice for the past two consecutive years. Moreover, it is of significance to note that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) most recent draft guidelines for the testing and treatment of HIV/AIDS in correctional settings incorporates each element of the Department's approach, a strategy which is now being emulated by numerous penal systems including the Federal Bureau of Prisons. The accomplishments of the Department of Corrections are particularly noteworthy when one realizes that just 15 years ago its medical program was under federal receivership.

Understanding that staff serves as the nucleus of its success, the agency has made a serious and sustained effort to further their professional development. In this regard, as a body, the workforce meets and/or exceeds national standards of proficiency. Each employee who has day to day contact with the inmate population is mandated to obtain certification by the leading organized certifying authorities in the correctional field. As such, the DC Department of Corrections now leads the nation in the total number of employees who hold this status by the ACA or the NCCHC. Less than five percent of American correctional systems hold this distinction.

These accomplishments speak to the Fenty Administration's determination to provide correctional services worthy of national acclaim. Toward this end, the District of Columbia Department of Corrections is setting the barometer and heightening the standard for other correctional facilities around the country with innovative programs and sound leadership. The Department will continue to develop and implement measures that are consistent with the District's objective of ensuring public safety for those who live, work, and visit the nation's capital while providing progressive, carefully structured, rehabilitative programs and services to those within its custody.

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