



District of Columbia Government
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

DC Department of Corrections *News*



Department of Corrections
Devon Brown, Director

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Proposed Legislation Addresses Inmate on Staff Assaults

In 2006 and 2007, the Department of Corrections presented the United States Attorney's Office with 33 affidavits in support of arrest warrants for inmates throwing body waste at corrections staff. While there was a 100 percent conviction in the 24 cases prosecuted, the penalties provided no deterrence or negative impact to future occurrences.

Director Devon Brown recently presented testimony before the District Council's Committee for Public Safety and the Judiciary in support of Bill 17-663, "*The Correctional Institution Worker Protection Amendment Act of 2007*," which addresses the growing concern over this type of assaultive behavior by inmates. "...bodily fluid, particularly waste material, contain air and fluid born bacteria and viruses...diseases that that are pervasive among jail populations," said Director Brown. Read Director Brown's complete testimony posted on www.doc.dc.gov.

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New Correctional Officer Recruits Strengthen Security Foundation

Ask any new correctional officer hired by the D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC) and they will proudly recite the agency's mission: provide an orderly, safe, and secure environment for the confinement of pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates. Representing agency's future leadership, these newest uniformed members of the DOC workforce demonstrate the capacity to effectively take on this charge.



Mayor Adrian M. Fenty addresses correctional officer graduates.

"Correctional officers are the nucleus of any jail or prison system," said Director Devon Brown. "In order to fulfill the Department's mission, recruiting and retaining top flight staff are a priority. The incoming correctional officers strengthen the Department's ongoing commitment to correctional excellence and public protection."

DOC's Acting Training Administrator, C. Eraina Exum, says that the quality of applicants is steadily improving. "Many of the new recruits have the academic credentials or prior security experience that are helpful in a correctional environment.

The intense six-week Basic Correctional Training that all new recruits must complete really prepares them for future job responsibilities," said Ms. Exum. The training curriculum consists of classroom instruction and practical exercises.

More than 200 recruits have been trained since 2006 when the DOC launched an aggressive campaign to hire correctional officers.

Staff Newsletter Returns to Your Inbox



The newsletter has experienced several transformations over the last two decades including name changes, layouts, and weekly, monthly and quarterly issuances. The Office of Communications is pleased to reintroduce this publication under a new name,

DC Department of Corrections News. It will appear monthly in your e-mailbox and online at doc.dc.gov. Printed copies will be available to employees who do not have easy access to the publication online. Please share the newsletter with others. Your feedback is also

welcomed. Please email all comments, recommendations, and contributions for print to beverly.young@dc.gov. Kindly know that the Office of Communications reserves the right to edit all material submitted.



A Message From the Director

Corrections inarguably is a tough business, yet it is a critically important business. The challenges that corrections professionals experience daily in meeting the myriad responsibilities for public safety are continuous, however, our eyes remain focused on the prize, inasmuch as we are determined to set a standard of proficiency and excellence within the profession and the District government. The Department's accomplishments over the past two years reflect this goal. For example, we have recruited new and talented staff that bring a renewed energy to the agency. Management staff has acquired professional certification which also helps strengthen the organizational culture. Security enhancements like the weekly siren testing, perimeter foot patrol officers, armored vests worn by correctional officers, and the anticipated Radio Frequency Identification (RFID), support the City's overall public safety efforts. Inmate services like our automatic HIV testing program, which screened more than 21,000 individuals since June 2006, on-site drug treatment program, educational video-based television viewing and peer-led academic programs, demonstrate our ability to creatively provide inmates with opportunities to become more constructively-oriented while incarcerated. These efforts also promote a seamless flow to our reentry program, which involves working with government and private organizations to facilitate the inmates' positive return to the community. As the Department of Corrections continues to progress, we count on the support, cooperation and resources of individuals and organizations that ultimately contribute the prize of building safer, healthier communities in the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

Devon Brown

Automatic HIV Testing Program Marks Two-Year Anniversary

According to the recently-released District of Columbia HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Annual Report 2007, published by the D.C. Department of Health's Bureau of Surveillance and Epidemiology of the HIV/AIDS Administration, the District has the highest AIDS rate in the nation. The District's rate for newly reported AIDS cases is higher than rates in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, Detroit and Chicago. As a result, the D.C. Department of Corrections has become a major provider of basic human services, including the treatment of HIV/AIDS. The Department of Corrections has completed over 21,000 screenings for the virus since implementing an automatic HIV testing program for inmates in June 2006. Its pioneering efforts to address this illness within the correctional environment includes testing inmates for the virus at both the front and back end of incarceration as well as prevention and education measures. The D.C. Department of Corrections' Automatic HIV Testing program has served as a model for replication in other correctional systems and continues to receive national attention as it celebrates its two-year anniversary. The new Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) proposed guidelines for HIV/AIDS testing in correctional settings reflect in every detail those procedures embodied in the D.C. Department of Corrections' approach to this exceedingly important medical issue. The success of the Department's groundbreaking efforts to diligently address a health crisis is featured in the American Correctional Association's June 2008 issue of Corrections Today magazine.

Inmates Complete Drug Treatment Program

Approximately 28 percent of the inmates in D.C. Corrections custody has a drug offense. The Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT) program is designed to combat this problem. "Inasmuch as 95 percent of the incarcerated population eventually returns to the community; the Department of Corrections intends to contribute to lessening the numbers that return to society with a drug issue," said Director Devon Brown at the first RSAT graduation held in March at the D.C. Jail. "Our modified therapeutic community program is hailed nationally as the best form of treatment for inmate populations. We intend to address the mind, body, and spirit through RSAT in order to provide substance abuse services for up to 500 inmates," Director Brown stated.



RSAT is a three-month (90-day) program that is voluntary for inmates at both the jail as well as the Correctional Treatment Facility. The program is open to both males and females.

Congratulations to Director Devon Brown, who was bestowed the *2008 Carl Robinson Award* at the 70th Middle Atlantic States Correctional Association (MASCA) Training Conference, where he served as the keynote speaker. This prestigious recognition is presented to an individual who demonstrates extraordinary leadership and significant contributions to the correctional field.

Employee of the Month

Employee of the Year 2007

Corporal Eric Gray

Senior Correctional Officer Eric Gray is a 17-year DOC employee who was selected Employee of the Month in June 2007, and ultimately named Employee of the Year. Cpl. Gray is assigned to the Number 1 Shift at the jail and primarily works in the Special Management Unit (SMU). One morning last June Cpl. Gray was preparing to pass out breakfast trays in the SMU when he discovered two soap bar sized packages wrapped in duct tape on a diet tray intended for a specific inmate. Cpl. Gray quickly confiscated the packages, turning them in to his supervisor, who, upon further inspection, determined that the contents held major contraband. Corporal Gray's keen observation skills and attention to detail intercepted drugs from entering a housing unit and thwarted a potentially dangerous situation from occurring. Cpl. Gray represents the Department of Corrections example of walking the toughest beats in the community with pride, professionalism and proficiency.

Corporal Wanda Watkins

Corporal Wanda Watkins began her career with the Department of Corrections in March 1985 assigned to the Central Detention Facility. She was reassigned to several facilities before returning to the jail after the District's prisons at Lorton closed. Cpl. Watkins consistently performs her duties in a manner that reflects the Department's high standards of professionalism. According to her colleagues and supervisors, Cpl. Watkins readily accepts all challenges placed before her. She is the person that co-workers often turn to when they need a word of encouragement or a hand of support. She is currently assigned to the Mental Health Unit on the Number 3 Shift. It is her exceptional interpersonal skills used with staff, inmates, and the public, along with her ability to maintain an orderly environment among those who can be easily agitated, that makes Cpl. Watkins an outstanding recipient of the Employee of the Month recognition for June 2007 and Employee of the Year.

Correctional Employees of the Year 2007

January
Sergeant Genester Powell

February
Sergeant Malcolm Spain

March
Corporal Cleother Burrell

April
Corporal Andre Cole

May
Sergeant Alvin Ford

June
Corporals Eric Gray and Wanda Watkins

**Our staff walks the most challenging beats in the community.
They do so with pride, professionalism and proficiency.**

July
Corporal Annette Jackson Gross

August
A/Lieutenant Aden Bushee

September
Sergeant Gregory McKnight

October
Corporal Jannease Johnson

November
Corporal Gerald Lester

December
Private Kenneth McGill

Quick Facts: FYI

The D.C. Department of Corrections is one of the largest detention systems in the nation, with a capacity for 3,825 pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates. A total of 17,864 intakes and 18,231 releases were processed in calendar year 2007. How do neighboring detention systems compare? (Statistics based on calendar year 2007.)

Jurisdiction	Inmate Capacity	Annual Intakes	Annual Releases
Alexandria Detention Center	343	10,848	10,860
Arlington County Detention Facility	719	7,783	7,765
Fairfax County Confinement Division	1,265	26,537	26,447
Frederick County Sheriff's Office Corrections Bureau	527	4,290	5,772
Loudoun County Adult Detention Center	196	27,000	24,000
Montgomery County Department of Correction & Rehabilitation	1,028	15,270	9,396
Prince George's County Department of Corrections	1,334	16,472	15,973
Prince William Adult Detention Center	840	13,024	13,261

Health and Safety

Tips

Preventing Heat Related Illness

With the arrival of summer, we can anticipate escalating temperatures that accompany the longer sunlit days. Midday heat can sometimes become uncomfortable, particularly in workplace environments like jails and prisons that lack central air conditioning. People suffer heat-related illness when their bodies' temperature control systems overload and their bodies can no longer cool themselves. Planning for the hot days ahead can go a long way toward avoiding discomfort and experiencing heat exhaustion or heat stroke. These practical tips will help you stay cool on the hottest days:



- **Drink plenty of fluids, regardless of activity level**
avoid alcohol, sugar, carbonated, caffeinated and very cold beverages
- **Dress appropriately**
wear lightweight, light-colored, absorbable, loose fitting clothes (do not substitute the items worn as part of the official correctional officer uniform)
- **Limit outdoor activity to morning and evening hours**
- **Stay in cool, shaded areas when possible**
- **Protect your skin with sun-block**
- **Never leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle**
- **Know the signs**

early symptoms of heat-related illness could include muscle cramps, pale/moist skin, dizziness, exhaustion, headache, slight loss of appetite, decreased energy and/or nausea.

for more tips on preventing heat-related illness, go to www.bt.cdc.gov

Mission Statement

The mission of the D.C. Department of Corrections is to ensure public safety for the citizens of the District of Columbia by providing an orderly, safe, and secure environment for the confinement of pretrial detainees and sentenced inmates.

DC Department of Corrections News

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