



# DC Department of Corrections

## News



District of Columbia Government  
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

Department of Corrections  
Devon Brown, Director

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### Council Bill Proposes Transfer of Juveniles from DC Jail

The Department of Corrections participated in a public oversight roundtable on youth at the DC Jail chaired by the District Council's Committee on Public Safety and the Judiciary and the Committee on Human Services. This forum included testimony from juvenile justice advocates and government officials including Director Devon Brown who provided a broad accounting of the type of youth placed in adult custody and the programs and services available to these individuals at the DC Jail. The consensus among the witnesses at the hearing was that juvenile offenders are best served outside the confines of adult correctional settings, however, the ideal alternative remains to be determined. In a follow-up to the hearing, Councilmembers Phil Mendelson and Tommy Wells proposed their co-sponsored, "Juvenile Justice Improvement Amendment Act of 2008," which would essentially end the pre-trial placement of youth in the DC Jail.

### Department's Medical Services Accredited By Nationally-Renowned Corrections Organizations

The DC Department of Corrections has received medical accreditation from the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) as well as the American Correctional Association (ACA). This recognition marks the first time in the facility's 32-year history that these services are dually certified by two nationally correctional organizations.



"This accomplishment represents the fulfillment of yet another milestone in our efforts to transition the Department of Corrections into national prominence," Director Brown emphasized while underscoring the monumental progress that DOC has thus far achieved toward this end. "We now hold dual certifications reflecting that we meet, if not exceed, national correctional standards." Director Brown also complimented Unity Health Care, the department's private health care provider and the overall dedication of DOC staff that was key to achieving the certification.

The department achieved 100 percent compliance on the 41 applicable mandatory standards needed to obtain ACA accreditation. The Department of Corrections is the first detention system in the country to receive accreditation using ACA's 2008 standards, the most rigorous requirements developed by this organization to date. The department sought and received re-accreditation from NCCHC after it initially granted the department this status in 2001 at the Correctional Treatment Facility and in 2004 at the Central Detention Facility.

DOC will receive the ACA medical accreditation certificate at that organization's conference in New Orleans next month.

### A Look Inside



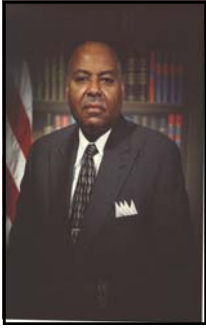
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### Department of Corrections Wins 2008 Program of the Year Award

The Department of Corrections has received the "2008 Program of the Year Award" by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). The agency was among 500 prisons, jail and juvenile detention, and confinement facilities

competing for the coveted award that is given to only one correctional system annually. "The department's measures to specifically address the HIV pandemic are reflective of our overall efforts to improve the health of those entering and leaving our gates, said

Corrections Director Devon Brown. More than 2,000 public health and correctional medical professionals are expected to attend NCCHC's national conference in Chicago this October when this prestigious award will be presented during a formal ceremony.



### ***A Message From Director Devon Brown***

The Department of Corrections is excited about its significant projects underway, many of which have gained the attention of the research community, criminal justice practitioners and the corrections profession at large. These very progressive and remarkable undertakings have the potential of transforming many areas of contemporary penology. We are especially pleased to have our medical program accredited by two highly respected corrections organizations, the American Correctional Association and the National Commission on Correctional Health Care, which puts us on target for receiving full accreditation of our Central Detention Facility next year. In addition, the DOC is proud to receive the National Commission on Correctional Health Care's Program of the Year Award, an honor bestowed upon only one correctional system annually. The recent implementation of behavior management techniques for the juvenile population places increased focus on the needs of this special group of detainees and promotes overall safety and security within the facility. We anticipate unveiling a comprehensive surveillance center, video visitation and RFID in the near future, measures which shall substantially enhance our operational efficiencies. Staff play an critical role in furthering the DC Department of Corrections into national prominence, and as such, are participating in various certification and specialized training opportunities that enhance their performance and ultimately contribute to governmental excellence.

### **Personal Handguns Lawful for District Residents**

The United States Supreme Court ruled that it is lawful for District residents to possess personal firearms. DOC staff comment on the how the District of Columbia v Heller landmark decision.

**Karen DeValera** (DC) Correctional Program Specialist (Records) *We will have more people coming through the system.*

**A/Major Orlando Harper** (MD) #3 Shift *I really don't think that crime will increase in the District.*

**Rahim Jenkins** (DC) Program Officer *You can look for an increase of people in possession of handguns (that will ultimately land them in jail).*

**Sgt. Gregory McKnight** (VA) Training Coordinator *Some people may get incarcerated because they won't understand the new law.*

**Deborah Miller** (VA) A/Chief Case Manager *I don't think it will increase our population. I like the idea of the reversal because before only the bad guys had the guns, now law abiding citizens can get them too.*

**LaToya Moore** (DC) Capital City Fellow *If the reversal of the ban is followed by the way it was intended, I don't think it will have an impact on DOC.*

**Gloria Robertson** (VA) LPN/Program Specialist Virginia *It might initially increase our population.*

**Marian Sanders** (MD) Office Assistant *The impact may not be good. It may cause the overcrowding of the jail.*

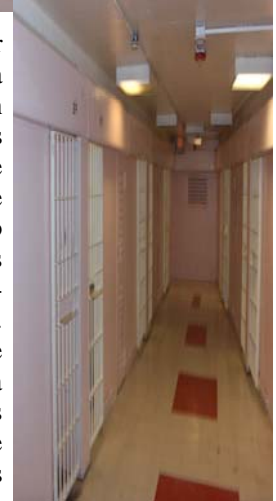
### **Behavior Management Program Increases Conduct Incentives**

Last year, the DOC reconfigured the housing and programming structure for its juvenile population. A variety of changes accompanied this restructuring to place



greater emphasis on the welfare and rehabilitation of youth at the DC Jail. Most recently, the DOC instituted a system of behavior management techniques in the

juvenile unit. The behavior management program is a two-tiered level system which relies on increasing rewards for the display of positive behavior. All juveniles are afforded the opportunity to actively participate in various activities and volunteer programs based on their conduct. If an individual violates the rules, he may be returned to a lower level tier where his privileges are lessened. The goal is to provide all juveniles with the skills necessary to successfully navigate within society and become constructive members of their communities.



### **In-Service Training Resumes**

Are you scheduled for annual training? In-service training for civilian staff commenced on July 21. Employees who have minimal contact with inmates are required to take 16 (two-day) hours training, offered Monday and Tuesdays and those with frequent inmate contact are required to complete 40 (week) hours training annually. Annual staff training is a requirement for ACA Accreditation.

*Job Well Done!* Major Valerie Brown, Lt. Patricia Clark, and Lt. Lawrence Johnson, along with Steve Fezuk, supervisory computer specialist and Charles Senior, motor pool foreman, have recently achieved professional certification by ACA...Captain Nora Talley, # 1 Shift Commander and Major Orlando Harper, ERT Commander, demonstrated exemplary correctional leadership to effectively quell a non-routine incident at the jail...Deputy Warden for Support, Leona Bennett, was presented the George E. Holland Award by the Visitor's Service Center (VSC) for her contributions in facilitating the assistance VSC provides to inmates in the DC Jail.....Internal Affairs Chief Wanda Patten and Investigator Ben Collins, were recognized by the U.S. Attorney's Office for their contributions in the pursuit of justice.

Welcome James Murphy (Community Corrections), James Riddick (Case Management), and Brenda Scott (CCA/CTF Compliance Monitor) on their return to the agency...Dr. James Greene joins the agency as the education program administrator...Benita Carmichael is appointed fire protection specialist...LaToya Moore and Kira Wilkerson join DOC as participants in the Capital City Fellows Program.

*Best Wishes* on future endeavors to retirees Rosetta Taylor Jones, Human Resources Division, Tim Wheeler, facilities management chief, Sergeant Priscilla Reeder, Corporal Mary Sinlah and Corporal Joan White.

## DOC Offers Youth Employees Guidance in Personal Development, Work Ethics and Career Choices

The Department of Corrections has increased the number of staff working at its Grimke Headquarters to accommodate a number of teens and young adults who are participating in programs that introduce them to government operations, various office tasks, and career opportunities. The department is excited to help frame the working foundation of such a stellar group of young people and to expose them to a professional environment that will hopefully influence their personal development, work ethics, and their future career aspirations. In addition to learning new skills that would be helpful in the workplace, working at the DOC headquarters allowed them to recognize that professional grooming and conduct play an important role in overall attitude, self confidence and the respect received by others.



Young workers interested in law enforcement careers participate in a week-long orientation at DOC Headquarters.

Maureen McKoy (Office of the Deputy Director) and Vincent Clifton (Office of Communications) began working at DOC during the school year as part of their involvement with the Urban Alliance. Both of the 2008 Eastern High School graduates look forward to continuing their education in the Fall. The DOC has partnered with the Urban Alliance for nearly five years providing invaluable employment and educational opportunities to young people.

The DOC headquarters has also been the worksite for 16 youth hired under the District's 2008 Summer Youth Program (SYP). These young workers are assigned to various offices providing critical assistance in a number of tasks including organizing files, answering telephones, and typing. "I'm glad to be working at DOC," said Terry Hatchett, the youngest member of the group.

"This is my first job and I have a lot of plans for my money." This year more 17,000 people between the age of 14 and 21 registered to work in government agencies and private businesses. The SYP is coordinated by the District's Department of Employment Services Office of Youth Programs.

More than half of the nearly two dozen young workers participating in the newly established Public Safety 2008 Summer Youth Program spent a week-long educational session at DOC gaining insight about the District's primary detention system for adults. The program comprised high school seniors and recent graduates including a young man attending Norfolk State University and another who is a member of the National Guard who are interested in law enforcement careers as corrections officers, firefighters, police officers, and emergency medical technicians. It is the department's intent to provide these potential leaders with experiences that will leave an impression that is both positive, is far reaching, and life changing. As a reminder that personal conduct impacts future outcomes, the DOC presented each worker with a "Be Smart Choose Freedom" t-shirt. Director Devon Brown implemented the "Be Smart Choose Freedom" anti crime campaign while serving as commissioner for the New Jersey Department of Corrections.

## Quick Facts: FYI

The average daily inmate population under the custody of the D.C. Department of Corrections for June 2008 was 2,980. The following data offers a snapshot of the work involved in providing services to inmates in DOC custody during this period.

### Records Office Transactions—6,332

(intakes, court returns, halfway house, jail credits, releases)

### HIV Tests Conducted—957

### Sick Calls—8,469

### Federal Removals—231

(parole violators and sentenced felons) 231

### Limited English Proficient Intakes—327

(April through June)

### Meals Served—181,832

(regular, diet trays and bag lunches)

### Commissary Items

2,570 orders processed, 33, 575 items purchased

### Mail Processed—3,549

(Outgoing inmate mail from CDF and CTF)

## Your Role in the ACA Accreditation Process

The Department of Corrections is on target to achieve full accreditation at the Central Detention Facility by early 2009. Each employee can support the agency in this endeavor.

- ◆ Excellent documentation
- ◆ Proper sanitation
- ◆ Adhere to established policies and procedures

## Health and Safety Tips

### Stress Management



The continuing increase in gas, food and other daily expenses has resulted in most people having to dig deeper into their pockets to make what was once considered customary purchases. The current economic conditions that we are experiencing are not expected to change (for the better) any time soon. Uncertainties about future needs can lead to anxiety and elevated levels of stress. The tips below can help you withstand the pressure and tension.

- ◆ Get a realistic view of your present financial situation and create a budget that emphasizes cost reduction and getting out of debt.
- ◆ Develop a savings plan to set aside funds for emergencies and investments.
- ◆ Avoid negative coping strategies such as overeating, excessive smoking and drinking, and increased consumption of caffeine. These only lead to more stress and can adversely affect your health. Engage in exercise, meditation, and relaxation instead.
- ◆ Organize your living and working environments, avoid negative people and relationships, and limit unnecessary demands on your time.

Stressing over financial problems can lead to depression, sleep deprivation, immune system disorders, and relationship problems. While you cannot completely prevent experiencing stress, you can avoid becoming consumed by the stresses that life presents.

*Submitted by Yvonne Kelley, PhD  
Employee Assistance Program Coordinator*

### 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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