



District of Columbia Government  
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

# DC Department of Corrections



Department of Corrections  
Devon Brown, Director

## News

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### Mayor Fenty's Statement on Senate Vote on DC Voting Rights (February 24)

In response to the United States Senate 62-34 vote on Bill S.160, the "District of Columbia House Voting Rights Act of 2009," Mayor Fenty issued the following statement:

*"This vote was an encouraging first step in the passage of the DC Voting Rights Act by the U.S. Senate and I hope that the vote on final passage will follow suit. We are extremely pleased that the issue of DC voting rights is finally getting a full and fair hearing by the Congress and I look forward to the House of Representatives taking up its important companion legislation quickly to bring the District yet another step closer to full representation. I'd like to especially thank Senators Joe Lieberman and Orrin Hatch for championing this bill."*

### Department of Corrections Employment Readiness Center Prepares Inmates for the Community

Employment statistics for individuals with histories of incarceration are pretty bleak. Oftentimes, a lack of marketable skills and no previous credible employment are the root causes. The Department of Corrections has taken a major step towards addressing this issue. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty, Department of Corrections (DOC) Director Devon Brown and Department of Employment Services (DOES) Acting Director Joseph Walsh recently announced the establishment of a job development program for inmates. The Central Detention Facility Employment Readiness Center is a joint initiative between the DOC and the DOES to assist the city's incarcerated population scheduled to return to the community. The center offers an array of occupational development services that supports an individual's readiness to apply and secure meaningful employment.

"The Employment Readiness Center reflects the District's strong commitment to providing the resources critical to facilitating the reentry process for inmates on the cusp of release," said Mayor Fenty. Services at the readiness center are designed to mirror those offered at the One-Stop Centers in the community. Participants in the program receive career/personal assessments, counseling, and interview and resume preparation, employment assistance and referrals, life skills workshops and introduction to occupational skills and apprenticeship training. The five-week program can serve up to 30 participants at a time.

"This center is a part of our comprehensive reentry services program that begins at intake through release, said DOC Director Devon Brown."

"Our returning ex-offenders face tremendous barriers to employment and we want to give them the skills and opportunities they need to return to the workforce," said DOES Acting Director Joseph Walsh.

Upon completion, program participants receive a certificate of achievement and are assigned to a DOES case manager in the community who will assist their efforts by connecting them to critical workforce development resources.

Mayor Fenty attended the graduation ceremony for those who completed the second cycle of the Employment Readiness Center program, which concluded on February 13.

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### *A Message From Director Devon Brown*

During this month of historical observances, the Department of Corrections continues to experience remarkable progress in defining its future as a model among detention systems in this country. The fewest number of days that are assigned to February have been as momentous for the agency as any full calendar month. It was our distinct honor and pleasure to have Mayor Fenty visit the jail on two occasions, the first to formally introduce the Employment Readiness Center, and secondly, to attend a ceremony held a week later for the 24 inmates completing the five-week job readiness program. The increase in offenders who seek to enhance their education is also encouraging. Seventeen inmates received their GED this month and another 40 have taken the GED pretest. Through our partnership with the Office of the State Superintendent (OSSE), we expect to expand the educational program. I am pleased that our partnership with the DC Public Schools (DCPS) has resulted in the elimination of the J.C. v. Vance lawsuit, which required that both agencies provide special education services to juveniles in the DOC custody. Recognizing that staff dedication and proficiency are fundamental to our success, I am exceedingly pleased that 21 employees achieved ACA certification this month in their area of functioning, and 24 men and women successfully completed the entry level training to become correctional officer recruits. As we look forward to the future, I am reminded of the old adage that the reward for good work is more work. I look forward to our future inasmuch as I am fully confident about our resolve and capacity to address what the future presents.

### Correctional Scholarships for College

The Association of State Correctional Administrators (ASCA) is accepting applications for the **2009 Susan M. Hunter Correctional Scholarship**. ASCA has supported the higher education aspirations of children of corrections employees through this award for the past five years.

- √ The **son or daughter** of a corrections employee (current full-time, retired, or deceased) within an ASCA-member Department of Corrections (includes Federal Bureau of Prisons) is eligible. Corrections employees, siblings, spouses, and grandchildren are not eligible.
- √ Student must be enrolled full-time in an accredited two-year or four-year college or university or an accredited graduate program. The scholarships are \$1,000 for undergraduate students or \$1,500 for graduate students.
- √ Incoming first-time freshmen must have a minimum high school GPA of 3.0. Enrolled full-time students must have a minimum college GPA of 3.0. Graduate students' field of study must be Corrections/Criminal Justice.
- √ Scholarship applications mailed to the ASCA office must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2009. The Scholarship Review Committee will make its decisions in early June 2009.

*For more information or to apply, go to [www.ASCA.net](http://www.ASCA.net).*



### Government Cellular and Landline Usage



The telephone is a convenient means of communications, however, misusing this device in the workplace can be costly.

- \* Government telephones should be used for official business only.
- \* The use of 411 is prohibited. Staff is responsible for reimbursing the District for making 411 calls that result in charges. For directory assistance, call 1-800-3733-411.
- \* Long distance and international calls must be pre-approved by the Director. Charges resulting from unauthorized long distance and international calls must be reimbursed.
- \* Don't dial and drive. Using a cell phone while driving is hazardous to you and other drivers. Never make cell calls while operating a District-owned vehicle.
- \* Assign frequently used numbers to speed dial.
- \* Use temporary hands-free devices while driving.
- \* Staff is responsible for charges related to downloading ring tones, wallpaper, and games.
- \* Staff is not financially responsible for stolen cell phones *if* the theft is reported to the police and a copy of the police report is provided to management.
- \* Staff is financially responsible for lost or damaged phones.

**Congratulations** to the following staff who recently achieved professional certification from the American Correctional Association in the following categories:

**Certified Correctional Officer**

- Officer Tyece Chappell
- Officer Lynette Hamrick
- Officer Jeffrey Hill
- Officer Michael Ibidapo
- Officer Enoboasi Iyoho
- Officer Jason Jones
- Officer Karlos McDowell
- Officer John Myrick, Jr.
- Officer Ugochukwu Okorie
- Officer Kenneth Proctor
- Officer Wanda Scott
- Officer Charles Tillman
- Officer Lonnell Williams

**Certified Correctional Supervisor**

- Captain Kathy Nelson
- Captain Joseph Pettiford
- \*\*\*
- Lieutenant Aden Bushee
- Lieutenant Percy Finch
- Lieutenant Danny Hunter
- Lieutenant Sonji Johnson
- Lieutenant William Thomas

**Certified Correctional Manager**

- Sheri Saluga



**Welcome**— Dr. Hyacith Anucha, Training Manager

**Opinion Poll**

Who has had the greatest influence on black history and why?

**Wandra Ashley-Williams** (Special Assistant/Risk Manager) - I believe Shirley Chisholm had the most influence in black history because of her politics. She became the first black woman elected to Congress and the first major party (African-American) candidate to seek the presidency.

**C. Eraina Exum** (Training Administrator) - I think Herman L. Toulson greatly influenced black history because he epitomized the risks and dangers of a correctional officer when, in 1984, he became the first one in Maryland to be killed in the line of duty after being stabbed by an inmate.

**Andrew Jackson** (Senior Budget Analyst) - I think Carter G. Woodson greatly influenced black history because he came up with the idea and without the idea, it couldn't have been manifested.

**Sergeant James Johnson, Jr.** (Non-Industrial Pay System Coordinator) - I think neurosurgeon Ben Carson greatly influenced black history because he started at the bottom. He had poor grades, lived in the ghetto and was raised just by his maternal grandmother. Yet he rose to the top of a medical profession previously unheard of for Blacks.



**Alicia Marierose** (Clerical Assistant) - I think former D.C. Mayor Marion S. Barry greatly influenced black history because he did a lot for the community to support single parents and provide summer jobs for the youth.

**Michael Menefee** (Legal Document Coordinator) - I think that Malcolm X (born Malcolm Little then later became El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz) greatly influenced black history because of all the obstacles he had to overcome.

**Perri Morgan** (Computer Assistant/Correspondence Specialist) - I think Reggie Jackson greatly influenced black history because he is a Hall of Famer, one of the greatest clutch hitters in baseball history.

**James F. Murphy, Sr.** (Community Corrections Administrator) - I think that the 'Godfather of Soul' James Brown greatly influenced black history because he was able to instill racial pride and dignity in a whole generation. He even coined the phrase, "Say it loud, I'm Black and I'm proud!"

**Corporal Jacqueline Parker** - I think that Samuel E. Cornish and John B. Russwurm greatly influenced history because they were the founders of the first African-American newspaper (The Freedom Journal).

**Kathy Souverain** (Correctional Program Administrator) - I think Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. greatly influenced black history because he saw over the mountain top to the point where President (Barack) Obama is today.

## Black History Trivia

To celebrate the historical achievement of President Barack H. Obama as the nation's first African-American president and commemorate Black History Month, the D.C. Department of Corrections highlights a few among many cultural trivia facts:

- ⇒ E. Frederic Morrow was the first black named to an executive position in the White House. In 1955 he was appointed administrative aide to President Eisenhower.
- ⇒ Wesley A. Brown was the first African-American graduate of the Naval Academy in Maryland.
- ⇒ Frederick Douglass, known mostly as a former slave who became an abolitionist leader, was also a United States Marshal for the District of Columbia.
- ⇒ Edward "Duke Ellington," the famous jazz orchestra leader and composer, was a native Washingtonian who has a high school named after him.
- ⇒ Patricia Roberts Harris was the first African-American female ambassador. She once ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Washington, D.C.
- ⇒ Toni Morrison, a Howard University graduate, won the Pulitzer Prize (top writing award) for the novel "Beloved".
- ⇒ Charlotte Ray, a Howard University graduate, was the first African-American attorney in the United States.
- ⇒ Lawrence Douglas Wilder became the first African-American to be elected governor of a state (Virginia).
- ⇒ The movie "Glory" starring Denzel Washington was inspired by a regiment of African-American soldiers formed after the Emancipation Proclamation.

## Health and Safety Tips Tips for Saving Money in Lean Times

During this sluggish economy when businesses are folding and unemployment rates continue to escalate, keeping up with paying bills and maintaining a savings have become challenging for most people. However, by following a few basic spending practices you can limit monetary stresses and maintain a financially stable lifestyle.

- \* Try to pay for purchases in cash. If you cannot afford to pay for an item in cash, consider if you really need or just want the item.
- \* Reduce the number of credit cards you own/use. Avoid paying for small purchases with a credit card and eliminate those with high interest rates.
- \* Fill your gas tank early in the morning or late at night. According to the experts, the compression in the gas tank takes less money to fill it when the temperature is cool. Gasoline is usually the cheapest mid-week (Tuesday through Thursdays).
- \* Cut back on spending. Prepare meals at home instead of dining out. Enjoy movies at home with family or friends. For variety, the local library has current movies you can borrow for free with your card.
- \* Visit the museums, parks, zoo or other free and inexpensive sites in the District. Remember that your tax dollars pay for most of these venues!
- \* Reduce the amount of money you spend daily for lunch. Bring food from home. Leftovers can be tasty and economical and healthier than eating out.
- \* Remain as healthy as possible. Poor eating habits, a sedentary lifestyle and little rest can lead to increased doctor visits and expensive medication.

### Mission Statement

The mission of the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC) is to ensure public safety for the 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 rehabilitative opportunities that will assist them to constructively re-integrate into the community.

### DC Department of Corrections News

#### Executive Editor

Devon Brown  
Director

#### Managing Editor

Beverly Young  
Public Information Officer

#### Writer

Anthony D. Diallo  
Public Affairs Specialist