



District of Columbia Government
Adrian M. Fenty, Mayor

DC Department of Corrections *News*



Department of Corrections
Devon Brown, Director

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Election Results Make History

The United States presidential election held earlier this month was inarguably one of the most remarkable political events in recent history. The campaign generated incredible interest and active participation that transcended eligible voters. Electing former Illinois Senator Barack Obama as the 44th President of the United States of America carried with it many historical milestones:

- ◇ First time in U.S. history that an African American was elected President
- ◇ President-elect Obama is the first president born outside the continental United States (Honolulu, Hawaii)
- ◇ First time two sitting senators ran against each other
- ◇ First time an African-American was presidential nominee for a major party
- ◇ Joe Biden became the longest serving Senator in history to become Vice President-elect
- ◇ November 4, 2008 marked the end of the longest presidential campaign season in U.S. history -- 21 months.

Mayor Announces Major Milestone in the Department of Corrections

Mayor Adrian M. Fenty publicly recognized the Department of Corrections' (DOC) efforts to ensure that juveniles who have been incarcerated as adults are afforded adequate rehabilitative services that more fully address their unique needs. In this regard, all juveniles in the custody of the Department of Corrections are now housed at the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) under the supervision of District correctional staff. There, they are provided with interagency services led by D.C. Public Schools and the University of the District of Columbia with the support of a host of volunteer organizations. Mayor Fenty held a press conference at the CTF to announce this major achievement in the Department of Corrections. The Mayor then visited the unit where the juveniles are housed. "We want to ensure that our youth offenders receive the best services possible in an effort to obtain better rehabilitation outcomes," said Mayor Fenty. "The CTF creates more opportunity and a better quality of life for these youth."



Mayor Fenty visits the juveniles in DOC custody. The Department transferred 23 juveniles from the jail to the CTF on November 10.

While at the CTF, juveniles are engaged in activities throughout the day designed to promote their physical, mental, and social well-being. The Department of Corrections has developed specialized programs that are responsive to the developmental needs of this special incarcerated population. These initiatives include educational, religious, and anger management programs along

with over 10 additional offerings. Mayor Fenty has visited with inmates in DOC custody on several occasions at the DC Jail. On one such visit, the Mayor met specifically with the juvenile population in a town-hall setting. This forum, also conducted for the general inmate population, allowed the youth to openly discuss their concerns with the Mayor. They primarily expressed a desire for better educational programs and recreation time.

"The Department of Corrections will continue to expand the array of approaches that have proven effective in promoting the progressive development of youthful offenders," said Corrections Director Devon Brown.

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A Message From Director Devon Brown

The anticipation of substantive change is on the minds of most people. The world awaits a change in the global economies and this nation braces for change with the new incoming Administration. The Department of Corrections has been actively pursuing and implementing initiatives that reflect constructive change for the agency and the District of Columbia as well. We recently restructured the custody accommodations for the juvenile population, allowing them more space and opportunity for their positive growth. Positive growth is also reflected among our adult inmates. Eight individuals recently completed the requirements to receive their GED credential and they participated in the first graduation ceremony held at our detention facility in recognition of this educational achievement. While the Department of Corrections continues to expand the array of programs offered to those in our custody, our ongoing efforts to enhance staff professionalism and proficiency are equally important. Staff involvement in specialized trainings such as crisis negotiations helps improve our overall operations and increases our capacity to provide appropriate mediation techniques during difficult situations. As the Department of Corrections continues to implement positive change, we count on the support of our stakeholders who play a critical role for ensuring public safety. I am excited about our progress and look forward to future accomplishments.

Inmates Achieve GED Credentials

Caps and gowns served as a fitting backdrop for a graduation ceremony held at the DC Jail. These garments were proudly worn by inmates being recognized for achieving their GED credential while in custody. The eight inmates who comprised the jail's first GED graduating class further affirm the department's ongoing commitment to provide opportunities for inmates to become more constructively oriented while in custody and upon their return to the community.



The GED program was implemented this year in response to the inmates' ardent requests to have school at the facility (only required for juveniles). Since space limitations at the jail makes

programming challenging, the department has creatively matched resources and space to allow inmates to participate in a myriad of programs. Those enrolled in the GED program are housed in a unit designated for this educational instruction.

At the ceremony Director Brown reminded the graduates that it all begins with the teacher. Inmates serve as peer tutors while security and case management staffs provide overall guidance and encouragement that has resulted in successful outcomes. Forty-one inmates are scheduled to take the GED test by the end of November.

Graduates: **Juan Castillo, Charles Cunningham, Mohammed Ibrahim, Alonzo Lewis, Darrell McLean, Eliseo Ramos, Darrell Stover, and Marcus Wood.**

Crisis Negotiations

The Department of Corrections was the host site for a crisis negotiation training session that brought together several local and federal law enforcement entities including the Metropolitan Police Department and the U.S. Marshals to gain useful tools for diffusing potentially volatile situations. The one-day training conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Crisis Negotiation Unit (CNU), focused on hostage negotiations, suicide intervention, first responder and perhaps, most importantly, active listening skills. Several DOC supervisory correctional officers participated in the training including Lieutenant Jerome Jones, a 24-year employee. "The training was highly beneficial in that it provided practical techniques on how to effectively deal with people when they are irrational," said Lt. Jones. "The capacity to skillfully listen is critical during confrontations where the emotional stability of an individual is compromised. The hostage taker needs to understand that s/he is not being judged, yet you want to resolve the situation without injury to anyone."

The CNU is available 24 hours a day to assist other law enforcement negotiators on operational issues and routinely provides telephonic assistance to other negotiators during crisis situations. The FBI agents from the Washington, D.C. field office conducting the training acknowledged the expertise that the DOC staff held in addressing sensitive situations in a correctional setting. John R. Schwartz, who has seven years experience as a crisis negotiator trainer said, "This training revealed that the DOC participants have much more experience in handling suicide attempts and gestures than us, so I would encourage them to continue doing what works." The training emphasized hostage and non-hostage situations. While both events can have devastating effects, the subject usually expresses non-substantive demands in non-hostage situations. Statistics show that 93 percent of all incidents in the United States are non-hostage in nature.

DOC welcomes Perri Morgan, who is assigned to the Office of the Director.

Well wishes and congratulations to the department's personnel who have demonstrated their promotional aspirations within the correctional officer ranks, from Private to Major. Plans for a formal acknowledgment are underway to appropriately congratulate them on their respective accomplishments.

In recognition of the national observance of **Veterans Day** this month, the Department of Corrections extends heartfelt gratitude to the men and women who have unselfishly and courageously served the United States of America through their membership in the Armed Forces. Our hearts and thoughts are with them for the safekeeping of staff who are currently on active duty.

Corporal Jerry Carr	Army	Fort Dix, New Jersey
Corporal Donald Holland	Army	Fort Knox, Kentucky
Corporal Virvitine Williams	Army	Fort McCoy, Wisconsin
Corporal Elton Rush	Army	Fort Dix, New Jersey
Lieutenant Edward Givan	Army	Fort Dix, New Jersey

Opinion Poll

DOC staff has a longstanding reputation for being very generous supporters of projects that benefit others. During this season of Thanksgiving we acknowledge our many blessings. What specific role/activity are you responsible for in ensuring that someone else receives a blessing?

Cynthia Booker (Nurse Consultant) - I am on the board of a Christian community group home. During the holidays we provide gifts, food, and community spirit to the residents.

Valerie Brown (Acting Major) - I take canned foods and dry goods to the post office so they can make Thanksgiving baskets and I also donate to my son's school.

Rochelle Corbie (Correctional Officer) - I help the elderly by taking them to the doctor appointments or running errands for them.

Jeanette Myrick (Correctional Program Officer) - I try to donate extra money to my church so that the less fortunate can have a proper Thanksgiving dinner. We (church members and I) then deliver the food to the families.

Michelle Davenport (Information Technology Specialist) - During the Thanksgiving season, I bless those less unfortunate by participating in food drives and assisting in the preparation of Thanksgiving dinners to be delivered to home-bound senior citizens. Also, it is very important for me to bless individuals through daily prayers.

Steve Fezuk (Supervisory Computer Specialist) My family usually provides food for baskets at Thanksgiving and this year we're going to my mother's house in Pennsylvania to cook dinner for her.

Mark C. Ihedinma (Correctional Officer) - As the head of the household, which is the smallest unit of a large community, I make sure that I provide for my family first and send gifts to my relatives. I will then provide food for the hungry or homeless.

Jeanette M. Martin (Management Analyst assigned to the Director's Office) - I donate money to Project Harvest. I will also donate food and canned goods to a local organization that feeds the homeless and the disenfranchised and contribute annually to the United Way. In addition, I give to other organizations such as the Salvation Army and a national children's organization.

54th Annual One Fund Campaign

The One Fund Campaign is underway and all employees are encouraged to support this annual charitable fundraiser. District government employees have supported their favorite causes through workplace giving for more than half a century. Your contribution can make a difference in the lives of individuals and families who receive services through the more than 1,000 non-profit organizations that participate in the campaign.



Combating Diabetes

November is National Diabetes Month. Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce enough insulin. Insulin is a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other food into energy needed for daily life. Diabetes is often called the “silent destroyer” because it often destroys the quality of life before it kills. It is the leading cause of eye disorders, amputations, kidney disease and a contributor to heart attacks and strokes. There are approximately 23.6 million people in the country that have diabetes. Unfortunately, 5.7 million are unaware that they have the disease. While no cure exists for diabetes, it can be managed and even prevented. Knowing the facts are important.

- ◇ Every 20 minutes 60 Americans will be diagnosed with diabetes.
- ◇ One of three children born in 2000 will develop diabetes. Among minorities this number rises to one in two.
- ◇ The Diabetes Prevention Program showed that moderate weight loss and regular exercise can reduce diabetes incidence by 58 %, and by 71% in those over 60.
- ◇ Maintaining a healthy and balanced diet is essential. Limit foods that contain simple sugars like sodas, juices, flavored teas and most desserts.
- ◇ The annual cost of diabetes is \$174 billion. It is expected to climb to \$351 billion by 2025.

In 2007, diabetes accounted for 15 million work days absent, 120 million work days with reduced performance, six million reduced productivity days for those not in the workforce, and an additional 107 million work days lost due to unemployment disability attributed to diabetes.

Information was obtained from the American Diabetes Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Health and Safety Tips

Open Enrollment Season for Employee Benefits

Open Enrollment Season is underway for District government employees to change, update, and/or enroll in new benefits plans for the 2009 year. This annual event hosted by the DC Department of Human Resources is the only time (with limited exceptions) that employees may make certain benefit plan changes, including choosing a health care plan, enrolling in the short-term disability insurance program, and setting up flexible spending accounts.



Several health fairs will be held at various District agencies throughout Open Enrollment Season to allow employees an opportunity to learn more about their options and to meet with various benefits providers such as AETNA, United Healthcare, FlexAmerica, and ING among others. As part of the District government’s continuing efforts to enhance services for those who live, work or visit in the City, while developing and promoting a more streamlined and environmentally friendly operation, the DHR will not be accepting or processing any paper benefits forms during Open Enrollment Season. All employees are encouraged to make their benefits enrollment selections using the Employee Self Service (ESS) that is available online at DHR’s website.

Open Enrollment Season ends December 8. To learn more about the programs, visit www.dchr.dc.gov and click on “Employee Benefits” or call (202) 442-9700.

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

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