

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Corrections



Fiscal Year 2016 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of
Thomas Faust
Director

Before the

Committee on the Judiciary
Kenyan McDuffie, Chair
Council of the District of Columbia

Monday, April 27, 2015
10:00 am
Room 412
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20004



GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN MCDUFFIE AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY. I AM TOM FAUST, DIRECTOR OF THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. JOINING ME AT THE TABLE TODAY IS QUINCY BOOTH, MY DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND ANTOINETTE HUDSON BECKHAM, OUR AGENCY FISCAL OFFICER.

I AM PLEASED TO TESTIFY BEFORE YOU TODAY ON MAYOR BOWSER'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET, ENTITLED "PATHWAYS TO THE MIDDLE CLASS". AS MAYOR BOWSER RECENTLY TESTIFIED BEFORE THE COUNCIL, EACH AGENCY PLAYS A CRITICAL PART IN ENSURING THAT DISTRICT RESIDENTS FROM ALL WARDS OF THE CITY HAVE ACCESS TO THE EDUCATION, ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES, PUBLIC SAFETY, NEIGHBORHOODS, ENVIRONMENT, AND INFRASTRUCTURE THEY NEED TO REACH THE MIDDLE



CLASS. MAYOR BOWSER'S FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET SUBMISSION WILL ENSURE THAT OUR AGENCY AND THE ENTIRE GOVERNMENT HAVE THE NECESSARY STAFF AND RESOURCES TO HELP MEET THESE AMBITIOUS GOALS.

THIS BUDGET IS THE PRODUCT OF AN UNPRECEDENTED AMOUNT OF OUTREACH. THE MAYOR HELD THREE BUDGET ENGAGEMENT FORUMS THAT WERE ATTENDED BY HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS. AS YOU KNOW, MAYOR BOWSER'S BUDGET STAFF ALSO MET WITH COUNCILMEMBERS TO INCORPORATE YOUR PRIORITIES IN THE BUDGET. FINALLY, MAYOR BOWSER AND HER SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM MET WITH COMMUNITY GROUPS FROM ACROSS THE CITY AS PART OF THE BUDGET DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CURRENTLY OPERATES A LARGE URBAN JAIL SYSTEM WITH A TOTAL DAILY



POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 1,700 INMATES---WHICH INCLUDES PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES, SENTENCED MISDEMEANANTS, FELONS, AND PAROLE VIOLATORS.

WE ARE SUPPORTED BY TWO PRIMARY CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES—THE CENTRAL DETENTION FACILITY ALSO KNOWN AS THE D.C. JAIL AND THE CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY, PRIVATELY OPERATED BY THE CORRECTIONS CORPORATION OF AMERICA UNDER CONTRACT WITH THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. ADULT FEMALES AND JUVENILES BEING ADJUDICATED AS ADULTS ARE HOUSED AT THE CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY.

THE DEPARTMENT ALSO CURRENTLY CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATELY OPERATED HALFWAY HOUSES SERVING MALES AND FEMALES AS ALTERNATIVES TO JAIL INCARCERATION.

THE MISSION OF THE DEPARTMENT IS TO ENSURE THE PUBLIC SAFETY OF 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 PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCCESSFUL RE-INTEGRATION INTO THE COMMUNITY.

THE DEPARTMENT'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016 TOTAL GROSS OPERATING BUDGET, WHICH INCLUDES LOCAL, SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE, AND INTRADISTRICT FUNDS IS APPROXIMATELY \$152 MILLION WITH AN FTE LEVEL OF 936. THIS REPRESENTS A 0.4% INCREASE OVER THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 APPROVED GROSS BUDGET AND NO INCREASE IN THE OVERALL FTE LEVEL.

THE DEPARTMENT IS COMPRISED OF FIVE DIVISIONS THAT INCLUDE INMATE SERVICES, INMATE CUSTODY, AGENCY MANAGEMENT, AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS, AND THE OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZENS AFFAIRS—AN



INDEPENDENT ENTITY BUDGETED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT AND TASKED WITH PROVIDING SUPPORT ON BEHALF OF THE MAYOR TO THE DISTRICT'S RETURNING CITIZEN POPULATION. THE PROPOSED 2016 BUDGET DISTRIBUTION AMONG THESE DIVISIONS, IS:

INMATE SERVICES – \$46.7 MILLION OR 31%

INMATE CUSTODY – \$84.5 MILLION OR 56%

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS--\$417 THOUSAND OR LESS THAN 1%

AGENCY MANAGEMENT – \$19.5 MILLION OR 13%

AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS – \$1.1 MILLION OR 1%

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TO ALIGN THE LOCAL BUDGET WITH OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES, THERE WAS A SHIFT OF \$2.6 MILLION FROM INMATE SERVICES TO INMATE CUSTODY. THIS COVERS PERSONNEL SERVICES, PHARMACEUTICALS, MEDICAL, OFFICE AND SECURITY SUPPLIES AND PROJECTED OVERTIME COSTS.



AS REPORTED DURING OUR RECENT PERFORMANCE HEARING, OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAMMATIC PRIORITIES FOR THE AGENCY INCLUDE CONTINUING OUR ONGOING WORK AROUND SUICIDE PREVENTION AND THE FEDERAL PRISON RAPE ELIMINATION ACT (PREA); COMPLETING THE FINAL PHASE OF THE INMATE RECEPTION CENTER; ACHIEVING NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE REACCREDITATION FOR INMATE HEALTH SERVICES AT THE D.C. JAIL AND CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY; ACHIEVING AMERICAN CORRECTIONAL ASSOCIATION (ACA) REACCREDITATION OF D.C. JAIL OPERATIONS, PROGRAMS AND SERVICES; AND BROADENING REENTRY PROGRAMMING TO INCLUDE DEDICATED EMPLOYMENT READINESS UNITS FOR BOTH THE MALE AND FEMALE POPULATIONS.



WE ALSO HAVE A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT CAPITAL PROJECTS UNDERWAY. SOME HAVE ALREADY STARTED AND WILL CONTINUE INTO FISCAL YEAR 2016--OTHERS ARE NOT YET UNDERWAY BUT ARE PROJECTED TO BEGIN IN FISCAL YEAR 2016. TOGETHER THESE INCLUDE GENERAL FACILITY RENOVATIONS, WASTE PIPE REPLACEMENT, UPGRADING OF OUR FACILITY COMMAND CENTER, HVAC REPLACEMENT, AND ROOF REFURBISHMENT.

THE RESOURCES ALLOCATED TO THE AGENCY IN THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET WILL BE CRITICAL IN EXECUTING OUR MISSION INCLUDING COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION AND USING OUR RESOURCES TO HELP GROW AND PRESERVE THE MIDDLE CLASS. THE COUNCIL AND YOUR COMMITTEE HAVE BEEN ALLIES IN THIS EFFORT AND I APPRECIATE THE CONTINUED SUPPORT AS WE STRIVE TO BECOME A BENCHMARK CORRECTIONS AGENCY.



THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO TESTIFY TODAY
AND I LOOK FORWARD TO ANSWERING ANY QUESTIONS
THE COMMITTEE MAY HAVE.

