
Government of the District of Columbia



Department of Corrections

Testimony of

**Thomas Faust
Director**

***“Department of Corrections Budget Oversight
Hearing FY 2015”***

Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety
Tommy Wells, Chair
Council of the District of Columbia

Thursday, April 10, 2014
10:00 am

Room 500
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20004

GOOD MORNING CHAIRMAN WELLS AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY AND PUBLIC SAFETY. I AM TOM FAUST, DIRECTOR OF THE D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS. I AM PLEASED TO TESTIFY BEFORE YOU THIS MORNING ON MAYOR GRAY'S FISCAL YEAR 2015 BUDGET. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE BUDGET FULLY ADDRESSES OUR FUNDING NEEDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015. AT THE TABLE WITH ME TODAY ARE MY DEPUTY DIRECTORS, CAROLYN CROSS AND TOM HOEY, ALONG WITH ANTOINETTE HUDSON-BECKHAM, AGENCY FISCAL OFFICER.

THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS IS ONE OF THE AGENCIES UNDER THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S PUBLIC SAFETY CLUSTER. DOC CURRENTLY OPERATES ONE OF THE LARGEST MUNICIPAL JAIL SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTRY WITH A TOTAL DAILY POPULATION OF APPROXIMATELY 2,300 INMATES---WHICH INCLUDES PRE-TRIAL DETAINEES, SENTENCED OFFENDERS, AND COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS.

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 GOVERNMENT. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO CONTRACTS WITH THREE PRIVATELY OPERATED HALFWAY HOUSES AS ALTERNATIVES TO JAIL INCARCERATION.

OUR MISSION 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 2015 TOTAL GROSS OPERATING BUDGET, WHICH INCLUDES LOCAL, SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE, AND INTRADISTRICT FUNDS IS APPROXIMATELY \$153 MILLION WITH AN FTE LEVEL OF 936. THIS REPRESENTS AN 8% INCREASE OVER THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 APPROVED GROSS BUDGET AND A 0.1% INCREASE IN THE OVERALL FTE LEVEL.

IN ADDRESSING THE DEPARTMENT'S BUDGET, I BELIEVE IT IMPORTANT TO BRIEFLY ADDRESS OUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO POPULATION MANAGEMENT. AS REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL IN THE PAST, WE HAVE AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK CLOSELY WITH OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND FEDERAL PARTNERS TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN PROTOCOLS THAT ALLOW FOR MORE EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF THE INMATE POPULATION AT THE D.C. JAIL AND CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT FACILITY.

WE HAVE SEEN CONTINUED DOWNWARD TRENDS IN OUR POPULATION. THE CTF POPULATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014 THROUGH MARCH 31 AVERAGED 509; SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW THE BUDGETED CAPACITY OF 593 FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL YEAR. THE AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION AT THE DC JAIL TO DATE IS 1,572 AGAINST THE LEGISLATED CAPACITY OF 2164. FOR THE PRIOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 WITH THE SAME BUDGETED CAPACITY, THE ADP FOR THE CTF WAS 512 AND THE D.C. JAIL 1,718.

THE DEPARTMENT IS COMPRISED OF FIVE DIVISIONS THAT INCLUDE:

- ✓ INMATE SERVICES
- ✓ INMATE CUSTODY
- ✓ COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
- ✓ AGENCY MANAGEMENT
- ✓ AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

TO BETTER REFLECT THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMMATIC STRUCTURE AND ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK TO MORE EFFECTIVELY PLAN, BUDGET AND OPERATE, IN FISCAL YEAR 2015 THE DEPARTMENT REALIGNED ITS PROGRAMS BY ELIMINATING INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT SERVICES AND INCREASING THE BUDGET IN THE AGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION. ADDITIONALLY, TO BETTER SUPPORT PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES AND OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES, THE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS WAS ELIMINATED AND A COMMUNITY AFFAIRS DIVISION (OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZENS) ESTABLISHED AS A REPLACEMENT. THE FISCAL YEAR 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET IS DISTRIBUTED AMONG THESE DIVISIONS AS FOLLOWS:

INMATE SERVICES – \$47 MILLION OR 30.8%

INMATE CUSTODY – \$84.9 MILLION OR 55.5%

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS--\$376 THOUSAND OR .2%

AGENCY MANAGEMENT – \$19.5 MILLION OR 12.8%

AGENCY FINANCIAL OPERATIONS – \$964 THOUSAND OR .7%

AS WE MOVE THROUGH FISCAL YEAR 2015, WE ARE NEARING COMPLETION OF OUR INMATE PROCESSING CENTER, A MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECT THAT WILL STREAMLINE THE RECEIVING AND DISCHARGE PROCESS AND CONSOLIDATE CRITICAL FRONT AND BACK END INMATE SERVICES.

DURING FISCAL YEAR 2015, OUR PROPOSED NEW CAPITAL SPENDING WILL FOCUS ON GENERAL FACILITY RENOVATIONS INCLUDING UPGRADES TO THE KITCHEN, CELLBLOCK SHOWERS, OUR COMMAND CENTER (THE JAIL'S CENTRAL OPERATING AREA) AND THE HOUSING BLOCK CONTROL AREAS.

OTHER CRITICAL CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT ARE IN PROGRESS OR TO START AND EXPECTED TO CONTINUE INTO

FISCAL YEAR 2015 INCLUDE SECURITY CAMERA
INSTALLATION, HVAC AND ELEVATOR UPGRADES, ROOF
REFURBISHMENT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM
ENHANCEMENTS, IMPLEMENTATION OF RFID (AN INMATE
TRACKING SYSTEM), AND UPGRADES TO THE OFFENDER
JAIL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

I WILL NOW CLOSE OUT MY REMARKS TO ALLOW FOR
QUESTIONS FROM THE COMMITTEE. AGAIN I THANK YOU
FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE AN OVERVIEW OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS 2015 PROPOSED BUDGET.