

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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District's Central Detention Facility Awarded Full Accreditation by the American Correctional Association

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Mayor Vincent C. Gray and D.C. Department of Corrections (DCDOC) Director Thomas N. Faust announced today that the American Correctional Association's (ACA) National Commission on Standards and Accreditation awarded full accreditation to the District's Central Detention Facility, located in Southeast Washington. The ACA serves all disciplines within the corrections profession and establishes standards for the safe and effective operation of state, county, federal and private correctional facilities.

"The D.C. Jail's accreditation is an especially noteworthy milestone given that, across the country, only 7 percent of more than 3,300 local jail facilities have been nationally accredited," noted Mayor Gray. *"It takes a strong and consistent commitment to excellence for jurisdictions to operate and maintain facilities in compliance with the ACA's standards. Safety and security are paramount to the mission of our correctional facilities, and we are dedicated to meeting the diverse needs of offenders in the District's custody."*

The first and most critical component of the accreditation process took place in October of 2012 and involved the ACA conducting a comprehensive, top-to-bottom audit of the facility and its supporting functions – including administration and management, institutional operations and services, inmate programs, and physical infrastructure. DCDOC was found compliant with 100 percent of the 60 mandatory standards and 96.5 percent of the 322 non-mandatory requirements – an achievement that demonstrates a steadfast commitment to establishing DCDOC as a benchmark corrections agency.

"Accreditation by the ACA not only validates the work we do on a daily basis to ensure the safe confinement of the populations we serve, but also reflects our responsibility as public-safety professionals to safeguard the District's neighborhoods and communities," said Director Faust.

During Fiscal Year 2012, DCDOC achieved another critical milestone with the reaccreditation of its health-care services by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care. The organization ensures delivery of quality health-care services in jails, prisons and juvenile confinement facilities throughout the country.

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