



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA



**CORRECTIONS
INFORMATION
COUNCIL**



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ABOUT THE CIC

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight agency that inspects, monitors, and reports on the conditions of confinement of DC residents at facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the DC Department of Corrections (DOC), or their private contractors. During fiscal year 2020, the CIC mandate encompassed a population of approximately 4,050 inmates in over 120 BOP prisons and halfway houses across 35 states, as well as an average of over 1,800 inmates in DOC custody at local facilities.

Established by the National Capital Revitalization and Self-Government Improvement Act of 1997, the CIC had board members first appointed in 2002 and again in 2006. The agency was reestablished in 2012 with a new board and its first operating budget. The CIC's mandate was expanded by legislation in 2003 and 2011, and in 2017, the board was expanded from three members to five. In 2019, the CIC was given the responsibility to report annually on the conditions of individuals who had been sentenced under the Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA).

The CIC experienced staffing changes and work environment changes during the Coronavirus pandemic. Due to BOP wide lockdowns, in person visits were suspended and CIC chose to disseminate surveys into facilities to maintain communication with DC adults in custody.

In addition to ongoing work, the CIC executed a myriad of projects throughout fiscal year 2020, including:

- COVID-19 survey sent to DC residents in BOP custody
- Two thematic reports and two inspection reports published
- Holiday postcard writing initiative in November and December of 2019, with over 4,000 postcards sent to incarcerated DC residents from dozens of volunteers and constituents, including a new design for the postcards
- CIC open meetings held quarterly throughout the fiscal year
- Quarterly DOC inspections, reports, and information; and focus on the Youth Act of 2018
- Corresponding and documenting communication with over 100 DC residents in custody

The CIC is thankful for the support and communication from incarcerated individuals who are willing to correspond, as well as community members, service providers, government agencies, correctional institutions, and policy-makers.

BOARD AND STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



CHARLES THORNTON
Board Chair
since 2016



KATHARINE HUFFMAN
Board Member
since 2012



NKECHI TAIFA
Board Member
since 2018

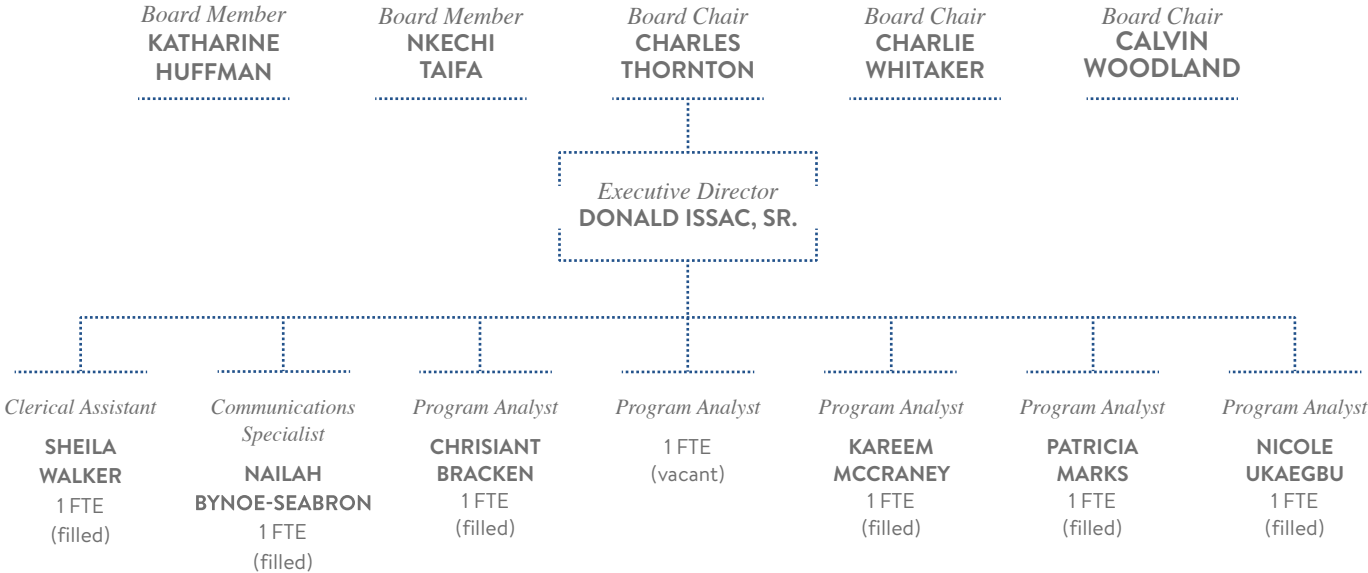


CHARLIE WHITAKER
Board Member
since 2018



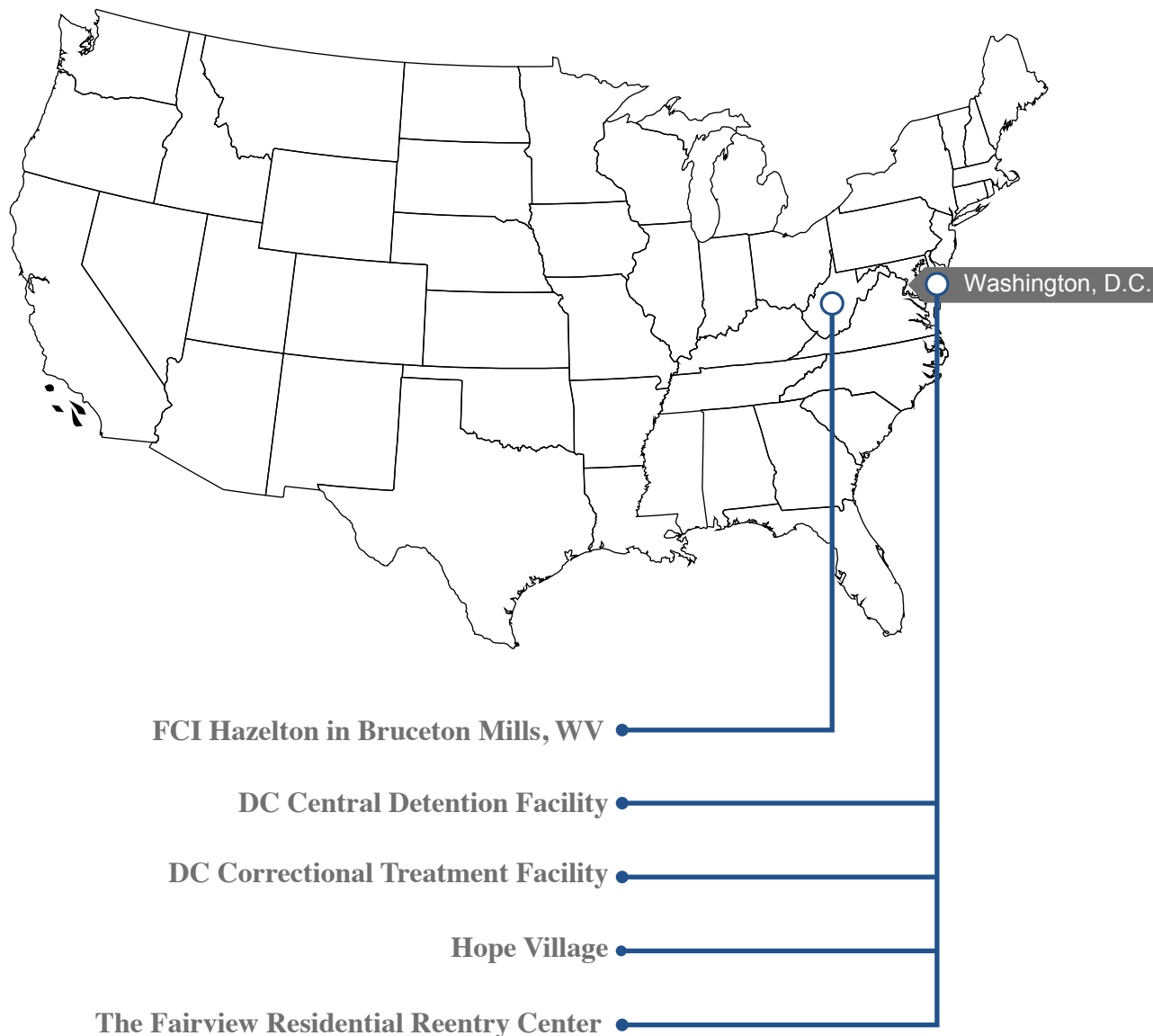
CALVIN WOODLAND
Board Member
since 2018

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



FACILITY INSPECTIONS

In fiscal year 2020, the CIC conducted four inspections. The two BOP facilities inspected were Hope Village and FCI Hazelton (previously inspected in fiscal year 2019 with a follow-up inspection completed in fiscal year 2020). The two DOC facilities inspected were the Central Detention Facility (CDF, also known as the DC Jail) and the adjacent Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF). Subsequent facility inspections were intended, but due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all visits to BOP facilities have been suspended.



INSPECTED FACILITIES

FCI Hazelton

FCI Hazelton is a medium security prison for men operated by the BOP, located in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia, approximately 204 miles from DC. The CIC inspected FCI Hazelton on November 20-21, 2019. The DC population (at the time) was 192 men.

DC Central Detention Facility

The DC Central Detention Facility (CDF) is a mixed security jail facility for men operated by the DOC located in Southeast Washington, DC. The CDF was inspected on February 22-23, 2020. The population (at the time) was 1,260 men.

DC Correctional Treatment Facility

The DC Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) is a mixed security jail facility for men and women operated by the DOC located in Southeast Washington, DC. The CIC inspected the CTF on February 22-23, 2020. The population (at the time) was 366 men and 90 women.

Hope Village (Closed on April 30, 2020)

The Hope Village Halfway house was a facility located in Southeast DC for male residents. It was the only halfway house in the District for men, and it had contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds for returning citizens as they prepared for their release transition.

The Fairview Residential Reentry Center (RRC)

The Fairview is a privately-operated halfway house located in Northeast DC for female residents. It is the only halfway house in the District for women, and it has contracts with both the DOC and the BOP to provide beds to returning citizens for their release transition. The current population is 15 women.

DC DEPARTMENT *of* CORRECTIONS

Fiscal year 2020 DC Department of Corrections (“DOC”) facilities



Central Detention Facility
(“CDF” or “DC Jail”)
adult men only

Correctional Treatment Facility (“CTF”)
women
adult men
DOC-operated unit for juveniles charged as adults

Central Cellblock
The holding cells for DC Superior Court

Contracted beds in residential reentry centers
“RRCs” or “halfway houses”

DOC PUBLICATIONS

The CIC published a report on April 6, 2020, which focused on conditions of confinement within the DOC during the Covid-19 pandemic. The CIC also published its 2020 annual report on the DOC on October 8, 2020, which focused on promising practices.

CIC Visit to the DOC (April 6, 2020)

Published April 16, 2020

On Monday, April 6, 2020, CIC Program Analyst Kareem McCraney and DC Council member Trayon White (Ward 8) conducted a site visit of the Central Detention Facility (CDF) at the DC Department of Corrections (DOC). The goals of the visit were to learn about the processes and preventive measures recently implemented in order to minimize the opportunity for residents and staff to contract and/or spread COVID-19, and to observe the overall conditions of the population.

DOC 2020 Annual Inspection Report

Published October 8, 2020

The DC Department of Corrections (DOC) operates two jail facilities: the Correctional Treatment Center (CTF), and the Central Detention Facility also known as the DC Jail (CDF). The facilities are adjacent to one another and are located in Southeast Washington, DC.

The CTF complex typically houses residents who are minimum or medium security, including females, as well as male residents who have specialized confinement needs. The CDF houses male residents, a majority of whom are held pending adjudication of a criminal case or are sentenced to a period of incarceration following conviction for a misdemeanor offense. Other CDF residents include those held on United States Parole Commission (USPC) warrants, those awaiting transfer to the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), and those held due to a writ or hold - typically awaiting transfer to another jurisdiction.

On February 24, 2020, CIC staff met with DOC staff at the CTF and CDF about promising practices related to programs within the DOC. CIC staff interviewed residents confined at the CDF and CTF to hear about their access to programs and program availability. As part of the DOC inspection, the CIC toured areas of both the CTF and CDF, including all program units, educational classroom spaces, chapel areas, and general population units. In addition, the CIC was able to observe some of the classes and programs during live classes.

FEDERAL BUREAU *of* PRISONS

As of October 1, 2020, there were 3,364 DC residents in BOP custody. DC inmates are incarcerated in over 118 federal facilities and contract facilities across 35 states, including the District of Columbia.

The BOP classifies facilities according to five designated security levels: minimum, low, medium, high, and administrative. Security levels are based on the physical features and staffing levels of the institutions. At lower security levels, inmates have less restricted movements and greater access to programming and reentry services. The name of a BOP facility generally reflects its designated security level.

- Federal Prison Camps (FPCs) are minimum security facilities.
- Federal Correctional Institutions (FCIs) are generally low or medium security.
- United States Penitentiaries (USPs) are generally high security. They often have adjacent minimum security satellite camps that provide inmate labor to the main institution.
- Secure Female Facility (SFF) in Hazelton, West Virginia, is a low security facility for women, which is included as part of the FCI Hazelton institution.
- Federal Correctional Complexes (FCCs) refer to locations where several facilities are located in close proximity to each other, which often share resources and staffing. Administrative facilities are institutions with special missions, such as pretrial detention or medical treatment. They are generally able to house inmates of any security level.
- Federal Medical Centers (FMCs) and the Medical Center for Federal Prisons (MCFP) are medical facilities that provide treatment for serious or chronic medical problems.
- Federal Detention Centers (FDCs), Metropolitan Detention Centers (MDCs), and Metropolitan Correctional Centers (MCCs) are administrative detention facilities that primarily house individuals who are awaiting trial.
- The Federal Transit Center (FTC) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, is a transit center located near an airport to provide a central hub for the transportation of inmates across the country.
- Administrative Maximum Security Penitentiary (ADX) in Florence, Colorado, and the Administrative United States Penitentiary (AUSP) in Thomson, Illinois, are the highest security level facilities in the BOP, where inmates are generally confined to their cells for 23 to 24 hours per day.

BOP PUBLICATIONS

In fiscal year 2020, the CIC published seven reports pertaining to the BOP, including letters transmitted to the BOP during the Coronavirus pandemic.

SFF Hazelton

Published April 6, 2020

The CIC conducted an inspection of Secure Female Facility (SFF Hazelton) on August 14th - 15th, 2019. SFF Hazelton, one of four institutions that comprise the Hazelton Federal Correctional Complex in Bruceton Mill, West Virginia, housed 25 DC women at the time of this report publication. SFF Hazelton, is a medium security female facility approximately 193 miles outside of DC. All interviewees expressed concerns about “mass punishment” – the practice of holding all residents responsible for the behaviors of a few. The women were most concerned about having to eat bagged meals on the housing units, and the spending limit placed on commissary.

Rivers CF

Published July 21, 2020

The CIC conducted an inspection of Rivers CF on July 9 - 10th, 2019. Rivers Correctional Facility Rivers CF is a low security private contract facility for adult males located in northeastern North Carolina, 212 miles away from Washington, DC. At the time of the CIC site visit, there were 1,347 inmates incarcerated at the facility, including 212 DC Code offenders. The most common concerns the CIC heard from DC individuals at Rivers CF were due to the imbalance between the two main populations housed at the facility. The non-DC population at the facility is primarily immigrant detainees, and interviewees mentioned tension between Black inmates and Spanish-speaking detainees, along with concerns for their safety if violence occurred. DC residents also felt that Spanish-speaking inmates received preferential treatment for job access, disciplinary decisions, commissary selections, recreation opportunities, and food menu options.

BOP PUBLICATIONS

Hope Village Statement and Condensed Report on Supplies During Covid-19

Published March 27, 2020

On Thursday March 26, 2020, the CIC conducted a site visit at Hope Village in response to community concerns raised this week about inadequate supplies. CIC staff had a conversation with Hope Village executive staff and program staff, as well as the BOP Residential Reentry Manager, who participated via speaker phone. The CIC asked a number of questions about updated policies for daily activities at Hope Village, as well as questions about programming, movement, transit between facilities, visitation, and release. CIC staff then walked through the dining areas currently in use and several areas where supplies and food are being stored. The inspection's observations included Covid-19 testing and treatment, food/meals, cleaning supplies, supply drop-offs, releases/transfers, and other daily functions.

Fairview Residential Reentry Center (RRC) Visit on April 3, 2020

Published April 27, 2020

CIC Board Chairman, Charles Thornton, conducted a walk-through of Fairview RRC on April 3, 2020, in response to community concerns regarding the coronavirus and its impact on halfway house populations. On March 31, 2020, he sent a request for himself and two additional CIC staff members to view the facility and speak with residents. Fairview Director, Sheri McCoy, received the request. She replied that the facility owner, Ms. Reynolds of Reynolds and Associates, would permit one person to visit and speak with staff and residents. The current roster of the facility at that time was comprised of 20 residents. Of those 20, nine were on home confinement, and 11 were housed at the facility. Of the 11 housed at the facility, nine were from the BOP and two were from the DC DOC.

BOP PUBLICATIONS

Hope Village Closure and Transfer to Volunteers of America (VOA)

Published April 27, 2020

Since the announcement of Hope Village not seeking a contract extension from the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the CIC gathered information on the BOP's plan for current residents after the current contract expired on April 30, 2020. The BOP shared that staff visited Hope Village on Tuesday April 14, 2020 to meet with individual residents about their proposed release plans. The BOP shared that of the 140 individuals currently at Hope Village, they expect to release 102 individuals to home confinement. Thirty-two individuals were transferred to the Volunteers of America Chesapeake facility at 5000 E Monument St. Baltimore, MD during the week of April 27, 2020. The BOP indicated that they do not anticipate returning any individuals currently at Hope Village to BOP secure facilities.

CIC Letter to the BOP and the BOP Response Regarding Home Confinement for DC Inmates

Published April 29, 2020

On April 9, 2020, the CIC sent a letter addressed to the BOP Director, Michael Carvajal about the growing concerns for DC inmates within BOP facilities during the time of the Coronavirus pandemic. The letter also addresses the recent consideration for certain inmates to be released into home confinement due to the impact of the Coronavirus within BOP facilities. The BOP responded to this letter on April 27, 2020.


CIC and BOP Meeting on Current COVID Data, Compassionate Release, Home Confinement, and DC Emergency Legislation

Published June 4, 2020

The Corrections Information Council (CIC) had a meeting with Deputy Director Thomas R. Kane and other representatives of the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) via teleconference on Wednesday, May 27, 2020. The goal of the meeting was to address effective communication of information between the two entities, with special emphasis on data related to the Coronavirus pandemic. Representatives from MORCA, OVSJG, and the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice also participated. The CIC inquired about home confinement and compassionate release efforts, as well as the total amount of DC code offenders who have tested positive for COVID-19, recovered from COVID-19, and all deaths of DC code offenders (regardless of whether or not related to COVID-19).

THEMATIC REPORTS

In fiscal year 2020, the CIC produced two thematic reports. In addition to reports based on facility inspections or CIC events, thematic reports focus on research about issues affecting incarcerated DC residents.



The Implementation of DC Code 24-403.04 Motions for Compassionate Releases as of September 14, 2020

Published September 30, 2020

On April 7, 2020, the DC Council passed emergency legislation, which expanded the eligibility of DC Code offenders to apply to the Superior Court for compassionate release. This report explains the compassionate release process and implementation.

Update on the District of Columbia Youth Rehabilitation Act

Published September 30, 2020

In fiscal year 2020 the CIC published an annual report concerning the facilities, treatment, and services for Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA) offenders in the care and custody of the Department of Corrections (DOC) and Bureau of Prisons (BOP). As part of the 2018 amendment to the YRA, the Mayor was required to develop and submit a strategic plan for providing the facilities, treatment, and services for youth offenders [in the care and custody of the DOC]” by September 30, 2019. The legislation also specified that the BOP is authorized to provide these services for youth offenders. At the conclusion of fiscal year 2020, the strategic plan for YRA offenders had not been implemented.

CIC OPERATIONS

Fiscal Year 2020 CIC Staff



DONALD ISAAC, SR

*Executive Director
Nov 2018 – present*

KAREEM MCCRANEY

*Program Analyst
Feb 2019 – present*

CHRISANT BRACKEN

*Program Analyst
Sep 2018 – present*

SHEILA WALKER

*Clerical Assistant
Nov 2015 – present*

JOHN KOWALKO

*Program Analyst
Mar 2017 – Sep 2020*

PATRICIA MARKS

*Program Analyst
Jun 2019 – present*

NICOLE UKAEGBU

*Program Analyst
May 2018 – present*

NAILAH

BYNOE-SEABRON
*Communications
Specialist
Jun 2019 – present*

MAURICE COTTON

*Clerical Assistant
May 2019 – present*

The CIC also employed the services of undergraduate interns from The Washington Center throughout the year. The interns participated in research and writing, as well as inspections. The fiscal year 2020 interns for the fall semester were Leila Gillings and Jalela Jallaq. Jessica Longacre and Christian Wasik interned with the CIC during the beginning of the spring semester. The CIC did not employ the interns for the remainder of the 2020 spring semester due to the onset of the Coronavirus pandemic.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH *and* EVENTS

Monthly Newsletters

The CIC produces a monthly newsletter to keep the community informed of agency operations, news, and updates relative to the incarcerated DC population. Since fiscal year 2019, the monthly newsletter features a section called “What We’re Reading”, which features publications about social justice or highlighting a particular author. The newsletter continues to highlight virtual community events and provide access to relevant resources during the coronavirus pandemic.

Social Media Initiatives

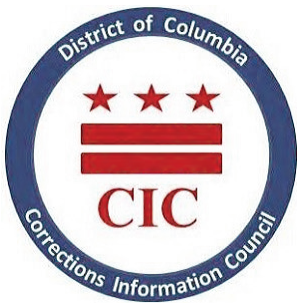
In fiscal year 2019, the CIC increased its social media presence by creating an Instagram page that frequently posts current events, updates, news, and job opportunities within the community. The CIC continues to use Twitter and Facebook to increase engagement.

Holiday Postcards

Each year during the winter holiday season, the CIC sends out postcards to DC residents in BOP facilities. The CIC continued its annual tradition of hosting events with community partners to fill out and sign the postcards. This year, the design for the postcard included a message that read, “PUSH” accompanied by a quote by the late civil rights activist and congressman John Lewis, “You only pass this way once, you have to give it all you have.” Due to social distancing, holiday card events were not possible, however many constituents and community members filled out postcards at home this year.

Open Board Meetings in Fiscal Year 2020

The CIC held three board meetings that were open to the public in fiscal year 2020. Due to the coronavirus and requirements of social distancing, one of the three meetings was held virtually. The meetings provide an opportunity for members of the public to learn about the agency’s operations and findings regarding the conditions of confinement. Topics discussed at meetings included recent and upcoming inspections, community engagement, and reporting practices. The meetings were held on October 22, 2019, January 28, 2020 and July 21, 2020.



CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

1400 Eye Street, NW

Suite 400

Washington, DC 20005

202-478-9211

www.cic.dc.gov



@dc.cic.info



@dc_cic



@dc_cic_info