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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 2021, the CIC mandate included almost 2,700 inmates in approximately 120 BOP prisons and halfway houses across 35 states, as well as an average of over 1,500 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 is forever thankful for the support and collaboration of those incarcerated who are willing to communicate with the CIC, community members, service providers, government agencies, corrections agencies, and decision-makers—all who are affected by and affect the lives of incarcerated DC residents. The CIC hopes that the information it provides is helpful to all.

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

Board Member
KATHARINE HUFFMAN

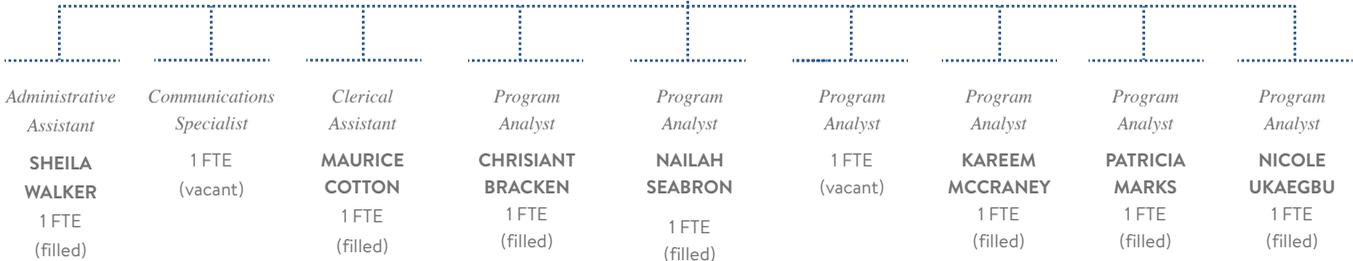
Board Member
NKECHI TAIFA

Board Chair
CHARLES THORNTON

Board Chair
CHARLIE WHITAKER

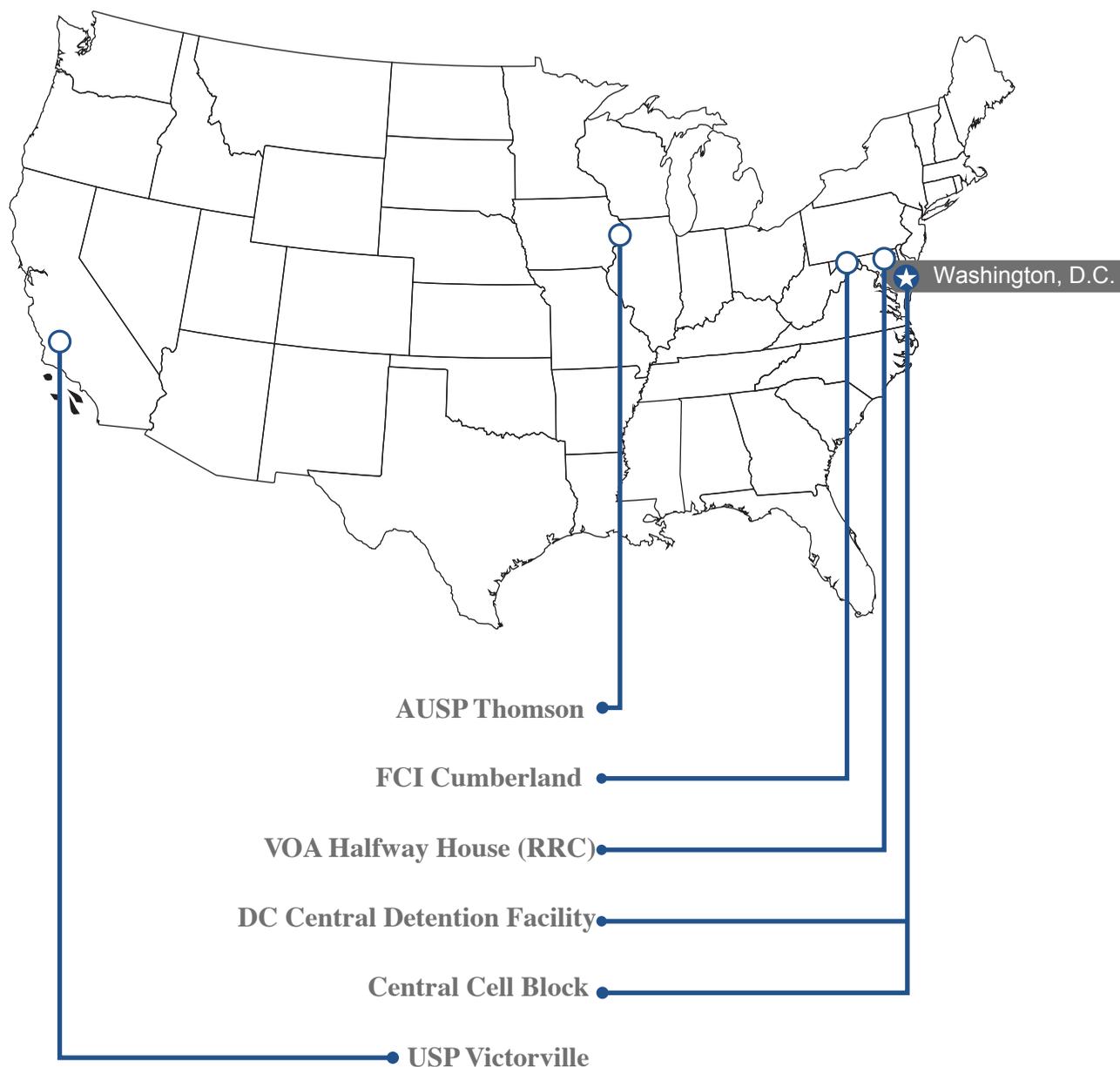
Board Chair
CALVIN WOODLAND

Executive Director
DONALD ISAAC, SR.



FACILITY INSPECTIONS

In fiscal year 2021, the CIC conducted five inspections, including three BOP facilities and the two facilities operated by the DOC - the Central Detention Facility (CDF, also known as the DC Jail) and the Central Cell Block (CCB). Additional inspections to BOP facilities were intended, but due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, facilities were not open to visitation until May of 2021.



INSPECTED FACILITIES

DC Central Detention Facility

The CDF is a mixed security jail facility for men operated by the DOC, located in Southeast Washington, DC. The CIC inspected the CDF on May 4, 2021. The population at the time was 1,013 men.

Central Cell Block

The CCB is a mixed security holding facility for men and women operated by the DOC, located in Northwest Washington, DC. The CIC inspected the facility on May 5, 2021. The population at the time was 27 men and women.

VoA Halfway House (RRC)

Volunteers of America (VOA) is a Residential Reentry Center (RRC) located in Baltimore, Maryland, which is approximately 43 miles from DC. The CIC conducted video visitation with the residents on November 19, 2020. The population at the time was 51 men.

FCI Cumberland

FCI Cumberland is a medium security prison for men operated by the BOP, located in Cumberland, Maryland, which is approximately 139 miles from DC. The CIC inspected FCI Cumberland on June 8-9, 2021. The population at the time was 137 men.

AUSP Thomson

AUSP Thomson is a maximum security prison for men operated by the BOP, located in Thomson, Illinois, which is approximately 849 miles from DC. The CIC inspected AUSP Thomson on July 20-21, 2021. The population at the time was 92 men.

USP Victorville

USP Victorville is a maximum security prison for men operated by the BOP, located in Victorville, California, which is approximately 2,593 miles from DC. The CIC inspected USP Victorville on September 14-16, 2021. The population at the time was 63 men.

DC DEPARTMENT *of* CORRECTIONS

Fiscal Year 2021 DC Department of Corrections (“DOC”) facilities



Central Detention Facility (“CDF” or “DC Jail”)

adult men only

Correctional Treatment Facility (“CTF”)

women

adult men

juveniles charged as adults

Central Cellblock (“CCB”)

The holding cells for DC Superior Court

Contracted Beds in Residential Reentry Centers

“RRCs” also known as “halfway houses”

DOC PUBLICATIONS

Per the 2020 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the DOC, the CIC will conduct four quarterly inspections and produce one annual report per year. During fiscal year 2021, the CIC inspected the DOC's CDF facility and the CCB. The CIC also performed a "walk-through" at the CDF in December 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the DOC was operating under a "medical lockdown" from March to December 2020. Visiting the facilities was prohibited during this time.



CIC Visit to the DOC on December 22, 2020

Published March 18, 2021

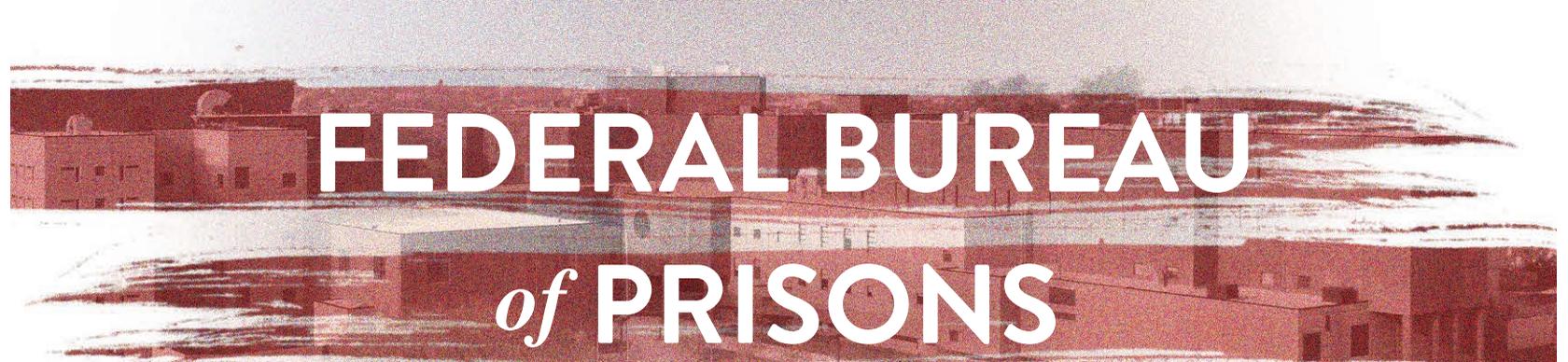
On December 22, 2020, the Corrections Information Council (CIC) visited the Department of Corrections (DOC) for a site visit. This visit was premised upon DOC residents being placed on a "medical stay-in-place" posture since March 2020. The medical stay-in-place is a safety precaution in response to COVID-19, which means inmates are locked in their cells for 23 hours a day to minimize the potential spread of COVID-19. Residents are normally allowed out of their cells several hours a day for recreation, showers, phone calls, and programming, but since the medical stay-in-place, residents have been restricted to their cells, and they receive one hour per day to shower and use the phones.

DOC 2021 Quarterly Inspection Report

Published November 19, 2021

The DC Department of Corrections (DOC) operates two jail facilities: the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF), and the Central Detention Facility, also known as the DC Jail (CDF). The facilities are located adjacent to one another in Southeast Washington, DC. The DOC also operates the Central Cell Block (CCB) which is located at 300 Indiana Avenue Northwest, Washington, DC. This inspection covered the CDF and CCB.

Throughout the 2020 fiscal year, the District of Columbia was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Consequently, the CIC was unable to physically go into DOC facilities due to health concerns, but was still able to communicate with residents via written correspondence, phone calls, and family members. In fiscal year 2021, the CIC was able to perform a site visit and talk to staff and residents in person, interviewing them about their conditions and experiences in custody and at work. Following the site visit, CIC conducted its onsite inspection of CDF on May 4, 2021, and CCB on May 5, 2021.



FEDERAL BUREAU *of* PRISONS

According to the October 1, 2021 Bureau of Prisons (BOP) census data, there were 2,548 DC residents in BOP custody. DC inmates are incarcerated in approximately 120 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 2021, the CIC published two inspection reports. One report, FCI Hazelton, was inspected in fiscal year 2020 but was not published within the same fiscal year due to staffing changes. The other report was done via virtual visitation with the Volunteers of America (VOA).

Volunteers of America RRC Report

Published May 26, 2021

The CIC conducted virtual visitation with the residents of VoA on November 19, 2020 based on a survey regarding their RRC experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. Fourteen respondents provided information about their length of stay in the federal system, which ranged from 15 months to 34 years. The total time served by the 14 men was almost 116 years. One of the men had served 34 years. The others served an average of 6 ¼ years. Half of the men served five or fewer years.

FCI Hazelton Inspection Report

Published June 18, 2021

The CIC conducted an inspection of FCI Hazelton in August of 2019, and a follow up inspection in November of 2019. Both inspections focused on program availability. The CIC conducted the initial on-site inspection of FCI Hazelton on August 14-15, 2019. The CIC conducted the follow up inspection of FCI Hazelton on November 4-5, 2019.

THEMATIC REPORTS

In fiscal year 2021, the CIC produced seven thematic reports. The CIC researches and writes about issues affecting incarcerated DC residents, beyond reports based on facility inspections or CIC events. We may include this information in a CIC Info Sheet, but we may also expound on issues in issue briefs or longer reports.

COVID-19 Survey Preliminary Findings

Published January 7, 2021

In March 2020, the SARS Cov-2 pandemic (COVID-19) began impacting Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities where DC individuals are held. On March 13, 2020, the BOP suspended visitation to all BOP facilities, including the CIC's on-site inspections.

The CIC created a 20-question survey focusing on four areas: institutional cleaning, access to medical care, movement, and communication. The survey was sent to 1,750 DC individuals across 111 facilities in June 2020. Five hundred nineteen survey responses were received from 90 different facilities through August 15, 2020.

CIC Ongoing Monitoring of COVID-19 Outbreaks at FCI Fort Dix

Published February 12, 2021

In 2020, the CIC continued to monitor conditions at BOP facilities, particularly the BOP's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Several facilities experienced serious COVID-19 outbreaks, including FCI Fort Dix in New Jersey. Fort Dix had the highest total number of individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 of any BOP facility.

The CIC reached out to the BOP for information regarding the current situation at Fort Dix and received a response, which was included in the report.

THEMATIC REPORTS

Update on COVID-19 Testing and Early Release Data from the BOP

Published March 8, 2021

Since March 2020, the BOP has shared general information about the number of COVID-19 tests conducted in their institutions. The CIC continued to follow the data trends on the BOP website and report on the findings. The CIC also continued to request information on available data and DC residents in custody, which is detailed in the report.

The Implementation of DC Code 24-403.04 Motions for Compassionate Release As of March 16, 2021

Published April 23, 2021

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 legislation became permanent on January 13, 2021. The most recent data obtained by the DC CIC shows that as of March 16, 2021, the DC Compassionate Release Clearinghouse House had received and partially processed 824 questionnaires.

The CIC conducted an initial analysis of the data collected by Superior Court with regard to grants or denials of requests from people serving life and non-life sentences. After reviewing the data, the CIC reported on the findings.

Recent COVID-19 Concerns at Volunteers of America Reentry Center

Published May 13, 2021

The CIC has received a number of concerns about COVID-19 outbreaks at the Volunteers of America Halfway House (VOA) in Baltimore, Maryland over a period of two months. The reports suggest that some individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 had been transferred to local hotels to quarantine, while other individuals have been furloughed out of the facility.

The CIC contacted the BOP regarding these concerns and asked for information about the COVID-19 situation at VOA, including where DC individuals are currently located, the number of COVID-19 cases in recent months, and the current protocols for addressing outbreaks of the virus.

THEMATIC REPORTS



DC Youth Rehabilitation Act Report

Published June 4, 2021

In the 2018 amendment of the Youth Rehabilitation Act (YRA), the Mayor of the District of Columbia was required to develop and submit a strategic plan for providing facilities, treatment, and services for YRA offenders (in the care and custody of the DOC) by September 30, 2019. The statute also specified that the BOP is authorized to provide these services for YRA offenders in their custody. At the conclusion of fiscal year 2021 the development of a strategic plan for YRA offenders was not yet finalized. As of November 2021, the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) produced the Emerging Adult Strategic Plan, which focuses on developing other ways to address individuals aged 18-24 who are confronted with legal challenges.

COVID-19 Survey Final Report

Published July 2, 2021

In March 2020, the SARS Cov-2 pandemic (COVID-19) began impacting Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities where DC individuals are held. On March 13, 2020, the BOP suspended visitation to all BOP facilities, including the CIC's on-site inspections. The CIC continued to receive email and letters from individuals inside facilities, though individuals reported that access to phones and/or email and their ability to send postal mail was limited to varying degrees due to partial or complete lockdowns at facilities. The BOP provided general information about high-level policies responding to COVID-19, but indicated that many implementation decisions were being made at the facility level due to variations in facility layout, population, and local conditions. The communications CIC received from incarcerated individuals during March and April indicated that there were significant differences in the COVID-19 response across different facilities.

CIC OPERATIONS



Fiscal Year 2021 CIC Staff

DONALD ISAAC, SR

*Executive Director
Nov 2018 – present*

SHEILA WALKER

*Office Manager
Nov 2015 – present*

NICOLE UKAEGBU

*Program Analyst
May 2018 – present*

CHRISANT BRACKEN

*Program Analyst
Sep 2018 – present*

KAREEM MCCRANEY

*Program Analyst
Feb 2019 – present*

MAURICE COTTON

*Clerical Assistant
May 2019 – present*

PATRICIA MARKS

*Program Analyst
Jun 2019 – present*

NAILAH BYNOE-SEABRON

*Program Analyst
Jun 2019 - present*
(promoted in Mar 2021)*

COMMUNITY OUTREACH *and* EVENTS

Monthly Newsletters

The CIC produces a monthly newsletter to keep the community informed of agency operations as well as relevant news and updates on the incarcerated DC population. Since fiscal year 2019, the monthly newsletter has contained a section called *What We're Reading*, which features publications about social justice or highlights an author. The newsletter also continues to highlight virtual community events and resources during COVID-19.

Social Media Initiatives

In fiscal year 2019, the CIC increased its social media presence by creating an Instagram page on which current events, relevant news, and job opportunities within the community are announced. The CIC continues to use Twitter and Facebook to increase engagement. In addition, the CIC website now has a tab for news updates, which highlights local and national news that affects the DC incarcerated population and their families.

Holiday Postcards

Each year during the winter holiday season, the CIC sends postcards to DC residents in BOP facilities. The CIC continued its annual tradition of collaborating with community partners to complete and sign postcards. The fiscal year 2021 postcards included the message, "KEEP PUSHING" accompanied by an encouraging quote from the late civil rights pioneer and congressman John Lewis. Due to social distancing protocols resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, holiday card events were not possible; however many constituents and community members offered to help by picking up postcards to complete at home.

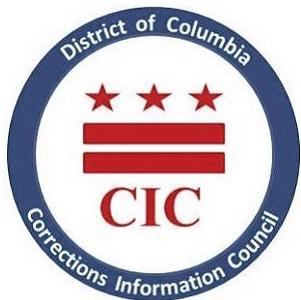
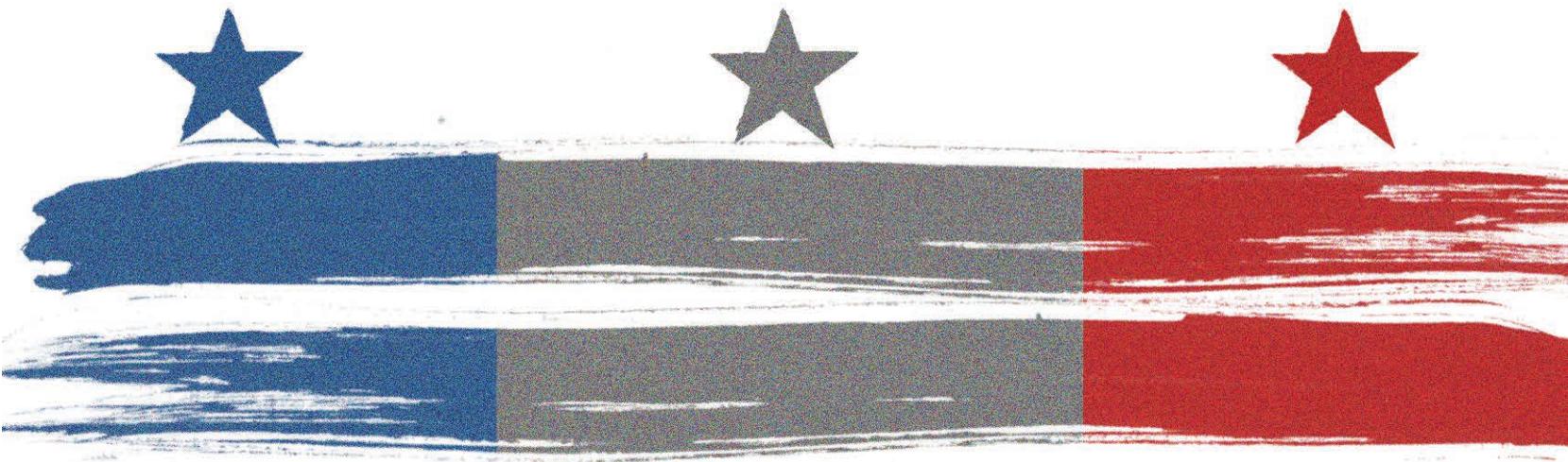
COMMUNITY OUTREACH *and* EVENTS

Collaboration with DC Artist Kofi Tyus

The CIC collaborated with a local DC artist, Mr. Kofi Tyus, to distribute Mother's Day cards to residents at the DC Jail. Mr. Tyus provided the CIC with 250 cards and postage for residents to send to their loved ones for Mother's Day.

Open Board Meetings in Fiscal Year 2021

The CIC held three board meetings that were open to the public in fiscal year 2021. Due to COVID-19 social distancing and requirements, all open meetings were held virtually. 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 writing practices. The meetings were held on October 20, 2020, January 26, 2021, and April 21, 2021.



CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

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