

**District of Columbia  
Corrections Information Council**



**Department of Corrections  
Central Detention Facility, Correctional Treatment Facility,  
and Central Cell Block**

**Report on Findings and Recommendations**



*Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF)*



*Central Detention Facility (CDF)*

**April 25, 2024**



## District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair  
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member  
Nkechi Taifa, Board Member  
Prechelle Shannon, Board Member

### **About the District of Columbia Corrections Information Council**

The District of Columbia Corrections Information Council (CIC) is an independent oversight body mandated by the United States Congress and the Council of the District of Columbia to inspect, monitor, and report on the conditions of confinement in correctional facilities where residents from the District of Columbia are incarcerated. This includes facilities operated by the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), the District of Columbia Department of Corrections (DOC), and private contractors.

The CIC reports its observations and recommendations to the District of Columbia Representative in the United States Congress, the Mayor of the District of Columbia, the Council of the District of Columbia, the District of Columbia Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the Director of the BOP, the Director of the DOC, and the community.

Although the CIC does not handle individual complaints or provide legal representation or advice, individuals are still encouraged to contact the CIC. Reports, concerns, and general information from incarcerated DC residents and the public are very important to the CIC, and they greatly inform our inspection schedule, recommendations, and reports. However, unless expressly permitted by the individuals or required by law, names and identifying information of residents, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

### **DC Corrections Information Council**

1400 Eye Street, NW – Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20005  
Phone: (202) 478-9211  
Email: [dccic@dc.gov](mailto:dccic@dc.gov)  
Website: <https://cic.dc.gov/>

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## Central Detention Facility Profile

**Dates of Inspection:** December 6, 2023  
**Location:** SE, Washington, DC  
**Security Level:** Minimum, Medium, Maximum

**Rated Capacity:** 2,164  
**12/6/2023 Population:** 1,205

## Correctional Treatment Facility Profile

**Date of Inspection:** December 6, 2023  
**Location:** SE, Washington, DC  
**Security Level:** Minimum, Medium

**Rated Capacity:** 1,400  
**12/6/2023 Population:** 474

## Central Cell Block

**Date of Inspection:** December 8, 2023  
**Location:** 300 Indiana Ave, NW  
**Security Level:** Minimum, Medium

**Rated Capacity:** 110  
**12/8/2023 Population:** 39 (8 women)

## Introduction

The CIC visited both the Central Detention Facility (CDF) and Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) on December 6, 2023, and Central Cell Block (CCB) on December 8, 2023, as part of the CIC's mandate to inspect DOC facilities quarterly.

During the visits to the CDF and CTF, the CIC was informed that the DOC developed a Gang Intel Unit (GIU) that works in conjunction with operational intelligence to deal with some of the violence that occurs in DOC.

Residents who participate in religious services in the chapel area of the facility are now being escorted to those services by DOC staff, as opposed to receiving passes to go on their own, which was the prior practice in the DOC. There are also new metal detectors (Cell Sense Technology) in the hallways for safety purposes.

When the CIC visited CCB, the mattress policy was still in place and most maintenance issues were resolved. Additionally, staff communicated that CCB is projected to be relocated in 2025.

## Key Findings

The CIC highlights the following facility practices:

- Social visitation will begin taking place on tablets starting in January 2024.
- The DOC has developed a Gang Intelligence Unit (GIU) who works in conjunction with operational intelligence to deal with some of the violence that occurs in the DOC.
- There are new metal detectors (Cell Sense Technology) in the hallways of the DOC to help deal with the reduction of residents carrying weapons and promote safety throughout the facility.
- Residents who participate in religious services are now escorted to those services by a DOC staff escort, whereas previously residents were provided a pass and allowed to proceed to the chapel area on their own.
- Maximum custody residents are now allowed housing and participation within the GED unit.
- CCB is projected to be relocated in 2025.
- Staff stated that there are always nurses on site at CCB, but there are no mental health professionals.

## Central Detention Facility

### South 1/ Special Housing Unit (SHU)

**Population: 42**

**Capacity: 80**

- All residents in the SHU are on Protective Custody (PC) or Administrative Segregation (AS) status.
- Recreation occurs from 6:30 AM to 2:30 PM, and from 2:30 PM to 10 PM. Recreation starts on one side of the housing unit during the morning, then the other side of the housing unit has recreation during the evening. The next day, the schedule rotates.
- Residents housed here are allowed to purchase commissary items unless they have lost their commissary privileges.
- There is a total of two hours for recreation: 1 hour 45 minutes for recreation time, and 15 minutes for a shower. Recreation happens Monday through Sunday, and when the weather permits, there is also outside recreation.
- Cells 17 and 18 were flooded. Cell 33 was leaking water from under the door of the cell.
- There were puddles of water on the bottom right tier.
- CIC spoke with a resident about a grievance that he submitted on November 14, 2023. As of the date of this inspection, he had not received a response. CIC spoke with staff regarding the issue, and they communicated that they planned to address the issue immediately. DOC staff explained that grievance responses take 10-15 business days.

- The compliance officer communicated to the CIC that residents can submit grievances via tablet or paper forms, but all grievances receive a manual response regardless of how they are submitted.
- A resident complained about his inability to send his mail out because he is indigent. The CIC is awaiting guidelines from DOC about mailing procedures for those residents who are indigent.
- The showers in this unit were dirty, and there were areas missing from the roof of the shower area and other areas within the shower space.

**Southeast 1/GED Unit****Population: 19****Capacity: 160**

- The purpose of this unit is to help prepare residents for their GED test. Once this test is passed, residents will receive their High School Diploma. Ideally, the goal is to have residents complete their test after one month of enrollment, but completion varies.
- You cannot have any separations or current disciplinary infractions to participate in this program or receive housing on this unit.
- There are now maximum custody residents in the GED unit, whereas previously – this population was prohibited.
- There is additional programming in this unit beyond the GED program. There are post-secondary courses from Georgetown and Howard universities. There is a fiber optics course scheduled to begin approximately January or February 2024.
- Georgetown has both accredited and non-accredited courses. Harvard University also has a writing program that is facilitated in the evenings.
- Post-Secondary college courses are funded through Second Chance Pell Grants.
- Free Minds Book Club comes into the housing unit once a week, and Petey Green comes in as tutors.
- Currently, there are no Spanish speaking teachers, but there are Spanish speaking tutors.
- There is also a Spanish and English leisure library in the unit, and a religious library.
- There is a continuation of programming and employment assistance for residents that are released back into the community. The assistance comes from case management at the jail who connects the individual to resources on the outside.

**Northwest 1/Max Unit****Population : 122****Capacity : 160**

- Previously, in this housing unit – residents were not able to leave the unit for programming. Now, residents are allowed to go to unit Southeast 2, which was an empty unit, to program. The program is called Crime and Justice Behind Bars. It is a 14-week program administered by Howard University.
- Residents mentioned that participating in the program gives them something to which they can look forward, and it also keeps them out of trouble. Residents who participated in the program had graduated on the day prior to the CIC inspection.

- One resident who participated in the program said it was “the best program ever”. He said that he was housed in CDF since 2016, and it was the best program in which he had participated thus far.
- Residents were participating in a basketball tournament. This tournament is a new program that allows residents to play teams in other housing units.
- Most of the chaise closets on the bottom left tier were leaking.
- Cells 53, 67, 76, 77 had maintenance issues and the cells were flooding. Some residents were moved to other cells.
- Some residents complained that officers instructed them to submit work orders for the maintenance issues within their cells, but those issues had not yet been addressed.

### **Southeast 3/ General Population**

**Population: 116**

**Capacity: 160**

- This housing unit was noticeably warmer than the other units. One resident suggested that the DOC should sell personal fans at the commissary because it gets so hot in some of the units.
- There were fans on the ceilings, but you could not feel the air on the bottom tiers.
- Cell 78 had a leak coming from the toilet. The resident reportedly notified staff three times, but his concern has not been addressed.
- Residents reported not having access to a barber for haircuts in over a month.

### **Chapel**

- Residents were going to participate in religious services in the Chapel area. According to the schedule, the service was approximately thirty minutes behind schedule. However, chapel staff communicated that the service would be extended to permit a thirty minute addition to the back end of the time slot, which is the case whenever delays occur.
- The CIC inquired about the delay of residents getting to religious services on time and was informed by DOC staff that previously residents would receive passes from their housing units and were allowed to go to religious services on their own. Now, DOC staff must go to every housing unit to pick up residents for religious services and escort them to the chapel, which takes more time – but is necessary for safety purposes.

### **Safety and Security**

- The DOC has developed a Gang Intel Unit (GIU) who works in conjunction with Operational Intelligence to deal with the violence that occurs with individuals while in DOC custody. Oftentimes, issues of violence occur from circumstances and conflicts that existed within the community prior to incarceration, and the GIU explores those conflicts and determines what communities were involved. This helps with designating individuals for certain housing units.
- The DOC has also invested in Cell Sense Technology, which operate similarly to metal detectors, and they are placed in the hallways of the facility. If a resident is walking in the hallways, staff can ask them to step onto the Cell Sense, and it will indicate if the individual

has a weapon in possession. The technology was implemented to further promote safety throughout the facility.

## **CDF Recommendations**

- Continue to provide programming for those residents housed in maximum custody units in addition to those in general population units.
- Respond to grievances within the time frames outlined by DOC policy.

## **Corrections Treatment Facility (CTF)**

### **D1A/ 50 and Over Unit**

- This housing unit is specifically for residents who are age fifty or more.
- Previously, residents in this unit reported a lack of access to programming, excluding tablets. Residents can now participate in programs outside of the housing unit in addition to having access to programming via tablet.
- Residents indicated not having physical access to the law library (digital access is available by tablet). Prior to COVID, residents had access to the law library; however, physical access is currently restricted, and residents must use tablets.
- Residents mentioned that they have not had access to outside recreation or indoor recreation within the gym. CTF has an indoor gym for recreation.
- Residents stated that they are paying three to five cents per minute for movies on the tablets, which equals about five to six dollars per movie, and residents complained that they are paying too much for very old movies.
- Residents complained that the housing unit is usually cold, but on the day of inspection the temperature was sufficient for residents.

### **C4B/Lead Up Unit**

- This is an educational unit. You cannot get into this program without an Individual Education Plan (IEP)
- Every resident in this unit goes to school.
- Before residents are admitted to this program, staff must locate their education transcripts to assess the start level for a resident's classes, as well as the last grade completed.
- Maya Angelou Charter School facilitates the educational curriculum.
- School starts at 8:30 AM and ends at 2:30 PM.
- Currently, there are eight staff members: Principal, Assistant Principal, Program Coordinator, Administrator, and four teachers.
- There are tutors from Petey Green who assist with teaching.
- Free Minds Book club comes every Friday, and there are also independent contractors that speak to students about different subjects.



- When residents complete the program, they receive high school diplomas. Upon release, residents stay connected to case management to receive further education or assistance within the work force.
- Residents from this unit can still program if they are sent to the SHU.

### SMU-B

- Residents are sent to this unit for disciplinary or administrative reasons.
- Currently, all residents are housed in single cells, but cells can be doubled.
- Residents have access to both types of tablets while housed here. However, if a resident has lost his privileges, he will only have access to the educational tablet.
- Residents receive two hours of recreation per day in this unit, Monday through Friday.
- Residents who have not lost their visiting privileges are still able to receive contact visits while in the SMU.
- Some residents complained that they were not allowed out of their cells to participate in education, but staff stated that it only happens when residents display behavior issues.
- There are three tables in the unit that have an attachment underneath to which an individual can be shackled while programming. Three residents at a time are allowed out of their cells to program.

## CTF Recommendations

- Provide physical access to the law library.
- Provide more access to the inside gymnasium for recreation.

## Central Cell Block

**Population: 47 (8 women)**

**Capacity: 110**

- There are three shifts at CCB: morning, evening, and midnight shifts. The captain mentioned that ideally, they need about 15 staff per shift. Currently, there are nine staff members on the day shift, and eleven on the evening and midnight shifts.
- CCB is continuing to uphold the mattress policy for pregnant **women and** those arrested over the weekend. Weekend arrestees who are sent to CCB after 2 PM are automatically provided with a mattress. CCB also provides mattresses for those coming out of the hospital.
- Residents are double bunked at CCB, unless there is a need for a resident to be housed alone.
- Residents begin going to court at 10:30 PM and the process of moving residents from CCB to court usually lasts no later than approximately 12 PM.
- It is projected that there will be a new CCB location in 2025.

**Maintenance:**

- The sump pump is still operating since being fixed by DGS; however, it continues to present an ongoing issue, and a new one is needed.
- DGS power washes the CCB at the end of each month in addition to daily afternoon cell cleanings.
- DOC sends a maintenance report to DGS everyday regarding maintenance issues, since DGS is responsible for all maintenance issues at the CCB.
- There is a problem with roaches at the CCB. Staff mentioned that they believe that the roaches are starting to settle in the CCB because it is located in the basement and the upper parts of the building are basically empty.
- There were five toilets that are inoperable: three clogged toilets and two toilets with water leaking around the base.
- All the lights in every cell have been fixed and are now working.
- There are two wheelchair lifts at the CCB, but only one is operable. A work order has been submitted to have the other wheelchair lift fixed.

**Medical:**

- There are four nurses that staff the CCB; each one works a twelve-hour shift. They can administer medication, and some mental health medications, if within an arrestee's record, the hospital report, or the CRISP (a database used to determine if someone is prescribed medication).
- There are no mental health professionals at CCB. If someone displays serious mental health conditions, they are sent to the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP).
- There is ASL Next Talk software, which is part of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and it can translate English into any language for those who do not speak English.
- In the event of a medical emergency an ambulance is called immediately, and there is always a nurse present in the facility to perform measures to assist the resident until an ambulance arrives.

## Central Cell Block Recommendations

- Employ a mental health specialist on site at the CCB.