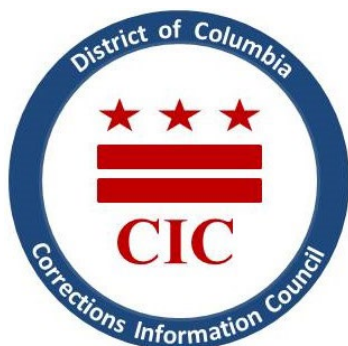


**District of Columbia  
Corrections Information Council**



**FCI Petersburg  
Inspection Report**



**September 9, 2022**

## District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

Charles Thornton, Board Chair  
Katharine A. Huffman, Board Member  
Nkechi Taifa, 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 inmates 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 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 inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

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## Facility Demographics

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### Petersburg FCI - Medium

<b>Dates of Inspection:</b> December 4-6, 2021	<b>DC Residents:</b> 127
<b>Location:</b> Hopewell, VA	<b>Resident Average Age:</b> 41
<b>Rated Capacity:</b> 2,210 (full complex) <sup>1</sup>	<b>DC Resident Average Age:</b> 41
<b>Residents:</b> 1,502	<b>CIC Survey Respondents:</b> 40

### Petersburg FCI - Low

<b>Dates of Inspection:</b> December 4-6, 2021	<b>DC Residents:</b> 59
<b>Location:</b> Hopewell, VA	<b>Resident Average Age:</b> 45
<b>Rated Capacity:</b> 2,210 (full complex)	<b>DC Resident Average Age:</b> 43
<b>Residents:</b> 770	<b>CIC Survey Respondents:</b> 15

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<sup>1</sup> The BOP declined to provide rated capacity information for the individual facilities. The rated capacity number for the complex was obtained from a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit Report dated March 27, 2021, and published on the BOP website at [https://www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/pem/PEX\\_prea\\_2021.pdf](https://www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/pem/PEX_prea_2021.pdf)

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## I. Introduction

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Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Petersburg is a federal prison complex including a medium-security facility, a low-security facility, and an adjacent satellite prison camp. Built in 1932, the facility is approximately 150 driving miles from Washington, DC. The CIC conducted an inspection of the Medium and Low facilities on December 4-6, 2021.

The rated capacity of the complex is 2,210 individuals.<sup>2</sup> As of November 16, 2021, there were 1,502 individuals at the Medium, and 770 at the Low for a total of 2,272 residents, which is 3% over capacity. As of the same date, there were 127 DC Code offenders at the Medium and 59 at the Low, meaning DC individuals comprised approximately 8% of the population at each facility. There were no DC individuals at the satellite camp, so the CIC did not visit that part of the complex.

### **Medium Facility**

The Medium facility contains seven housing units, as well as the Special Housing Unit for the complex. Classes provided include GED, ESL, and three types of vocational programs: Custodial Business Management, Culinary Arts, and Construction and Carpentry. The Medium has a UNICOR Distribution Center that sorts and repackages clothing hangers for private vendors, as well as assembles toiletry kits for inmates.

Other specialized programs at the Medium include a Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP), and the Sex Offender Management Program (SOMP), which is a non-residential program that involves the assessment, voluntary treatment, and monitoring of individuals with a history of sex offenses.

### **Low Facility**

The Low facility has twelve housing units. The Low does not have its own kitchen, dining hall, or pharmacy. Meals are prepared in a trailer and transported to units, which reportedly often arrive cold. Individuals receiving daily medication must also walk to the Medium to pick it up.

Specialized programs at the Low include an RDAP unit and the Life Connections Program, which is a voluntary residential program that encourages individuals to use their personal belief system to develop a personal code of conduct. The Low also has a UNICOR Print Plant, which is a full-service printer for federal agencies.

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<sup>2</sup> According to a Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Audit Report dated March 27, 2021 available on the Bureau of Prisons website at . The BOP declined to provide the CIC with rated capacity information for the individual facilities.

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## II. Key Findings

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- Individuals who spoke with the CIC reported little or no physical violence at FCC Petersburg.
- The facility has a high number of inmates with full COVID-19 vaccinations. At the time of the CIC's visit, the BOP reported that more than 2000 inmates and 450 staff had been fully vaccinated at the complex.<sup>3</sup> Nearly everyone with whom the CIC spoke indicated that they had received a full vaccination, and some shared that they had been offered booster shots as well.
- The CIC heard serious concerns about water leaking into housing units, particularly at the Low facility. The CIC was not permitted to tour housing units despite advance and on-site requests, but did see evidence of water damage elsewhere in the facility.
- Individuals provided mixed reviews of their experiences with medical care. The most common issues were complaints about delays to requests for care.
- DC residents in the Special Housing Unit reported that they receive insufficient toilet paper.
- Individuals at the Medium facility shared that GED classes had resumed, but not GED testing.
- The CIC received mixed feedback on DC residents' experiences with facility staff, including that some unit team staff were helpful, some staff verbally harass residents, and some counselors and case managers are unresponsive or do not know how to help DC inmates.

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## III. Recommendations

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The CIC recommends the BOP take the following actions to address the concerns raised by DC residents in this report:

- 1) The BOP should fund and complete appropriate building repairs at FCI Petersburg, including resolving water leaks, to ensure that residents are housed in safe and healthy conditions.
- 2) The BOP should provide a functional dining facility at the Low security facility, where residents can sit and eat hot meals.
- 3) The executive staff should resume GED testing at the Medium facility, and increase staffing within the education department to ensure teachers are available to teach classes.
- 4) The facility should supply residents in the SHU with adequate toilet paper.
- 5) The facility should increase re-entry efforts with more staffing and information for the DC population.

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<sup>3</sup> Due to movement between institutions, the number of vaccinations completed at a facility may not represent the number of vaccinated individuals currently at that facility.

## IV. Physical Plant Conditions

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DC residents at both facilities reported concerns about roofs leaking inside of housing units. The reports were most widespread and concerning at the Low facility. The CIC typically visits at least one housing unit during a facility inspection. The team was not allowed to tour housing units at either facility at FCI Petersburg. When asked to provide justification for the denial, the Warden stated that they looked no different than the residential programming units that the CIC had toured, so there was no need to see a housing unit. Given the widespread complaints from residents about the dilapidated and uninhabitable condition of their housing units, this denial of access is particularly concerning. The BOP also declined to provide information on the rated capacity of each of the facilities, despite this being basic factual information about how many individuals the facility can safely hold.

### **Medium**

Four of the forty DC individuals at the Medium reported concerns about leaks on three different housing units. An individual on the B North unit said that water runs down the walls in that unit so often that he has devised a system to channel the water from the walls to his trash can. Another individual stated that the lockers were removed from the walls in that unit because of mold growing behind them, and that there are buckets in the common areas to catch drips. The CIC was not permitted to tour any housing units and cannot confirm these issues; however, CIC personnel observed water stains and peeling paint on the ceiling in the staff dining room.

### **Low**

Five out of the 15 DC residents at the Low reported concerns about leaks in Lee Hall and Richmond Hall. One resident stated, “when it rains it floods.” Another resident stated that when it rains the residents catch the incoming water with buckets. Similar to the Medium, CIC staff was not permitted to tour any housing units to corroborate the reports of leaks. A resident in Lee Hall reported that the upstairs portion of Lee Hall is closed at this time, due to frequent flooding. Four residents reported roaches and mold in the unit.

When the CIC asked the executive team about the reports of dilapidated buildings and water damage, staff told the CIC that all unit closures were due to COVID and the reduction of the population at the Low facility. Reportedly, maintenance issues are being addressed, but were dependent on available funding.

There is no kitchen at the Petersburg Low facility. Currently, meals are prepared in a trailer and transported to housing units. Four residents stated that all meals are served cold because food must be transported outside. The Warden stated that there were plans for construction of a temporary dining facility at the Low, which would allow residents to eat in one location away from their housing units. The plans for this facility do not include a working kitchen. The Warden could not provide an estimated timeline for completion of the temporary dining facility at the Low.

**CIC RECOMMENDATION:** The BOP should fund and complete appropriate building repairs at FCI Petersburg, including resolving water leaks, to ensure that residents are housed in safe and healthy conditions.

**BOP Response:** FCC Petersburg is in Phase I of constructing a new dining facility which is 92% complete. FCC Petersburg has requested funding for Phase II of the

dining facility project through the appropriate national funding protocol. Upon completion, inmates at the Low Security facility will have the ability to sit and eat hot meals. The Facilities Department continues to monitor all areas and complete repairs, as needed.

**CIC RECOMMENDATION:** The BOP should provide a functional dining facility at the Low security facility, where residents can sit and eat hot meals.

**BOP Response:** FCC Petersburg is constructing a new dining facility which is dependent upon national funding. However, the building is 92% completed. Once completed, inmates at the Low Security facility will have the ability to sit and eat hot meals.

## V. Education and Programming

DC residents shared concerns about lack of access to GED testing, not enough programming, and frustrations over not receiving the same good time credit for completing First Step Act programs as federally sentenced individuals.

### Medium

Of the 40 DC residents who spoke to the CIC, 19 reported participating in at least one type of programming, while 21 reported that they were not participating in any programming, including working in UNICOR.

Program	Number of DC participants (out of 40) <sup>4</sup>
Education (GED, ABE)	10
Adult Continuing Ed (ACE)	9
Vocational Training	6
UNICOR	11
Other programs	6

### Education

Prior to the site visit, the BOP informed the CIC that out of approximately 1,500 individuals at the Medium, 32 individuals were currently enrolled in the GED program.<sup>5</sup> During the site visit, staff informed the CIC that 93 individuals were currently enrolled in the GED program. After the site visit, the BOP informed the CIC that one DC resident was enrolled in education classes at the Medium facility. Ten DC residents who spoke with the CIC said that they were currently participating in education classes.

During the CIC’s visit, ACE classes were being offered as cell-study packets. All education for individuals in the SHU is offered via paper packets for cell-study.

Fifteen individuals shared comments about education. Four individuals studying for the GED or tutoring others said that while the education area had been open for classes for seven months, the

<sup>4</sup> The total number of DC participants is higher than the 19 individuals noted in the text because some individuals reported participating in multiple programs.

<sup>5</sup> BOP Education Profile Report dated November 15, 2021.



facility was still not offering GED testing. One individual said that there is only one staff member who can administer the GED test, that only 4-5 people can test at a time, and that individuals are only allowed to take one of the four subject area tests on a single day. Several people indicated that they were getting frustrated or watching others get frustrated and stop working towards a GED. Executive staff told the CIC that GED testing was active and ongoing. The CIC observed 25 computers reportedly used as GED testing stations.

Four individuals stated that they wanted more advanced educational offerings such as college courses.

### **Vocational Training Programs**

There are three vocational programs at FCI Petersburg Medium. Custodial Business Management is a 12-month program with 19 current participants, according to facility staff. The most recent group resumed classes in October after pausing due to COVID restrictions. The Culinary Arts program is a new 12-month program with 10 participants. Building and Trades is a 12-month program for construction and carpentry with 11 participants who were enrolled before the pandemic.

Facility staff shared that forty individuals at the facility are participating in vocational training.

Six DC residents who spoke with the CIC reported that they were participating in vocational training. Two participants reported liking the programs: “vocational training is the best program” and “anything that will get me home and help me be successful”. Two individuals shared that they were unaware of the vocational training available, and two others stated that they are on a waiting list for vocational training programs. Four individuals mentioned wanting more or different vocational offerings, including HVAC, electrical, auto mechanics, CDL, and dental assistant courses.

### **UNICOR**

At the Medium, the UNICOR operation consists of a Distribution Center that sorts and repackages clothing hangers for private vendors, as well as assembling toiletry kits for inmates. Workers are not paid an hourly rate for their work. Instead, they are paid a “piece rate,” meaning paid by the number of units completed. In this case the unit is a large box of hangers sorted by a group of six people.<sup>6</sup>

There are 128 individuals currently working in UNICOR, which is about half the normal capacity, to allow for social distancing. According to the BOP, 15 DC residents were participating in UNICOR at the Medium facility. At the time of the CIC’s visit, the average pay rate for UNICOR employees at the Medium facility was \$1.15 per hour.

Eleven DC individuals who spoke to the CIC shared that they were working in UNICOR, with two more on the waiting list. Two individuals said UNICOR was “pretty good”, and two others said that the work was “mindless” and “keeps you out of trouble but you’re not building skills”. Another individual said that there is sometimes friction between workers because their pay is dependent on their group output.

### **Re-Entry**

BOP institutions are required to provide release preparation programming in health, employment, consumer skills, community resources, release requirements, and personal growth and development.

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<sup>6</sup> Per UNICOR Supervisor, prior to Covid there were 12-13 workers per table, there are currently 6 to allow for distancing.

According to the BOP, re-entry programming at FCC Petersburg is offered through various departments. The Education department offers GED/ESL, vocational training, and parenting classes, as well as ACT Work Keys, a program that teaches basic math and computer literacy. The Psychology department offers programs such as anger management, basic cognitive skills, trauma education, and drug treatment. The Religious Services department offers the Life Connections Program. The BOP informed the CIC that the DMV License Program is available to individuals at the Medium and Low facilities, as well as the camp.

The re-entry affairs coordinator at the Medium facility was on leave during the CIC’s visit, so the CIC was not able to speak with them. Only two individuals at the Medium reported having ever met with the Re-entry Affairs Coordinator.

**Low**

The CIC staff spoke with 15 DC residents in custody at Petersburg Low. Of those, five said they were participating in some type of programming, while seven said they were not participating in any programming. Three of the respondents declined to answer. One resident stated, “There are no programs available,” while another resident said, “There are currently no programs available other than drug programs for which they say I do not qualify because I do not have a history of drugs or substance abuse. There is also a religious faith-based program [for] which I am told I do not qualify because of the length of my remaining sentence. I am eligible for IRAA, so a failure to program is viewed negatively when it comes to a potential early release.”

<b>Program</b>	<b>No. of DC participants (out of 15)</b>
Education (GED/ABE)	1
Adult Continuing Ed (ACE)	1
Vocational	0
UNICOR	1
Other programs	3

**Education**

There are two vacancies in the education department for an education specialist and a teacher. According to staff, prior to COVID there were 10-15 students per class and currently each class has four to five students. There are 11 law library computers in the education building, which were all operable on the day the CIC visited. According to the education staff, there is a Vocational Training program for machinery, which the CIC did not see.

Four DC residents shared that they were taking GED classes at the facility. One resident stated that he was enrolled in the GED class, but “the instructor was never there, so I dropped out after some time.” Another resident shared that he requested a certificate of completion from education, but never got a reply and that he “never sees staff.” The remaining residents in the GED class stated that the classes were being taught by fellow inmate tutors.

Independent study packets and resident-led ACE classes are offered. There were no university partnerships in place at the time of the CIC’s visit.

### **UNICOR**

The Low has a UNICOR Print Plant, which is a full-service printer for federal agencies. Currently, there are 36 residents from the Low facility working in UNICOR, none of whom are DC residents. According to the BOP the average pay rate for UNICOR employees at the Low facility at the time of the CIC's visit was \$1.21 per hour. All individuals employed by UNICOR must be fully vaccinated. When asked about work opportunities at Petersburg, one resident indicated that UNICOR is not hiring.

### **Re-Entry Programming**

The re-entry coordinator at the Low facility had only been in that position a few weeks and was not able to tell the CIC about existing re-entry programs, staffing, or resident participation. Of the seven residents who responded about re-entry services, one had communication with the re-entry coordinator. Two out of eight residents received written information about re-entry resources in DC. All respondents stated that they feel prepared to return to the community, despite having little contact with re-entry services. None of the respondents have received a copy of the Public Defender Service's DC Reentry Navigator book, which was provided to BOP facilities for residents who are within one year of release.

The Warden shared that he would be willing to have a conversation with MORCA about expanding re-entry efforts in the future. Since the CIC's visit, MORCA has not had correspondence with the re-entry staff at Petersburg.

### **Other Programming**

The Life Connections Program is a faith-based re-entry program that encourages individuals to use their personal belief system to develop a personal code of conduct. To participate, individuals must have at least 24 months left on their sentence, no disciplinary incidents within the last year, and must not be facing deportation. The program is led by inmate mentors, contract staff, and facility chaplains, and teaches victim impact, financial management, and job readiness classes. Upon completion of the 18 month program, eligible individuals may receive 500 hours of good time credit under the First Step Act. However, DC Code Offenders are not eligible to receive this credit.<sup>7</sup> Staff reported that the program is currently understaffed due to COVID.

There is a Residential Drug Abuse Program (RDAP) and a non-residential drug abuse program at the Low facility. RDAP is designed as a modified therapeutic community. Programming includes a community meeting each morning before residents are separated into treatment groups for journaling, treatment planning, and seminars. RDAP is open to individuals with a documented history of substance abuse, 24 months left on their sentence, and eligibility to participate in community transition drug abuse treatment. Upon completion of the program, individuals who qualify can receive up to 12

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<sup>7</sup> In a final rule issued January 13, 2022 the Federal Bureau of Prisons interpreted the First Step Act to mean that "...any inmate in Bureau custody who is sentenced to a term of imprisonment under the Criminal Code of the District of Columbia is, at present, not eligible to apply FSA Time Credits unless the laws of the District of Columbia are amended to authorize the application of such credits." Bureau of Prisons, 'First Step Act Time Credits final rule', p. 32. Available at [https://www.bop.gov/inmates/fsa/docs/bop\\_fsa\\_rule.pdf](https://www.bop.gov/inmates/fsa/docs/bop_fsa_rule.pdf) See also 28 C.F.R. §423.41(d).

months off their sentence, as well as the opportunity to serve more of their sentence in a halfway house or home confinement.

**CIC RECOMMENDATION:** The BOP should increase re-entry programs for DC residents, regardless of release date. The re-entry coordinator should correspond with MORCA on reentry efforts and materials for DC residents.

**BOP Response:** FCC Petersburg encourages the CIC or its partner organizations to provide the institution Executive Assistant/Public Information Officer or the Bureau Coordinator with any additional DC resources for DC offenders to assist with ensuring a successful transition back to the District of Columbia. The information will be reviewed and provided to the Re-Entry Affairs Coordinator for dissemination to the inmate population, if approved. The DC CIC may also encourage individuals from the District of Columbia to apply as volunteers to provide services and information beneficial to inmates returning to the District of Columbia. As of May 2022, one additional Reentry Affairs position was announced for hire.

**CIC RECOMMENDATION:** The BOP should fully staff the Education departments at both facilities to provide sufficient programming to all residents. Facility leadership should resume GED testing at the Medium facility.

**BOP Response:** To mitigate the spread of COVID-19, GED classes were suspended. However, FCC Petersburg's Education Department resumed GED testing as of March 2022. The Education Department is currently staffed at 95%, with one vacancy, which has been announced for hire.

## VI. Special Housing Unit

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There is one Special Housing Unit (SHU) at the Medium facility which serves the whole complex. The CIC did not visit the SHU but spoke with three individuals currently housed in that unit, as well as individuals who had previously been in SHU at FCI Petersburg. Eight individuals shared that the toilet paper provided in SHU is insufficient, describing it as a “small glasses wipe”, “five small tissue sheets”, and “napkins instead of toilet paper”. Other comments included that there was nothing to do (“the book cart is broken” and “not enough educational materials”), and that staff were not helpful (Staff “show their face but do not help” and “if you are breathing, they keep moving”).

**CIC RECOMMENDATION:** The BOP should ensure that SHU residents have adequate toilet paper.

**BOP Response:** FCC Petersburg issues inmates housed in the Special Housing Unit (SHU) toilet paper three times a week. If needed, inmates may request additional toilet paper at any time. However, inmates are expected to utilize toilet paper for its intended purpose.

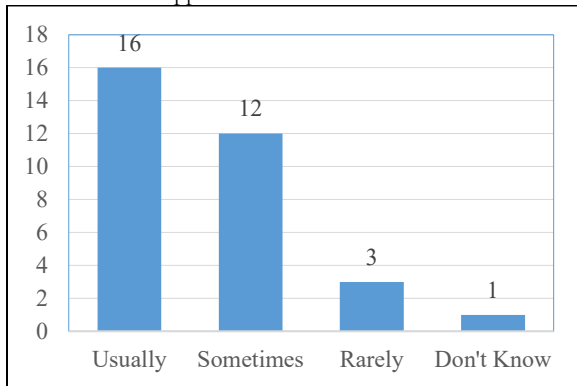
## VII. Staff Treatment

The CIC received mixed feedback regarding individuals' interactions with staff. The CIC asked DC residents if staff were responsive to their needs, responsive to emergencies, respectful and professional, and capable/knowledgeable.

### Medium

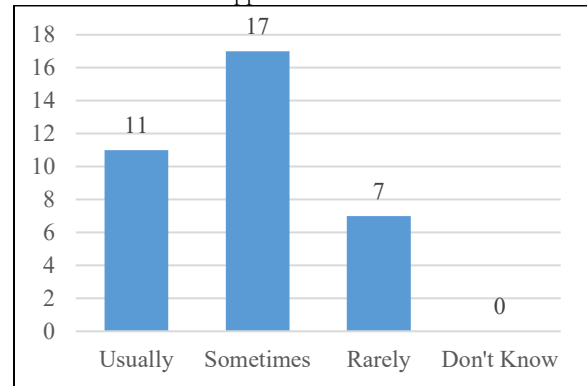
**Are your housing unit officers responsive to your needs?**

Answered: 32 Skipped: 7



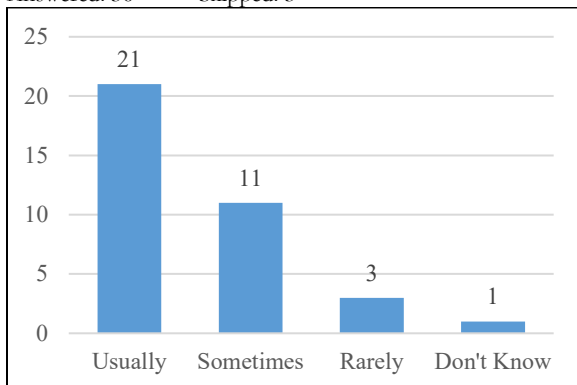
**Are your housing unit officers respectful and professional?**

Answered: 35 Skipped: 4



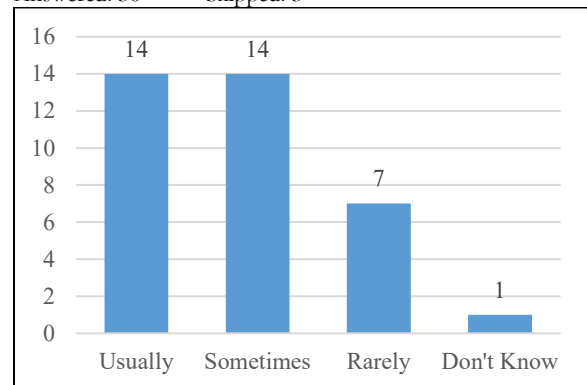
**Are your housing unit officers responsive to emergencies?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 3



**Are your housing unit officers capable/know how to do their job?**

Answered: 36 Skipped: 3



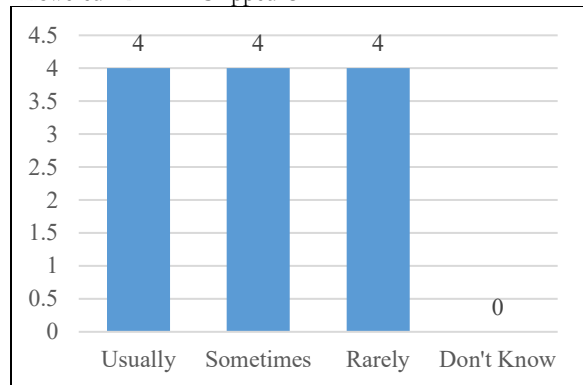
In interviews, one individual shared that staff on his unit “bounce him from person to person,” and two mentioned that staff had refused to provide grievance forms. Four individuals mentioned verbal harassment from unit staff, including one comment that “some staff are really disrespectful and if you respond back they will write you up and send you to the hole.” Two individuals mentioned respectful staff on their units. Three individuals shared that unit staff do not have enough knowledge about DC Code Offenses, saying that “Counselors don’t know how to process a DC inmate. We get treated like federal prisoners when it’s in the BOP’s best interest and like DC Code Offenders when it’s not,” and “Case managers don’t always know answers for DC folks, and if the case manager doesn’t know, who does?” Two individuals mentioned that their case managers had been helpful with requests.

Two individuals mentioned that the Warden is available to speak with individuals during meals, and another resident said that the Warden walks through the SHU every Wednesday.

**Low**

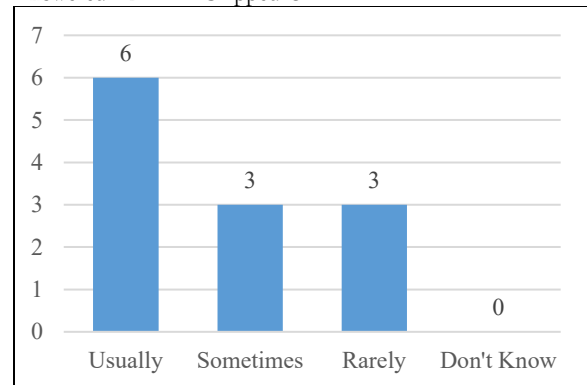
**Are your housing unit officers responsive to your needs?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3



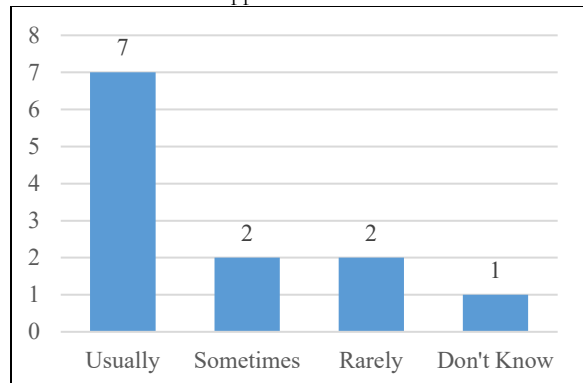
**Are your housing unit officers respectful and professional?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3



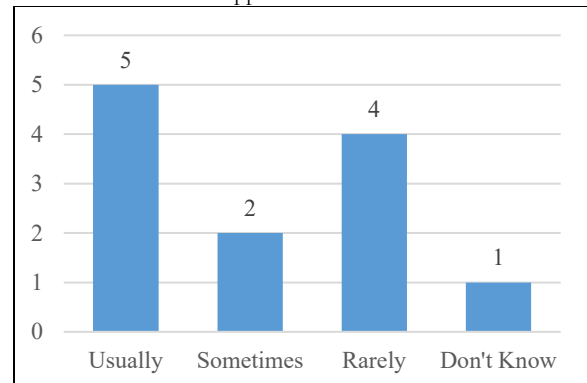
**Are your housing unit officers responsive to emergencies?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3



**Are your housing unit officers capable/know how to do their job?**

Answered: 12 Skipped: 3



One individual shared that the housing unit officers are “respectful.” Another resident shared that since he arrived at Petersburg Low, he has “been harassed by staff, just because he is from DC.” Of eleven respondents, nine residents stated that they were not harassed or abused by staff.

## VIII. Medical and Dental Care

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### **COVID-19**

According to facility staff, on arrival to FCI Petersburg, vaccinated residents are required to spend seven days in quarantine, while unvaccinated residents quarantine for a minimum of 14 days.

COVID rapid tests are done on-site and PCR tests are sent to Federal Medical Center (FMC) Butner in North Carolina. According to facility medical staff, individuals are given a rapid test (BiNAX) during intake and must have a negative PCR test before being transferred or released.

### **Medium**

The medical unit at FCI Petersburg Medium includes five exam rooms, a dental room, a lab, an optometry room, an x-ray machine, and a pharmacy. Staff reported that the pharmacy serves the whole complex with a pill line twice a day serving approximately 300 individuals across the complex. Individuals in SHU receive daily medication cell-side from a cart.

Weekday staff include a doctor, two nurse practitioners, one physician assistant, and two nurses. One or two nurses are on duty nights, weekends, and holidays, with other medical staff rotating on-call. Some specialists, such as an orthopedist, cardiologist, and general surgeon, come to the facility once a month. For visits to other specialists, such as an ophthalmologist or endocrinologist, individuals are transported outside the facility to receive care. require outside trips. The closest outside hospital is less than five miles away. The Medium has two dentists and one dental hygienist on staff.

Out of thirty-five respondents, twenty-one said that medical did not respond to sick call requests within 48 hours, while eleven said they did respond in that time. Three did not have any knowledge.

Fifteen people shared information about their experiences with medical during interviews. Seven individuals shared that it takes too long to be seen by medical, and three people said it takes 2-3 weeks from submitting a sick call slip to seeing a provider (“you have to bother them”, “medical is cool but they take their time”, and “medical is slow with cop-outs...when you see them, they are competent and respectful.”). Four individuals said that medical was okay (“all right, but not top-notch” and “could be better”), and another four said that medical was “terrible” or did nothing.

Five individuals raised concerns about residents dying due to lack of medical care: “lots of deaths due to medical doing nothing” and “3-4 people died from incompetence and quicksand of paperwork to get things seen to.” Information provided by the BOP listed one death at the Medium facility in the last year, which was from natural causes.

Nine individuals shared comments about dental care. Six of them complained that the waitlist is very long: “Dental is about 5 years behind on waiting list” and “The waiting list for non-emergency dental is more than 12 months”. One person mentioned that it was hard to get seen for acute issues. Two individuals had positive feedback: “Dental is the best and they are very professional and clean.”

### **Low**

The medical unit at FCI Petersburg Low consists of five exam rooms, one dental room, one lab, one optometry room, one pharmacy, and an administrative office. All x-ray appointments are sent to the medium facility. Individuals at the Low facility can self-carry some medication, but most go to the pill line at the Medium. The Low facility has medical and sick call, as well as acute chronic care.

Weekly staffing includes two nurses for the morning shift, two mid-level providers LP's, one doctor, and one evening staff member. There are six contractors: a cardiologist, an orthopedic surgeon, a general surgeon, an ultrasound tech, a MRI tech, and a dietician. According to facility staff, the wait time to see one of the contractors is between three and four months after a request is made. Residents at the Low can contact medical staff via email for information and concerns.

## IX. Mental Health Care

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FCI Petersburg is a Mental Health Care Level 2 facility, which means it is intended to serve individuals who require routine outpatient care and/or brief crisis-focused mental health care. The Medium and Low facilities each include a Residential Drug Treatment Program (RDAP) unit, and non-residential drug treatment is also available. Psychology staff informed the CIC that Medication-Assisted Treatment is available for individuals with substance use disorders.

### Medium

Psychology staff at the Medium included three staff psychologists and three psychology interns. Six individuals at the Medium told the CIC that they were prescribed mental health medication, and five of those individuals said that they were consistently receiving their medication. According to the BOP, there are six DC residents at the facility who are designated Care Level 2, and no DC residents designated Care Level 3.

### Sex Offender Management Program

FCI Petersburg has a Sex Offender Management Program, which includes evaluating and monitoring individuals with histories of sexual offenses and a voluntary, non-residential treatment program. According to the BOP, each person referred to the program is given a Correctional Management Plan which may include restrictions on communication, visitation, and property to reduce their risk of reoffending. Individuals may also choose to participate in a 12-month treatment program, which focuses on thinking patterns, cognitive skills, and arousal management.

One individual who spoke with the CIC shared that he participated in the treatment program and found it very helpful. He mentioned discussions about impulse control, victim blaming, lack of empathy, and awareness of the impact of one's actions on others, as well as the program components addressing relapse prevention, self-awareness, and self-monitoring.

### Low

Psychology staff at the Low informed the CIC that they conduct an intake of all residents who are listed as having mental health issues. According to the BOP, there is only one DC resident at the Low facility who is designated Care Level 2.

Staff is also responsible for leading a six month outpatient substance abuse program. Staff informed the CIC that they defer the majority of their cases to RDAP. Two residents said that they signed up for RDAP, but have not gotten a response.

### SHU

According to the BOP, individuals housed in SHU are seen by Psychology staff weekly at their cells for a mental health check-in. The BOP indicated that the SHU includes a designated office where



individuals can be seen privately by psychology or medical staff when needed. None of the individuals with whom the CIC spoke had feedback on mental health care in the SHU.

## X. Conclusion

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The most concerning issues at FCI Petersburg are the reports of leaking roofs and serious flooding in housing units at both the Medium and the Low security facilities. Residents at both facilities complained of long-term flooding problems and mold in their cells, and several individuals said that they had been moved out of units at the Low because of roof damage. Facility staff reported that unit closures were due to COVID. The CIC was not permitted to tour any general population housing units at either institution, despite regularly visiting such units at other facilities, but the CIC did identify visible water damage in other areas of both institutions.

Another serious concern is the lack of a dedicated kitchen and dining facility at the Low security institution, resulting in residents eating all meals on their housing units. Residents reported their food was often cold. The BOP said that a temporary dining facility at the Low would open upon completion of roof repairs, but provided no projected date. The temporary facility would not have kitchen capabilities, so individuals would still need to pick up packaged meals at the Medium facility.

Eight individuals reported receiving very little toilet paper while in the SHU. This raises serious concerns about hygiene as well as humane treatment. Other concerns included insufficient access to education staff and GED testing, delayed access to medical care, and verbal harassment from staff.

Encouraging aspects included minimal reports of physical violence, and a high rate of COVID-19 vaccination among the residents and staff.

The CIC brought representatives from the Mayor's Office on Returning Citizen Affairs (MORCA) to exchange information with re-entry affairs staff at FCC Petersburg, however the Re-Entry Affairs Coordinator at the Medium security facility was on leave, and the Coordinator at the Low was new to the position. Many DC residents reported having no contact with re-entry staff.

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## Appendix A: Methodology

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In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Corrections Information Council (CIC) and the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP), on November 8, 2021, the CIC submitted a request to inspect both the Medium and Low facilities at FCI Petersburg.

The BOP provided a list of DC Code offenders at both facilities as of November 16, 2021. On that date, there were 123 DC Code offenders at the Medium and 58 at the Low. The BOP also provided the CIC with the following advance documents:

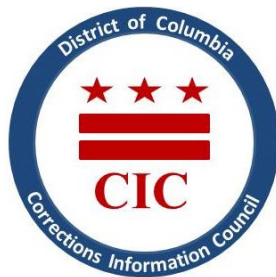
- Facility Inmate Demographics (DC Code Offenders and full facility)
- Institution Administrative Remedy Filings and Responses by subject (DC Code Offenders only)
- Regional and Central Office Administrative Remedy Appeals and Responses by Subject (DC Code Offenders Only)
- Facility Educational Profile
- Significant Incidents 11/2020 – 10/2021
- List of Prohibited Act Rates 11/2020 – 10/2021
- Urine Surveillance 11/2020 – 10/2021
- List of Deaths 11/2020 – 10/2021
- Staffing Report, including a list of current vacancies and staff to inmate ratio

On November 22, 2021, the CIC sent a letter to DC inmates at FCI Petersburg to notify them of the upcoming inspection and offer the opportunity to participate in a confidential interview with a member of the CIC.

The CIC visited both the main facilities at FCI Petersburg on December 7 and 8, 2021. The inspection process included an opening session with FCI Petersburg executive staff, tours of both the Medium and Low facilities, and interviews with DC inmates in the general population and the Special Housing Unit (SHU). Executive staff escorted CIC staff during the tour portion of the inspection. The areas toured at the Medium included the RDAP unit, Education, Vocational Technology, UNICOR, the medical and dental areas, the psychology offices, and Religious Services. The areas toured at the Low included medical, the RDAP unit, Education, Religious Services, the Life Connections program unit, UNICOR, and the psychology offices.

The CIC spoke to approximately 40 residents (31% of the DC population) at the Medium facility and 15 residents (25% of the DC population) at the Low facility on December 7-8, 2021. During interviews, the CIC asked DC inmates to complete a short survey regarding their experiences at FCI Petersburg. After the site visit, the CIC compiled and analyzed survey data as well as qualitative data collected during inmate interviews. The CIC sent additional questions to the BOP to clarify issues raised during the site visit.

The CIC provided the BOP with a draft version of this report for review and an opportunity to respond and/or correct factual errors in the report. The BOP responses to the CIC draft report can be found in the body of the report.



**District of Columbia  
Corrections Information Council**

The electronic version of this report is  
available on the CIC website:  
<http://www.cic.dc.gov/>