



## Transfers and Conditions of Confinement at DOC

**January 28, 2022**

Following the US Marshals Service (USMS) inspection of the Central Detention Facility (CDF), the USMS issued a memo to the Department of Corrections (DOC) deeming the conditions at the CDF unacceptable. Due to these findings, hundreds of D.C. code offenders were transferred to a Bureau of Prisons' facility located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. D.C.'s Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice issued a statement outlining how the administration will be handling the issues going forward. As a result, James R. "Chip" Coldren Jr. of the research firm CNA has been appointed by the mayor to monitor conditions at the D.C. jail. In addition, the USMS has also appointed an entity that will continue to oversee the situation. Lastly, the D.C. DOC expressed that they would cooperate in unannounced inspections by the CIC to monitor any recommendations or concerns expressed by the CNA, the USMS, or any other external oversight agencies.

Regarding the transfers of D.C. residents to Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, the USMS initially stated that the approximately 400 people in CDF custody would be transferred to the federal facility in Pennsylvania. As of December 2021, around 200 residents have been transferred to Lewisburg. The CIC is currently planning an inspection to correspond with D.C. transferred residents and to monitor the conditions of the facility.

As a follow-up to the October letter issued by the USMS, a letter drafted by Councilmember Charles Allen on December 22, 2021, addressed major concerns with the handling of the COVID-19 crisis in the DOC's three facilities. Councilmember Allen urged City Administrator Donahue and Deputy Mayor Geldart to communicate more openly and be proactive in relaying information between the DOC and Councilmember Allen's office. It was also requested that the DOC begin to relay the number of residents and staff who have tested positive, as well as their vaccination status; the policy for requiring employees to report to work if they have been exposed to COVID-19; and to report whether and for how long DOC facilities are under lockdown. These are just a few of the concerns raised that will hopefully be addressed in the coming weeks by the DOC.

The CIC will continue to monitor conditions regarding the D.C. jail and Lewisburg transfers, in addition to communicating with external oversight agencies.