

**District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council**



Thematic Report:
IRAA Inmates in DOC Custody

February 7, 2019



District of Columbia Corrections Information Council

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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 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 inmates, corrections staff not in leadership, and members of the general public will be kept anonymous and confidential.

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Executive Summary

Key Statistics

DOC Population: Approx. 23 (CTF: 7; CDF: 16)

Total Population (BOP & DOC): Approx. 98

Average Age: 40.9 Years

Length of Incarceration Served: 23.3 Years

Key Observations

- **Safety at CDF & Vulnerability:** The primary concern reported to the CIC throughout the year was safety for the individuals in CDF, particularly in light of the unique IRAA factors, which ask the Court to consider disciplinary history and places these individuals in a vulnerable position while incarcerated. One individual described it as being placed in an environment with their “hands behind [their] backs” and “. . . a bad situation to be in when other inmates know your hands are tied and they can use the system against you.”
- **Mindset Differences: Jail versus Prison Population:** Overwhelmingly, a majority of individuals with whom the CIC spoke described having a different “mindset” from pre-trial inmates that results in increasingly stressful environments. It creates potentially dangerous or violent incidents amongst inmates, particularly those housed in CDF. When asked to further explain, several individuals made the point that they have been incarcerated for two decades, and being placed in an environment where inmates cycle in-and-out creates a volatile environment with which they are not familiar. Particularly for individuals at CDF, the impression received by the CIC from the interviews depicts a volatile environment that creates an unnecessarily stressful process for individuals to “stay out of trouble” given the unique IRAA factors, which ask the Court to consider various factors, including disciplinary history.
- **Access to Programming & Reentry Services in CDF:** A significant majority of programming opportunities and reentry services are offered in CTF or in the GED Unit at CDF. One individual was concerned that this effectively places IRAA individuals, who are not in CTF or on the GED Unit, at an unfair disadvantage to obtain programming and critical reentry resources necessary for a successful reentry process. The CIC is encouraged to see that more individuals have since been transferred to CTF and the GED Unit to allow for more programming. However, the majority of IRAA individuals are still being housed in CDF, and they are not provided with as many programming opportunities as those in CTF.

CIC Recommendation

Based on the survey responses and interviews with DOC inmates awaiting IRAA hearings, the CIC makes the following recommendation:

All individuals in DOC custody who have a pending IRAA hearing should be placed in CTF. Furthermore, the CIC wishes to coordinate a quarterly education session for all IRAA individuals in order to provide updates, answer any questions, and connect individuals with resources specific to their needs. The CIC looks forward to working closely with DOC to improve the conditions for IRAA individuals to ensure a smooth transition back to society.

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Introduction

In 2016, DC Council passed the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act (IRAA) within the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act (CYJA), which went into effect April 2017. Under IRAA, juveniles (younger than 18 years old) sentenced in DC who have served at least 20 years and are not yet parole-eligible, may file an application for a sentence modification to reduce their sentence. In order to grant a sentence reduction, the Court must find that “the defendant is not a danger to the safety of any person or to the community and that the interests of justice warrant a sentence modification.” (§ 24-403.03 (a)(2)) IRAA then lists 11 factors for the Court to consider, including:

- Whether the defendant has substantially complied with the rules of the institution to which he or she has been confined and whether the defendant has completed any educational, vocational, or other program, where available (§ 24-403.03 (c)(3)); and
- Whether the defendant has demonstrated maturity, rehabilitation, and a fitness to reenter society sufficient to justify a sentence reduction (§ 24-403.03 (c)(5)).

As of December 31, 2018, seven applications have been granted and one has been denied; and 23 individuals on writ¹ at the DOC (seven at CTF and 16 at CDF/DC Jail) are awaiting IRAA hearings. Overall, there are approximately 98 eligible individuals who can apply for a modification hearing under IRAA.

The CIC is encouraged to see the reform efforts being made to address issues related to DC youth and their conditions of confinement. As a result of these efforts, the CIC is closely tracking the developments under IRAA and monitoring the well-being of those in BOP and DOC custody. This report aims to highlight the concerns regarding the conditions of confinement received from IRAA individuals currently in DOC custody awaiting their hearings. This report also provides a recommendation to address those reported concerns in order to ensure the safety and well-being of these individuals.

¹ Individuals are sent to DOC on writ when the court issues a formal order sending the prisoner back to DC to be present at his or her trial.

Key Observations

The following sections highlight areas of particular concern for DOC inmates currently awaiting IRAA hearings. These concerns are primarily based on inmate interviews and survey responses.

I. Safety at CDF and Vulnerability

The primary concern reported to the CIC throughout the year was safety for the individuals in CDF, particularly in light of the unique IRAA factors. Those factors ask the Court to consider disciplinary history; however, these individuals are vulnerable while incarcerated inside of CDF.

“Unlike other sentenced inmates in DOC on writ, IRAA individuals have a unique set of factors the judge considers that puts our hands behind our backs and places us in dangerous situations. [We] are walking on eggshells... It is a bad situation to be in when other inmates know your hands are tied and they can use the system against you.”

(CDF Interview & Survey, August 2018)

One individual at CDF reported an instance where he was attacked by another inmate and forced to engage in self-defense. This individual was initially found guilty and sent to segregation, but the charge was ultimately dismissed after he appealed the decision. Throughout this process, the

“[W]e should [be] given one... unit to ourselves where we can be around others who have as much to lose by receiving a disciplinary report as we do, same as it is for those in the GED Unit.”

(CDF Survey, August 2018)

individual was under extreme duress and feared for his safety. He stated that, while he was being attacked, he felt as if he could not respond or protect himself. The CIC is very concerned that such incidents may occur again.

“In the Young Men Emerging Unit (YME)[at CTF], I haven’t faced any of the safety challenges.”

(CTF Survey, July 2018)

When asked about the top safety challenges, the majority of inmates at CDF described being around inmates who “don’t know how to do the time” and have a different mindset (explained below). In contrast, individuals at CTF largely reported not having any safety challenges.

“I haven’t faced any safety challenges.”

(CTF Survey, July 2018)

II. Mindset Differences – Jail versus Prison Population

Overwhelmingly, a majority of individuals with whom the CIC spoke described having a different

“The jail mindset and prison mindset are not one in the same. An IRAA-eligible individual feels he has overcome and finally [has] hope and realistic promise and designs on returning to society as opposed to others still trying to figure it all out.”

(CDF Survey, June 2018)

“mindset” from pre-trial inmates, which results in increasingly stressful environments. Such environments create potentially dangerous or violent incidents amongst inmates, particularly those housed in CDF. When asked to further explain, several individuals stated that they have been incarcerated for two decades, and being placed in an environment where inmates cycle in-and-out creates a volatile environment with which they are not familiar. Furthermore, individuals specified that

inmates often arrive to the jail experiencing withdrawals from drugs and other substances. As reported by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), common withdrawal symptoms can include anxiety, depression, problems with impulse control, and sleep difficulties.² Notably, one individual spoke about his growth and maturity in prison over the past 24 years, and explained that there is a different level of respect and understanding.

Throughout the past year, the CIC has continued to meet with IRAA individuals, both at CDF and CTF, in order to monitor their well-being. Particularly for individuals at CDF, the impression received by the CIC from the interviews portrays a volatile environment that creates an unnecessarily stressful process for individuals to “stay out of trouble” given the unique IRAA factors, which ask the Court to consider various factors, including disciplinary history.

“Being housed in CTF gives someone who is coming back on a writ the opportunity to continue programming versus the unstable environment of DC jail.”

(CTF Survey, July 2018)

Overwhelmingly, most individuals have expressed a desire for housing at CTF inside of a specific unit designated for individuals on writ for IRAA. Individuals stated that an IRAA specific unit would be beneficial because fellow residents would “know how to conduct themselves.”

² SAMHSA Publications, “Protracted Withdrawal” (July 2010), available online at <https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/sma10-4554.pdf>.

III. Access to Programming and Reentry Services in CDF

“CDF doesn't have adequate programs to offer its inmate population. Too much idle time. There's simply not enough programs to offer the inmate population here at CDF. Majority of them are located at CTF... While being housed in the BOP, I participated in various types of programs, even prior to my arrival here. I want and wish to do more with my time.”

(CDF Survey, June 2018)

Almost all individuals with whom the CIC spoke shared concerns over access to programming while at CDF. When asked about the ease of getting into various types of programming in DOC, individuals at CTF consistently reported the process as “very easy” or “easy,” whereas individuals at CDF increasingly found it “very difficult” or “difficult.”³ Most individuals explained that the only way to get into programming opportunities is through housing inside of CTF or the GED Unit at CDF. One individual was concerned that this effectively places IRAA individuals who are not in CTF or on the GED Unit at an unfair disadvantage to obtain programming and critical reentry resources necessary for a successful reentry process.

As explained to the CIC, the only means of participating in college-level courses at CDF is through housing inside of the GED Unit. When asked about the difficulty of getting into the GED Unit,

“Coming from the BOP to sit in [CDF] is so counterproductive to those who thirst for higher learning; meaning don't bring us back from the BOP just to sit in a cell 19 hours a day!”

(CTF Survey, July 2018)

50% of respondents from CDF reported the process being “difficult” or “very difficult.”⁴ The CIC is encouraged to see more individuals have since been transferred to CTF and the GED Unit to allow for more programming. However, most IRAA individuals are continuously housed at CDF, and are not provided with many of the programming opportunities available at CTF.

The CIC encourages the partnership between the DOC College & Career Readiness Program and Georgetown University with the Prison Scholars Program. Two IRAA individuals were able to complete the program during summer. In the fall, three of the IRAA individuals successfully received college credit from Georgetown University for completing courses in Democracy and Philosophy. The CIC believes this is a promising practice and has seen the impact this has made on the students. Studies have shown access to education as instrumental in reducing recidivism rates.⁵ The CIC hopes the population of IRAA individuals continues to increase at the DOC.

³ Refer to Appendix B.

⁴ Refer to Appendix B.

⁵ “Researchers found that inmates who participate in correctional education programs have 43 percent lower odds of returning to prison than those who do not.” RAND Corporation, 2013. Article can be found online at <https://www.rand.org/news/press/2013/08/22.html>.

RECOMMENDATION

Based on the concerns reported by individuals and our findings, the CIC recommends that the DOC house all IRAA candidates at CTF. Additionally, the CIC wishes to coordinate a quarterly education session for all IRAA individuals in order to provide updates, answer any questions, and connect individuals with resources specific to their needs. The CIC looks forward to working closely with the DOC to improve the conditions for IRAA candidates, in an effort to ensure their smooth transition back to society.

APPENDIX A: Methodology

The CIC conducted confidential interviews between June and August 2018 with 15 DOC inmates who are currently awaiting a hearing under IRAA. In addition to the interviews, DOC IRAA inmates completed a brief survey generally asking about the conditions of confinement as relative to his or her health, safety, and reentry concerns while awaiting his or her hearing. Following the interviews, the survey responses and interview notes were compiled, and the survey responses used in our report can be found in Appendix B. Additional information was provided during confidential one-on-one interviews with CIC staff between February and December 2018.

The CIC provided a draft of the report for DOC response. DOC's response can be found online on CIC's website.

APPENDIX B: Inmate Survey Responses

The following section provides survey responses used in the report for 15 DOC IRAA inmates completed between July and August 2018. Open-ended survey responses were edited to erase identifying information, and were also edited for clarity.

Are you in CDF (DC Jail) or CTF (Correctional Treatment Facility)?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
11		4	
Current Housing Unit:			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
NW-1	1	D1A	1

NW-2	1	D2A (YME Unit)	2
S-2	3	M96 (Med. Unit)	1
SE-2	2		
SE-3	2		
SW-3	1		
Do you have any separate issues amongst other IRAA-eligible individuals in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	2	Yes	0
No	9	No	3
Don't Know	0	Don't Know	1
How long have you been incarcerated overall (in years)?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
21	4	21	1
23	1	24	2
24	4	28	1
25	2		
What BOP facility were you transferred from prior to DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
FCI Cumberland	1	FCI Hazelton	1
FCI Hazelton	1	FCI McDowell	1
FCI McDowell	2	FCI Petersburg Med.	1
USP Atwater	3	FCI Talladega	1
USP Canaan	2		
USP Lee	2		
USP Pollock	1		
What is your current custody classification level in DOC?			

CDF (Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)		CTF (Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)	
Minimum	0	Minimum	1
Medium	8	Medium	2
Maximum	3	Maximum	0
Do Not Know	0	Do Not Know	1
Is there anything else you would like to share about your custody classification? [Open-ended response]			
CDF (Answered: 7; Skipped: 4)			
1.	Because of my life sentence		
2.	Although I am classified as a medium I am still being housed in a USP (penitentiary/high) due to the amount of time I have		
3.	No		
4.	No		
5.	I was told that I am Max custody here at CDF because of a new policy that makes any inmate with a sentence of over fifteen years automatically maximum security. Is this true, the new policy?		
6.	Because of the life on the back of my sentence, [my custody classification] is raised back up disqualifying me from participating in programs or getting a job. Thereby sitting me here stagnant, with idle time, and restricting preparation for return to society.		
7.	The BOP will always put us DC inmate's custody classification level at high, medium, or maximum because of the way the old sentences are [computed] with life on the back. And that alone keeps us from getting jobs or stops us from getting in classes or programs.		
CTF (Answered: 1; Skipped: 3)			
1.	Within the BOP, they classified me as a Medium High In. My classification points were at 12; meaning I had low points, but my sentence with LIFE on my back number wouldn't allow me to progress through the system.		
Do you have a high school diploma or GED?			
CDF (Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)		CTF (Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)	
Yes	7	Yes	4
No	4	No	0
Do you have a college degree?			
CDF (Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)		CTF (Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)	

Yes	0	Yes	0
No	11	No	4
Do you currently have a work assignment in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	9	Yes	2
No	2	No	2
Are you currently participating in any recreational programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	5	Yes	1
No	6	No	3
Are you currently participating in any religious programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	7	Yes	2
No	4	No	2
How easy or difficult is it to get into college courses in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 9; Skipped: 2</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Very Easy	0	Very Easy	2
Easy	1	Easy	2
Neutral	4	Neutral	0
Difficult	2	Difficult	0
Very Difficult	2	Very Difficult	0
How easy or difficult is it to get into the GED Unit in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 3; Skipped: 1</i>)	
Very Easy	0	Very Easy	0
Easy	2	Easy	1
Neutral	3	Neutral	1
Difficult	4	Difficult	1

Very Difficult	1	Very Difficult	0
How easy or difficult is it to get into recreational programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Very Easy	0	Very Easy	0
Easy	3	Easy	1
Neutral	3	Neutral	1
Difficult	2	Difficult	0
Very Difficult	2	Very Difficult	2
How easy or difficult is it to get into religious programming in DOC?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Very Easy	1	Very Easy	1
Easy	4	Easy	2
Neutral	3	Neutral	0
Difficult	1	Difficult	0
Very Difficult	1	Very Difficult	1
Is there anything else you would like to share regarding education, programming, or employment? (Please feel free to list any specific programming you are currently participating in.) <i>[Open-ended response]</i>			
CDF (<i>Answered: 8; Skipped: 3</i>)			
1.	Work as unit orderly. Other than working as orderly in the unit, I am unable to participate in any of the above - due to Separatees! Furthermore, CDF doesn't have adequate programs to offer its inmate population. Too much idle time. There's simply not enough programs to offer the inmate population here at CDF. Majority of them are located at CTF... e.g. Re-Entry; Drug Treatment; College Courses; Culinary Arts; Challenge Program; various other work details, etc... Even job fairs! While being housed in the BOP, I participated in various types of programs. Even prior to my arrival here. I want and wish to do more with my time. Things that will benefit myself and greatly add to the future success of my reintegration. Due to my many separatee(s), unfortunately, I am unable to participate in the small number of programs available here at the CDF. To my knowledge, I have no separatees at the CTF.		
2.	mentor, self help, faith base		
3.	Most of the programs are not geared towards inmates on writs		
4.	the inside-out program/Howard University Black fathers matter anger management etc		

5.	It has been tedious to get into programs at the jail.		
6.	I am a GED tutor in the GED unit. I enrolled in the college program today at CDF with the online Ashland University course.		
7.	Only been here three days		
8.	I am in Black Fathers matter. And I referee the Football & basketball games. And I am a mentor for the Hope Foundation re-entry Fresh start Mentoring program.		
CTF (Answered: 3; Skipped: 1)			
1.	I am participating in a college program with Ashland University.		
2.	I am currently enrolled in three Georgetown courses; (Political Philosophy, Lecture Series, Creative Writing.)		
3.	I am currently enrolled in the Georgetown Prison Scholars Program Non-Credit Base and anyone coming back from the BOP should be allowed to participate in the Educational Programs here at CTF. Coming from the BOP to sit in DC Jail is so counterproductive to those who thirst for higher learning ; meaning don't bring us back from the BOP just to sat in a cell 19 hrs. a day!		
Do you have any medical or mental health needs?			
CDF (Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)		CTF (Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)	
Yes	2	Yes	2
No	9	No	2
Do you normally have access to Inmate Grievance Procedure (IGP) forms?			
CDF (Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)		CTF (Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)	
Yes	10	Yes	4
No	1	No	0
Have you ever used the grievance process at DOC?			
CDF (Answered: 11; Skipped: 0)		CTF (Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)	
Yes	4	Yes	1
No	7	No	3
If you have used the grievance process at DOC, what was the reason?			
CDF (Answered: 5; Skipped: 6)		CTF (Answered: 1; Skipped: 3)	
Medical Care	1	Medical Care	1
Staff	1	Staff	1

Mail	2		
If you have chosen not to use the grievance process at DOC, why not?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 3; Skipped: 1</i>)	
No problems/No reason to use	2	No problems/No reason to use	3
Grievance process does not work	3		
Not satisfied with outcome of previously filed grievance	5		
Staff retaliation	2		
Do not want to be a snitch	1		
Have you received any disciplinary reports since arriving to DOC (regardless of whether you were found guilty or not guilty)?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 9; Skipped: 2</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	2	Yes	0
No	7	No	4
What are the top three safety challenges you currently face while being placed in a jail population (instead of a prison)? [<i>Open-ended response</i>]			
CDF (<i>Answered: 6; Skipped: 5</i>)			
1.	(1) Being housed around guys who don't know how to do time; (2) The level of respect is extremely low, by both inmates and staff; (3) Being around others who don't have as much [as] you have to lose		
2.	None I'm good		
3.	None		
4.	I have an eye condition, 'alterior uvetiua.'" In FBOP, the doctors were concerned and attentive. Here at DOC, the doctor's don't care. I complain about my condition but it goes unanswered.		
5.	1) Dealing with mentally ill inmates; 2) Inmates addicted to powerful drugs from the streets; 3) Hostile staff members		
6.	(1) Different status of those who are entering prison now from those who have been incarcerated for a lengthy amount of time; (2) Not being into the same or similar circumstances as others (feeling foreign to); (3) As prison or this jail is a hyper-sensitive place at times it's difficult to navigate thru the current functions and going ons of today		
CTF (<i>Answered: 3; Skipped: 1</i>)			
1.	Theft from fellow inmates. Aggression from fellow inmates. Intimidation from fellow inmates.		

2.	I haven't faced any safety challenges.		
3.	In the Young Men Emerging Unit (YME) I haven't faced any of the safety challenges.		
Has DOC staff discussed with you what programs you should be taking while incarcerated, specifically ones helpful to meet the factors under IRAA?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 11; Skipped: 0</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	3	Yes	1
No	9	No	3
Have DOC staff discussed a reentry plan for you?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	3	Yes	2
No	7	No	2
Do you know where you can find reentry resources?			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)		CTF (<i>Answered: 4; Skipped: 0</i>)	
Yes	6	Yes	3
No	4	No	1
What concern(s) are particular to IRAA-eligible individuals being housed in a jail setting, as opposed to other sentenced inmates in DOC on writ, if any? [<i>Open-ended response</i>]			
CDF (<i>Answered: 10; Skipped: 1</i>)			
1.	My concerns are that I will not have an opportunity to continue programming. Most IRAA eligible people have already served most of their sentence, and in doing so have earned achievement that should dictate classification and housing.		
2.	Remaining clear conduct. That's a real issue. For any little thing, the Government can/will use against you, and your struggle for freedom/resentencing. Therefore, guys in my position have to deal with so much more – develop a greater 'patience', in order to meet our goal.		
3.	I would prefer that us who's back on a writ for resentencing house in a different unit altogether because we know how to conduct ourselves.		
4.	Being able to continue to program and show the court that we are ready to be given a second chance at life outside of jail.		
5.	The individuals back on IRAA have a great possibility to enter society from here. And, I believe it is imperative to give us the opportunity of superior education in regard to reentry and career building to limit recidivism.		
6.	In contrast to other inmates in the DOC on writ, IRAA-eligible returning citizens are a special		

	category of offenders (juvenile lifers) that were specifically given relief by the US Supreme Court and local DC legislators under the Comprehensive Youth Justice Amendment Act of 2016 because they have served “decades” in prison for offenses that occurred while they were children under the age of 18. Due to their special status as juveniles, a new law (DC Code Title 24 Section 403.03) was codified to afford them a retroactive application resentencing and release back into society.
7.	While potentially waiting to be resentenced, possible released, the jail setting is not conducive to a re-entry mindset or objective. Especially since one is in the stage of preparing for society after decades of incarceration and one’s ability to communicate with the people one has on the outside who are also making preparation on one’s behalf is severely restricted. The jail mindset and prison mindset are not one in the same. An IRAA-eligible individual feels he has overcome and finally have hope and realistic promise and designs on returning to society as opposed to others still trying to figure it all out.
8.	The big difference is the time all the IRAA will have in when they do come up the jail, 20 years or more... After an inmate has done that much time his mind is on doing all he can to come home. IRAA inmates are used to being locked up a long time. Whereas the inmates that are coming back on writs have not done the time IRAA inmates have.
9.	The recent disciplinary report I received for defending myself is the perfect example. All of us IRAA individuals are walking on eggshells. For other inmates awaiting trial, appeals etc. a disciplinary report has little to no impact on their freedom. For us IRAA inmates, any disciplinary report (especially involving violence) can cost us our freedom. It is a bad situation to be in when other inmates know your hands are tied and they can use the system against you. If we are not even allowed to defend ourselves, then we should give one (or half) of a unit to ourselves where we can be around others who have as much to lose by receiving a disciplinary report as we do, same as it is for those in the GED Unit.
10.	The one obvious difference is the time that one who is able to file IRAA from others. As those who are IRAA eligible trying to reenter we are not involved in the jail culture as others are. Only to the extent of maintaining ones safety.

CTF (Answered: 4; Skipped: 0)

1.	I would like to be housed in a unit for IRAA inmates. It is difficult for me to be housed in units in a unit where inmates who are not IRAA are housed because they are not disciplined and geared to do positive education things. Also they are loud, abrasive, and are obstacles to where what I am trying to accomplish.
2.	Those who fall under IRAA who come back to DC on writ need to be housed in CTF versus CDF. Being housed in CTF gives someone who is coming back on a writ the opportunity to continue programming versus the unstable environment of DC jail.
3.	IRAA-Eligible individuals NEED to be place[d] in an environment where they can benefit from the programs being offered at the DOC while waiting on a re-sentencing hearing. They need to be allowed to work and continue to take care of themselves. When we arrive at the DOC they look at us as if we are just coming to jail when in reality we have been in prisons across the US for over 20 yrs. working, learnings and supporting ourselves.
4.	Those who come back on the IRAA should be housed at CTF because its programs available for them.

Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience at DOC? [Open-

ended response]

CDF (Answered: 9; Skipped: 2)

1.	<p>There should be a writ, or fed block for individuals like myself... especially, those returning on the IRRA. In a way to protect us from, "crash dummies!!!"... those who know why we've returned, even those who aren't; that takes advantage of IRRA individuals' humble character. Ignoring the disrespect, practicing patience, even using the tools of effective communication, 'sometimes' isn't [sufficient]... to ward off a situation, where you HAVE to protect yourself from physical harm or instinctively fighting back. Television: The Nations Capital, DC Jail, doesn't have cable. Since leaving Lorton in 1997 - almost everywhere that I've been housed as a prisoner - other prisons have had cable. DC Jail doesn't even have basic cable... 40% of the tv channels are infomercials. With all the idle time - not to forget, lack of programs, you would think that this jail would provide adequate tv channels to entertain the restless. Instead of leaving them ways to "negatively" entertain each other. Haircuts - Haircuts, which are part of personal hygiene, grooming, are provided only once a month. Oppose to how the BOP (feds) provide them, once a week. Even 25 years ago... DC Jail kept barber kits in each unit. Guys received haircuts daily upon request. Now things are totally incomprehensibly different. Insomuch that neither are we allowed razors. For some like myself (Muslim Sunni) removing the hair from the pubic area as well as underarms is part of our faith/beliefs. Nails. The trimming of nails are also. However due to two suicides - from what I've been informed - razors are now prohibited. Therefore, we are now subjected to waiting an entire month, sometimes longer, to receive haircuts and nail clippers. Visitation: CTF provides "contact visits" once a week - similar to how the feds (BOP) conducts their visits. Where inmates can actually hug, touch, hold hands with children/family/love ones. CDF does not provide such. Instead, inmates and their love ones are coerced to 45 min video visitation. Have been stripped of the "behind of the glass" face to face visits and IRRA. Federal prisoners returning back on writ who are used to receiving "contact visits" should not be forced to the same treatment. There should be a unit in the CTF for those federal prisoners in order that they can receive such privileges, similar to those that they received from which they were prior to their arrival to DC Jail. Once upon the premises of the BOP, they take measures ensure the safety of visitors, upon arriving and departing. Not here at DC's Jail. Occasionally, my wife and children have been subjected to insults and harassment from the nearby residents of the DC Shelter. Milling around and near their vehicles. One time my wife witnessed two guys standing near her vehicle from a distance they moved a way as they saw her approaching. Once she got to the car she noticed the lock had been tampered with. Upon further inspection, ironically as this may sound, she also noticed that a CO was in a vehicle nearby. Not even 20 ft away. She filed a report with MPD. There's also an underpass that visitors go through which at times my family have witnessed dried up feces, used condoms, and occasionally a strong smell of urine. Again... LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY. Legal Visits: My attorney(s) here come to visit "plenty" of times and has had to wait 20 - sometimes half an hour before I am pulled out to see them. Which either robs me of my time with my attorney or causing them to leave. Not just IRRA individuals, but any sentenced prisoner from the BOP returning on a writ should not be treated the same way as one who either is newly detained, has no time, or is pre-trial. Held under detention center conditions.</p>
2.	It's been a rough ride.
3.	It's been nice having been over the jail for the first time since 2005.
4.	Every day is very challenging/complicated.
5.	I pray that the medical staff will begin to take sick call slips more seriously. The eye doctor is very

	mean and belligerent. There are doctors here that are not concerned with our well being at all. It's a very sad thing to encounter such lazy people who appear not to care.
6.	As a 16 year young child initially imprisoned in the year of 1997, to a 37 year old adult today, so much has changed in the world, even in our city with the current climate of hyper-gentrification, that I am certain that similarly situated IRAA-eligible returning citizens will need specific reentry services tailored to our unique situation. We have to learn how to not only write a resume, but also how to submit job applications online and how to use smartphones and how to create email address. We were imprisoned before the mass proliferation of the internet, so we have to learn basic web applications and how to operate mobile devices effectively as well. Most of us, such as myself, cannot even remember our social security numbers because we were never adults in society to make use of them. Job interview skills, modern day social culture that is heavily [tech-based], even traveling in familiar neighborhoods that have been made over through gentrification, are real concrete challenges that await IRAA-eligible citizens that have been imprisoned as teenagers since the 20th century. It appears that most of the DOC reentry services are disproportionately centered at CTF, or in the GED unit at CDF. The IRAA individuals outside of CTF and the GED unit at CDF are unfairly disadvantaged from accessing the reentry resources that they need to reenter society.
7.	I would like to add that the jail have a lot of pre-trial inmates. And a lot of young inmates. All the violence that happens up here be the young inmates on young inmates. Whoever come up here for the IRAA will be in his late 30's or 40's or even 50's. Here can you put us around this mindset and don't think one day something will go wrong... Everybody that come up here on the IRAA is trying to make it home after 20 something years and you put us in the cell with people off the streets telling us they go home in 24 hours, they got 3 months. All of us got life sentence!!
8.	There is a lot of corruption here. A lot of violence. A lot of staff members who really don't want to work hard. We are forced to eat poor diets and only receive a haircut once a month (which is unhealthy). The commissary prices are excessively high and the products are mostly junk food.
9.	As I came back to the DC Jail after not being here for well over 15 years I was out of place. I truly learned or confirmed that I was out of touch with today. I keep my goals and purpose in front of me so I know where I'm going. This is difficult for some [due] to the fact of getting oneself known in a light to be who he is and who he needs to be seen as. I've been here about 4 months the experience has been mind-blowing. I been able to find a program to get involved in and found a situation where my interaction is lessen with guys. So it would be a great plus if this could be done for others like myself.
CTF (Answered: 0; Skipped: 4)	



District of Columbia
Corrections Information Council

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