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CIC BULLETIN

NEWS FROM DC CORRECTIONS INFORMATION COUNCIL

Message from CIC Executive Director



October marked my last full month at the CIC. Many of you know that I decided not seek a second three year term. After two years as CIC board chair and three years as its first executive director, I am confident that the CIC will continue as an independent government agency giving a voice to DC residents incarcerated here and far away.

Since 2012, the CIC has grown in size and operation by leaps and bounds. Then only a volunteer board of three with no staff, the CIC now has five board seats and eight full time staff positions. Prior to 2012, the CIC had no access to Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities, but we negotiated a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in 2013 and renewed this MOU in 2016 for continued announced access. This has resulted in hundreds of confidential meetings with incarcerated DC residents in over 43 BOP and BOP-contracted facilities.

In addition to publishing 34 inspection reports to date, the CIC has also created and expanded other methods to supply information and to keep incarcerated residents in touch with our community, including:

- Monthly e-newsletter, CIC Bulletin;
- CIC Radar for latest developments;
- Pop-up Think Tanks in 2016;
- Holiday postcards to over 4000 DC residents in BOP custody in 2016 and 2017;
- Info sheets and thematic reports on specific corrections issues;
- Testimony on local issues affecting incarcerated residents, including special education, opioid addiction treatment, and conditions of confinement in DC

- 2017 and 2018 *DC Prisoner and Reentry Symposia*, in partnership with the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia.

Under the DC Jail Improvement Act of 2003, the CIC has announced access to the DC Jail, and it has also had announced access to the Correctional Treatment Facility (CTF) under DOC operation. While the CIC does not have an MOU with DOC, the CIC is now in compliance with its statutory mandate, having published annual reports on the DOC for 2016 and 2017.

The CIC is also now compliant with its statutory mandate with publication of annual reports for 2013-2017.

The CIC is an established independent agency that will continue to grow and increase its influence to improve the conditions of confinement and transition to the community of incarcerated District residents. I thank you for supporting the CIC and its work, during my tenure and beyond.

Best,

Michelle Bonner



[CIC Response to Violent Deaths at USP Hazelton](#)

On Monday, October 29, convicted mobster James "Whitey" Bulger was transferred to USP Hazelton. [On Tuesday, October 30, around 8:20 am](#) Whitey was found [beaten to death](#). Bulger's death is the 3rd death at FCC Hazelton this year. According to [WN News](#) Bulger's death will be investigated by the FBI and the office of Northern West Virginia U.S. Attorney Bill Powell.

The notoriety of Bulger has brought national attention to the safety and security issues at USP Hazelton. Unfortunately, his death comes after two District residents were stabbed to death in April and September 2018 in the same facility. The CIC visited the Federal Correctional Complex (FCC) Hazelton on October 3 in response to these violent deaths. The CIC sent a [letter](#) to the Federal Bureau of Prisons, with observations and recommendations from the CIC and incarcerated persons, in the

On October 18, Congresswomen Eleanor Holmes Norton requested U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Inspector General (OIG) [open a formal investigation](#) into the deaths of the DC inmates and conditions at USP Hazelton. On October 31, 2018, Congresswoman Norton announced that she will request that Congress increase funding to the BOP to address the staffing shortages that have contributed to the violent deaths at USP Hazelton.

The CIC sincerely hopes that the facility and the BOP respond to the appeals from the Congresswoman, the CIC and other voices from around the nation to redress the unsafe conditions at FCC Hazelton.

NACDL files suit demanding DOJ and BOP release records

The National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (NACDL) [filed a suit](#) in federal court on October 18, demanding that the Department of Justice (DOJ) and Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) "release records about their monitoring of the attorney-client communications of individuals in federal prisons as well as federal prosecutors' use of those emails against those individuals in court." This monitoring by the government is a gross violation of attorney-client privilege and the Constitutional rights of those represented in criminal court.

****Published Inspection Reports****



On April 26-27, 2017, the CIC conducted an onsite inspection of, USP Florence ADMAX located in Florence, CO. As part of this inspection, the CIC spoke with DC residents and staff. Following the inspection, the CIC continued to receive reports and information,

which as of October 31, 2018, can be found referenced in the [CIC Inspection report and BOP Response](#).

On September 20, 2017, the CIC conducted an onsite inspection of, Volunteers of America Chesapeake Residential Re-Entry Center (RRC) located in Baltimore, MD. As part of this inspection, the CIC spoke with DC residents and staff.



BOP Response.

The CIC thanks the incarcerated DC residents, their loved ones, and all who have contributed to these reports.

Upcoming Inspection: Hope Village RRC

The CIC anticipates conducting an onsite inspection of Hope Village Residential Reentry Center (RRC), in December 2018. Hope Village RRC is a halfway house, housing residents under the supervision of BOP, DC Department of Corrections (DOC), and Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency (CSOSA) in the District of Columbia. If you have any information you would like to share regarding this facility, contact the CIC between 9am-5pm Monday through Friday at (202) 478-9211 or via email at dccic@dc.gov.



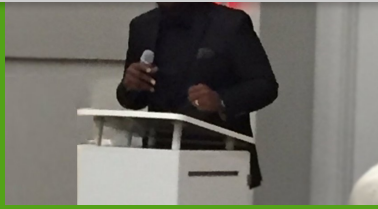
Nominations to the CIC Board



Under the Omnibus Criminal Justice Act of 2016, the CIC board was increased from three to five board members: three Mayoral appointees and two Council appointees. On Thursday, October, 18, Council nominee [Nkechi Taifa](#) testified before the Council of the District of Columbia at her confirmation hearing to become a member of the CIC Board. Taifa has served as the Advocacy Director for Criminal Justice for the Open Society Policy Center, advising Congress and the Executive Branch on criminal justice policies. She also convenes a Washington-based advocacy network advancing federal criminal justice policy reforms, the Justice Roundtable.

On October 10, Mayor Bowser appointed Charlie Whitaker to the CIC board. Mr.

supportive services to returning citizens with low to moderate skill sets to establish a career path. Mr. Whitaker, if confirmed, will replace Phylisa Carter, a mayoral nominee from the prior administration. The CIC thanks Ms. Carter for the inspection work, report review, and great support she has given to the agency during her years of service.



Future CIC Open Meeting Dates

Thursday, December 6, 2018

One Judiciary Square, 441 4th St NW

Room 1114

6:00 - 7:30 pm



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