



**CIC | District of Columbia Corrections Information Council**

**COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety  
Performance Oversight Hearing  
March 2, 2022**

**Testimony of Donald L. Isaac Sr., Executive Director  
Corrections Information Council**

Good morning, Chairman Allen and other members of the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee.

I am Donald Isaac, the Executive Director of the Corrections Information Council (also known as the "CIC") since November of 2018. The CIC is an independent agency created by the 1997 Revitalization Act. We received our first funding in 2013, and have grown yearly. The CIC is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the conditions at approximately 120 correctional facilities operated by the DC Department of Corrections or the Federal Bureau of Prisons.

On average, the District of Columbia currently has approximately 1,400 individuals in DOC local custody, and approximately 2,600 people in federal BOP custody throughout the country. Despite the impact of COVID related lockdowns on incoming communications, the CIC continued to respond to letters, emails, and phone calls from incarcerated individuals and their families. Our agency's oversight and reporting help policymakers and members of the public to understand the conditions and issues faced by our incarcerated DC populations.

Thank you for the opportunity to highlight our agency activities throughout fiscal year 2021 until now. Throughout the pandemic, the CIC continued its mission while navigating through the ever-changing landscapes of local and federal policies to implement lockdowns and halt visitations for medical and safety reasons. Since fiscal year 21, the CIC has completed 11 visits to local and federal facilities and issued more than 25 publications, including site inspection reports, thematic reports, monthly newsletters, and annual reports. Additionally, our most recent publications include two annual reports and an update on the Youth Rehabilitation Act, and the agency expects to issue no less than six more inspection reports this fiscal year. The agency completed all performance metrics

within budget. We are especially grateful for the knowledge and assistance of our fiscal team: Anthony Norman, Archana Khare, and Judith Diaz.

In the beginning of fiscal year 2022, the CIC was able to acquire two new staff persons to bring us to a total of 10 employees. The staff compliment has been helpful, and we were able to commence work on some longstanding agency goals. We have organized an internal team to develop a process for following up on the recommendations we have provided over the years. We have assembled an internal team to begin work on community outreach strategies to inform the Council, executives, and public on issues faced by the current and formerly incarcerated populations. We made changes to our website to include more of our shorter, outgoing briefs, and to improve accessibility to our reports. Additionally, we have revised our monthly newsletter to include more data-based research surrounding COVID and vaccine related statistics, the facilities from which we received the highest number of concerns, and the top issues and concerns reported by the incarcerated population.

Since the US Marshal's Service findings at the DOC, the CIC has engaged in conversations with multiple entities to assess current needs for inspections and

reporting. We have spoken with the US Marshal's service, the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, the DOC Director Thomas Faust, BOP leadership, a representative from the office of Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, and investigative research bodies, such as CNA. We also conducted an inspection at Lewisburg, despite the fact that our statutory access prohibited us from engaging with the transferred population. We seek to continue our efforts to perform DOC oversight through increased monitoring, unannounced inspections, and collaborative conversations with external oversight bodies. We have even extended the opportunity for other entities, such as DC Council, MORCA, and NAARC, to join us on inspections and we look forward to continuing future efforts of this nature.

During the previous oversight hearing, the CIC was negotiating a temporary MOU with the Bureau of Prisons, which was signed the following month. Currently, our agency is prioritizing negotiations for updating that document. The BOP is undergoing leadership transitions, but they have committed to engaging in this process in a timely manner once their leadership is acclimated. Our Memorandum of Agreement with the DC Department of Corrections is active, and the agency looks forward to continuing information exchanges with Director Faust

and his team. We are also in communications with the Board of Elections (BOE) and the DOC regarding their roles to coordinate efforts for increasing access and participation of incarcerated individuals during the June elections.

We are a small agency with an extensive and extremely important mandate. We want to continue agency growth by increasing work product output, improving production timelines, establishing internal career ladders, and providing compensation commensurate with acquiring and retaining competent and experienced personnel. For the duration of the year, the CIC plans to continue productivity and communications.

Thank you, Chairman Allen. I join the members of our CIC Board to express our gratitude for the support by you, the Council, and the Mayor for our agency and its mission.

Thank you.

*Donald Isaac*

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