Jails & Justice: Our Transformation Starts Today

DC League of Women Voters Briefing
May 19, 2021

Christy Respress, Task Force Member
Casey Anderson, Council for Court Excellence

#TransformDCJustice
We envision a humane, equitable approach to criminal justice in Washington, D.C. that prioritizes prevention and care, and reimagines accountability through a rehabilitative lens, to create safe and thriving communities.

DISTRICT TASK FORCE ON JAILS & JUSTICE
Task Force Process

Committees
- Community Investments
- Decarceration
- Local Control
- Facilities & Services

2,500 DC Residents
- Surveys
- Focus Groups
- Town Halls
- Visioning Workshops

Phases I & II

DOC and BOP Data

17 Recommendations → 80 Point Implementation Plan
History of D.C. Correctional Facilities

1838: US Jail
1875: Old DC Jail
1918: Lorton Pen.
1976: CDF
1992: CTF
2001: Move to BOP
“Inmates ‘Guaranteed’ No Reprisals for Rebellion 1972”
Black people comprise 86% of arrests but only 47% of D.C.’s population.
D.C. Criminal Justice System Trends
DOC Population (2018)

**FIGURE 2: ADP BY LEGAL STATUS, 2018**

- Unsentenced: 36% (738)
- Sentenced: 14% (286)
- Violation: 16% (333)
- Hold: 34% (704)
DOC Bookings by Top Charge Category

- Violations: 20% (1,360)
- Simple Assault: 12% (829)
- Drug Offenses: 11% (790)
- Property Crime: 10% (720)
- Weapons: 10% (686)
- DUI: 7% (499)
- Aggravated Assault: 5% (339)
- Burglary/Robbery: 5% (335)
- Assault: 3% (217)
- Rape/Sex Abuse: 2% (138)
BOP Population (July 4, 2020)
# BOP Top Charge Categories and Length of Sentence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Charge</th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Term (Months)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Homicide/Agg Assualt</td>
<td>1,612</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>329</td>
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<td>Robbery</td>
<td>429</td>
<td>13%</td>
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<td>Sex Offenses</td>
<td>324</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>343</td>
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<td>Violation of Spv/Parole</td>
<td>323</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weapons/Explosives</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>89</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary/Larceny</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>177</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>263</td>
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<tr>
<td>Drugs</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>95</td>
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Community Engagement
“Crime is a Big Problem in My Neighborhood”
BOP Residents’ Opinion on DOC Prison Construction

**Figure 8:** Do you support building a prison in D.C.?

- All respondents (n=450):
  - Yes: 71%
  - No: 14%
  - I don’t know: 15%

**Figure 9:** Would you prefer to serve your sentence in a D.C. prison?

- All respondents (n=451):
  - Yes: 62%
  - No: 21%
  - I don’t know: 16%
## District Task Force on Jails & Justice’s 10-Year Plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2024</th>
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**Legend:**
- **Policy Change**
- **Old Facilities**
- **New Facility**
2 Law Enforcement Contact

1. Limit traffic stops to circumstances in which there is a risk to public safety by transferring civil traffic enforcement from MPD to D.C. Department of Transportation (DDOT) and requiring the use of a mail summons for violations that do not pose immediate danger.

   a. Outcome:
      i. Type: Reduce contact between law enforcement and the public.
      ii. Size: MPD conducted 31,396 “ticket stops” for moving violations in a little more than five months between July 22, 2019 and December 31, 2019, of which 996 (about 3%) resulted in an arrest. The five most common categories of arrest charges accounted for nearly 80% of these arrests: driving without a permit, driving under the influence, counterfeit tags, speed (30 MPH or more over the limit), and permit revoked.
      iii. Racial Impact: 61.8% of ticket stops in this time period involved a Black person.
      iv. Special Population Impact: None.

   b. Measurement: 95% reduction in MPD traffic stops, 15% reduction in the proportion of Black people stopped for traffic violations.

   c. Steps:
      i. D.C. Council should amend D.C. law to give DDOT enforcement authority over civil traffic violations by October 2022.
      ii. D.C. Council should transfer funding from MPD to DDOT to conduct civil traffic violation enforcement beginning in FY23.
      iii. D.C. Council should amend D.C. law to prohibit MPD from issuing tickets for traffic offenses that do not pose an immediate danger to public safety by October 2022.
      iv. D.C. Council should amend D.C. law to require anti-bias and de-escalation training for DDOT employees who will conduct routine traffic stops by October 2022.
      v. DDOT should change policies and practices to increase the use of automated policing, such as speed cameras, in place of discretionary policing while ensuring there is no systemic bias, such as biased camera placement; reducing stops and replacing them with mailed notices of infraction, and ensuring rigorous privacy protections, by October 2022.

   d. Cost: This will represent a budget transfer from MPD to DDOT, not a new expense.
Divesting from Traditional Criminal Justice System Functions & Investing in Community
D.C. spends $241 per day, $88,105 per year, for each person incarcerated.
Community Safety Themes

- Close-Knit Communities
- Housing
- Police
- Behavioral Health
- Reentry
- Community Empowerment
- Support for Youth
- Jobs and Economic Opportunity
Reducing D.C.’s Total Pre-COVID-19 Incarcerated Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2030</th>
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<tr>
<td>FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS (BOP)</td>
<td>4,000</td>
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<td>3,800</td>
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<tr>
<td>D.C. DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS (DOC)</td>
<td>1,800</td>
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<td>2,900</td>
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The Task Force recommends reducing the incarcerated population by 1/3 to 1/2 over the next ten years.
A New Non-Traditional Facility in D.C.

2020
People who are incarcerated held in 124 institutions

2030
One non-traditional facility providing a safe, secure, and healthy environment

- Houses people who are pre-trial and sentenced
- A markedly different justice system
Next Steps

- Divest from MPD
- Invest in DBH and DDOT
- Criminal Records – April 8
- Local Control of Parole
Resources

- Contact: casey.anderson@courtexcellence.org
