

**Council of the District of Columbia**  
**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE**  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20004

---

**COUNCILMEMBER CHARLES ALLEN, CHAIRPERSON**  
**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY**

**ANNOUNCES A PUBLIC OVERSIGHT ROUNDTABLE ON**

**THE OPERATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES**

**Thursday, April 29, 2021, 12 p.m. – 6 p.m.**

**Virtual Hearing via Zoom**

**To Watch Live:**

**<https://www.facebook.com/CMcharlesallen>**

On Thursday, April 29, 2021, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public oversight roundtable on “The Operations of the Department of Forensic Sciences”. The roundtable will be held virtually via Zoom from 12 p.m. to no later than 6 p.m. **The roundtable is limited to invited witnesses only.**

The Department of Forensic Sciences (“DFS”) is an independent District agency whose statutory mission is to provide “high-quality, timely, accurate, and reliable forensic science services[.]” DFS’ Forensic Science Laboratory Division collects, examines, analyzes, and reports on physical evidence submitted in criminal cases, including through firearms examination.

The purpose of this public oversight roundtable is to continue the Committee’s oversight of DFS’ operations following its March 8, 2021, performance oversight hearing in light of extremely concerning subsequent developments related to firearms examination.

On March 22, 2021, the Office of the Attorney General shared the *Final Report of Review and Audit of Selected Casework of the Firearms Examination Unit of the Forensic Science Laboratory Division, Department of Forensic Sciences* (“Final Report”) with the DFS Stakeholder Council and other District and federal entities. The Final Report – conducted by an independent audit team of the Office of the Attorney General and the United States Attorney’s Office – raises grave concerns about DFS’ integrity and independence, including in its firearms examination casework, quality assurance processes, and management practices.

On April 2, 2021, the ANSI National Accreditation Board suspended its accreditation of the Forensic Science Laboratory Division for what it deemed credible evidence of deliberate concealment of information, violations of accreditation requirements, and misrepresentations and fraudulent behavior, as raised in the Final Report.

In light of these developments and their serious implications for the District's criminal justice system, the Committee is moving immediately to convene this public oversight roundtable.

Although the witness list for this roundtable is limited, the Committee invites the public to submit written testimony. Written statements from the public will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at [judiciary@dccouncil.us](mailto:judiciary@dccouncil.us). **The record will close at the end of the business day on Friday, May 7.**