

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

Conditions of Confinement at the D.C. Jail

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Virtual Roundtable via Zoom

To Watch Live:

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

On Wednesday, November 10, 2021, Councilmember Charles Allen, Chairperson of the Committee on the Judiciary and Public Safety, will convene a public oversight roundtable on “Conditions of Confinement at the D.C. Jail”. The roundtable will be held virtually via the Zoom platform from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Government witnesses will testify from 12:30 p.m. to no later than 3:00 p.m., followed by public witnesses from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

From October 18 to 22, 2021, the United States Marshals Service (“USMS”) conducted an unannounced inspection of the Department of Corrections’ (“DOC”) facilities, including the Central Detention Facility (“CDF” or the “D.C. Jail”). Based on the USMS inspection, the Acting United States Marshal determined that the conditions of confinement at CDF, where approximately 400 residents under USMS jurisdiction are housed, indicate “evidence of systemic failures” and do not meet correctional standards. Some of the reported findings include lack of water, standing human sewage, evidence of drug use, inappropriate food delivery, lack of COVID-19 mitigation protocols, staff misconduct, and observable injuries to residents.

The Committee is convening this oversight roundtable to further examine this rapidly developing situation, including the urgent and concerning findings of the USMS and the impact of the USMS decision to transfer hundreds of largely D.C. residents to a federal prison several hours from the District. The Committee will also solicit testimony from the Executive about its response to the findings and efforts to immediately address them, in addition to the current and future status of operations at DOC facilities.

The Committee invites the public to provide oral and written testimony. Public witnesses seeking to provide oral testimony at the Committee’s hearing must thoroughly review the following instructions:

- Anyone wishing to provide oral testimony must email the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.us with their name, telephone number, organizational affiliation, and title (if any), by the **close of business on Monday, November 8.**
- ***Due to broadcasting availability, the Committee will approve witnesses' registrations based on the total time allotted for public testimony*.** The Committee will also determine the order of witnesses' testimony.
- Representatives of organizations will be allowed a maximum of five minutes for oral testimony, and individuals (and any subsequent representatives of the same organizations) will be allowed a maximum of three minutes. In order to accommodate additional public witnesses, the Committee may reduce witnesses' allotted time for testimony but will inform witnesses if it plans to do so.
- Witnesses are not permitted to yield their time to, or substitute their testimony for, the testimony of another individual or organization.
- If possible, witnesses should submit a copy of their testimony electronically in advance to judiciary@dccouncil.us.
- Witnesses who anticipate needing language interpretation are requested to inform the Committee as soon as possible. The Committee will make every effort to fulfill timely requests.

For witnesses who are unable to testify at the roundtable, written statements will be made part of the official record. Copies of written statements should be submitted to the Committee at judiciary@dccouncil.us. **The record will close at the end of the business day on Monday, November 29.**