



## District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

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November 19, 2024

Hybrid Meeting Held at 441 4th St. NW, Suite 430S,  
Washington, DC and via Zoom

### **Voting Members in Attendance:**

Hon. Danya Dayson  
Frederick Cooke, Jr.  
Nazgol Ghandnoosh  
Dave Rosenthal

Hon. Rainey Brandt  
Cedrick Hendricks  
Katerina Semyonova

Hon. Marisa Demeo  
Ramey Kyle  
Renata Cooper

### **Non-Voting Members in Attendance:**

Cristina Hillyer  
*for Sonya Thompson*

Stephen Husk

Erika McJimpsey

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Linden Fry  
Maeghan Buckley  
Emily Blume

Taylor Tarnalicki  
Mia Hebb  
Ramleen Kaur

Keelin Herbst  
Brittany Bunch

## **Chairman Monthly Meeting Introduction – Action Item, Judge Danya Dayson, Chairwoman**

Judge Dayson called the November monthly meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. A roll call was completed, and a quorum was established.

### **1. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the October 15, 2024, Commission Meeting – Action Item, Judge Danya Dayson, Chairwoman.**

Members reviewed the draft minutes from the October 2024 meeting. A roll-call vote was taken, resulting in the approval of the minutes (eight votes in favor, one abstention, and zero opposed).<sup>1</sup>

### **2. Director’s Report – Information Item, Linden Fry, Executive Director**

#### *a. Introduction of the Commission’s New IT Specialist: Ramleen Kaur*

Linden Fry introduced Ramleen Kaur, the Commission’s new IT Specialist. Ms. Kaur introduced herself, detailing her approximately four years of experience in computer science, her interest in law, and her enthusiasm for joining the Commission.

#### *b. Finalized Promotions*

The Sentencing Commission has finalized two staff promotions. Maeghan Buckley has been promoted from Attorney Advisor to the Commission’s General Counsel, and Taylor Tarnalicki

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<sup>1</sup> Frederick Cooke, Jr. joined the meeting after the review and approval of the minutes.

has been promoted from her role as Statistician to the newly created position of Research Director. In this capacity, Ms. Tarnalicki will lead all research and data initiatives for the Commission. The Commission congratulated Ms. Buckley and Ms. Tarnalicki on their well-deserved promotions.

*c. The Commission's Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request*

Mr. Fry provided the Commission with an update regarding the agency's fiscal year 2025 and 2026 budgets. The Commission has been directed to propose a 2% reduction for the current fiscal year (FY 2025) and a 5% reduction for FY 2026. To meet the 2% reduction, the Commission plans to leave the Statistician position vacant until early 2025. The 5% budget reduction for FY 2026 is expected to have a more substantial impact on operations. Mr. Fry has met with Mayor Bowser's budget team to discuss the Commission's overall budget and funding for transitioning the GRID data system servers from physical infrastructure to the cloud. This transition is critical to accommodate the increasing volume of data managed by the Commission. Finally, the Commission asked for an additional budget enhancement to deal with any associated costs when the D.C. Superior Court's new case management system, called Enterprise Justice, is fully implemented.

*d. December Commission "Meeting"*

In December, the Commission will hold a celebration to honor Dave Rosenthal and Judge Milton Lee, two longstanding members who have recently left or will soon be departing the Commission. This will not be an official Commission meeting, and the gathering will not address any substantive matters.

*e. Participating in Guidelines Translation Committee*

As noted in the October Commission meeting, efforts to translate the Guidelines Manual into Spanish are underway. Since no agency staff are fluent in Spanish, the Commission is forming a Guidelines Translation Committee. This group will include individuals familiar with the Guidelines and fluent in Spanish to help review the translated draft. Mr. Fry reiterated the invitation for all Commission members or individuals from partner agencies to participate, either by contributing to the translation process or assisting with proofreading.

**3. Ranking Felony Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) – Discussion and Action Item, Judge Dayson and Maeghan Buckley, General Counsel**

On October 7, 2024, Mayor Bowser signed into law the "Female Genital Mutilation Prohibition Act of 2023". There is no associated emergency legislation, therefore this offense will go into effect once the 60-day Congressional review period has concluded.

The Guidelines Implementation Committee (GIC), composed of Dave Rosenthal, Renata Cooper, and Katerina Semyonova, met prior to the full Commission meeting and reached a unanimous recommendation regarding the ranking of Female Genital Mutilation ("FGM"). The GIC recommends ranking the offense in Master Group 6. A memorandum regarding the GIC's

recommendation was provided to Commission members for review in advance of the meeting and vote.

Ms. Buckley presented the Commission with an overview of the FGM offense, including default ranking and discussed how similar offenses are ranked. After the presentation, the Commission voted unanimously with the GIC's recommendation (10 votes in favor) to rank FGM in Master Group 6. Commission staff will continue to monitor the legislation. The updated scoring will be included in the 2025 Guidelines Manual (tentatively scheduled to go into effect on April 1, 2025) and a Guidelines Alert will be sent out once the offense is officially enacted.

**4. Criminal Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Fiscal Year 2024 Report – Information Item, Emily Blume, Research Analyst**

Emily Blume presented an overview of the Rule 11(c)(1)(C) trends for the 2024 fiscal year, which ran from October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2024.

To view the FY 2024 Criminal Rule 11(c)(1)(C) Report, visit: [Rule 11\(c\)\(1\)\(C\) Plea Quarterly Report | scdc](#).

Some of the key findings from this presentation include:

- There were 142 Rule 11(c)(1)(C) pleas sentenced in FY 2024, representing 7% of the total counts sentenced;
- 96% of sentences following a Rule 11(c)(1)(C) plea were prison sentences;
- Combined, Violent and Murder offenses represented 61% of Rule 11(c)(1)(C) plea sentences; and
- Of the 90 individuals sentenced as the result of a Rule 11(c)(1)(C) plea, 92% were Male, 91% were Black, and 59% were between the ages of 22 and 40 at the time of the offense.

**5. Next Scheduled Meeting: January 21, 2025.**

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Meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

NEXT MEETING:  
January 21, 2025  
Via Zoom

To view the video recording of the full discussion, visit <https://scdc.dc.gov/page/commission-meetings>.