

--These minutes were amended by vote during the Commission's September 19, 2023, meeting--



District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

441 4th St, NW, Suite 430 South, Washington, DC 20001

Telephone (202) 727-8822 Fax (202) 727-7929

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING

July 18, 2023

Via WebEx

Voting Members in Attendance:

Hon. Milton Lee	William Martin
Hon. Marisa Demeo	Renata Cooper
Katerina Semyonova	
Frederick Cooke	
Nazgol Ghandnoosh	
Dave Rosenthal	

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Cristina Hillyer for Sonya Thompson	Leslie Parson
Erica McJimpsey	Anaiah Mitchell for Councilwoman Brooke Pinto
Stephen J. Husk	

Staff in Attendance:

Linden Fry	Basil Evans	Maeghan Buckley	Emily Blume
Brittany Bunch	Taylor Tarnalicki	Mia Hebb	Keelin Herbst
Nicholas McGuire	Mary Zenger (Intern)		

Chairman Monthly Meeting Introduction – Action Item, Judge Lee, Chairman

Judge Lee called the July monthly meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. A roll call was completed, and a quorum was established.

2023 Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual Update – Proposed Revisions – Discussion and Action Item, Judge Lee and Maeghan Buckley, Attorney Advisor.

Members were provided a summary memo and redlined draft Guidelines Manual that reviewed the proposed changes to the 2023 D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual. This year's proposed Guidelines Manual update did not include any substantive policy changes. The modifications were solely stylistic or formatting changes. The proposed revisions were discretionary amendments intended to explain, clarify, and/or streamline the information presented in the Manual based on feedback received by the Commission throughout the year.

Prior to the meeting, the Guidelines Implementation Committee (GIC), consisting of Dave Rosenthal (Office of the Attorney General, Katerina Semyonova (Public Defender Service), and Renata Cooper (U.S. Attorney's Office), met with Commission staff and discussed the proposed changes. The GIC unanimously supported the proposed Guidelines Manual provided to the Commission.

--These minutes were amended by vote during the Commission's September 19, 2023, meeting--

Amongst other minor and formatting changes, the Commission reviewed modification to the following provisions:

- Section 2.2.5(e) was updated to include guidance regarding scoring out-of-District offenses when there are multiple prior convictions from a single event;
- Sections 7.1 and 7.22 were added and the remaining sections were renumbered, to add definitions for aggravating and mitigating departure factors; and
- Section 7.7 was updated to align with the added definitions of aggravating and mitigating departure factors.

After a review of the proposed changes and discussion, the Commission voted unanimously by roll call to approve the 2023 D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual for publication (eight votes in favor and zero opposed).

To view the discussion, visit <https://scdc.dc.gov/page/commission-meetings>, and start the recording at five minutes and thirty-one seconds.

Review and Approval of the Minutes from the June 20, 2023, Commission Meeting - Action Item, Judge Lee, Chairman

The Commission received the draft June meeting minutes for final review prior to the meeting. Members voted by roll call to approve the minutes (eight votes in favor and zero opposed).

Director's Report - Information Item, Linden Fry, Executive Director

Mr. Fry provided members with an overview of the Commission's recent activities.

An update was given to members regarding the Commission's progress in adjusting the agency's data system so that it can receive data from D.C. Superior Court's new case management system which is currently under development. It was announced that the Court's new case management system's name was changed from Odyssey to Enterprise Justice. The Commission is currently on track with the current implementation timeline.

The Commission was given a reminder that the United States Sentencing Commission would be hosting a Federal Sentencing Guidelines Training on Wednesday, July 26, 2023, from 9 AM – 4 PM for Commission members and staff. Interested members were asked to reach out to Maeghan Buckley, the Commission's Attorney Advisor, for more information.

The Commission's new District of Columbia Department of Corrections representative member, Erika McJimpsey Esq., and the Commission's legal intern, Mary Zenger, were introduced to members and welcomed to the Commission.

Before the meeting concluded, members were given a snapshot of the agency's upcoming community events. Member also discussed the timeline for ranking the new offenses created by the Prioritizing Public Safety Emergency Amendment Act of 2023, which will go into effect once signed by the Mayor. If the bill is enacted, the Commission agreed to discuss the ranking of the new offenses at the Commission's next meeting in September. The Commission will not hold an August meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:05 pm.

--These minutes were amended by vote during the Commission's September 19, 2023, meeting--

NEXT MEETING:
September 19, 2023
Via WebEx

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