



# District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

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## MINUTES OF FULL COMMISSION MEETING

October 16, 2018

One Judiciary Square, Suite 430S, Washington, DC 20001

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

Milton Lee	Julie Samuels
Frederick Weisberg	Cedric Hendricks
Katerina Semyonova	Renata K. Cooper
Dave Rosenthal	Danya Dyson
Marvin Turner	

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

Kevin Whitfield  
Leslie Parson for Robert Contee

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Barbara Tombs-Souvey	Kara Dansky	Taylor Tarnalicki
Miatta Sesay	Mehmet Ergun	Mia Hebb

- I. Chairman Lee called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
- II. The minutes from September 25, 2018, were briefly discussed. The minutes were approved pending any changes submitted to Barbara Tombs-Souvey.
- III. Director's Report - Information Item, Barbara Tombs-Souvey.

***Indonesian Delegation Presentation:*** Ms. Tombs-Souvey discussed the presentation to the Indonesian Delegation that will be held on November 5, 2018, from 2pm-4pm. The Commission staff will provide an overview of the history and purpose of the D.C. Sentencing Commission and Guidelines. Ms. Tombs-Souvey encouraged participation from the Commission members to allow the Indonesian delegates the opportunity to ask questions concerning the roles of Commission members.

- IV. Discussion of Focus Group Report Recommendations and Findings – Discussion Item, Judge Lee and Barbara Tombs-Souvey.

***Recommended Report Edits:*** Judge Lee discussed the recommended final edits to the Focus Group Report that was distributed to the Commission members for review on September 26, 2018. Judge Lee asked Commission members if there were any questions or changes that still need to be addressed. The floor was opened for comments or concerns from the Commission members. Commission members noted the following recommendations that the Commission should consider from the Focus Group feedback:

- Revising of the Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual
- Developing a Reference Guide for scoring out-of-District offenses (cheat sheet)
- Revisiting the rules for lapse and revival
- Developing informal and formal training opportunities

Judge Lee requested that Commission members contact Ms. Tombs-Souvey and provide a list of their top three priorities from among the recommendations presented in the Focus Group Report.

V. Overview of Criminal History Scenario Memo - Informational Item, Mehmet Ergun.

**Overview of Criminal History Scenario:** Mehmet Ergun gave an overview of the impact various hypothetical Criminal History (CH) scoring modification scenarios would have on an individual's CH score. Mr. Ergun discussed the analyses, data limitations, and provided a brief overview of CH group changes resulting from the various scenarios.

Members discussed the different scenarios presented and the varying impact they had on CH scores. Commission members suggested that several additional scenarios be analyzed and discussed at the next meeting.

VI. Discussion of Washington Post – Editorial Board (October 11, 2018) - Discussion Item, Judge Lee.

**Washington Post –Editorial:** Judge Lee discussed the recent Editorial that was published in the Washington Post regarding the 2018 spike in the D.C. homicides. Judge Lee gave an overview of the discussion from the previous Commission meeting concerning how to respond collectively, as a Commission, to the media. Judge Lee opened the floor for further discussion. Several comments and suggestions were offered by Commission members. Judge Lee suggested that the Commission should try to reach a consensus on what is the most appropriate course of action to take when inaccurate information is reported by the media. He asked member to give this issue some serious thought and the Commission will discuss this topic further at the next meeting.

Judge Lee stated that agenda item regarding Literature Review for Offense Patterning would be tabled until the next Commission Meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:40pm.

NEXT MEETING:

November 13, 2018  
One Judiciary Square (441 4<sup>th</sup> Street, NW) Suite 430S.