



# District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

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## DRAFT MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING

January 21, 2020

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

### Voting Members in Attendance:

Milton Lee	Frederick Cooke, Jr.
Juliet McKenna	Dave Rosenthal
Katerina Semyonova	Cedric Hendricks
Danya Dyson	Julie Samuels
Marvin Turner	William Martin

### Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Diane Strote  
Robert Contee  
Kevin Whitfield

### Staff in Attendance:

Barbara Tombs-Souvey	Basil Evans	Taylor Tarnalicki
Mia Hebb	Mehmet Ergun	Miatta Sesay

- I. Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.
- II. The minutes from November 19, 2019 were approved pending any changes submitted to Barbara Tombs-Souvey.
- III. Director's Report – Informational Items, Barbara Tombs-Souvey, Executive Director

**Director's Report:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey reported on the following informational items to the Commission members.

- **2019 Annual Report Schedule:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey stated that the annual report draft will be submitted to the Commission members by March 3, 2020 for review, with comments and edits -and due back to staff by March 16, 2020 to allow time to incorporate any revisions before sending the document to the printer.
- **Agency Performance Hearing:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey reported that the agency Performance Hearing is scheduled for February 13, 2020. Ms. Tombs-Souvey briefly gave an overview of the agency FY21 budget. Ms. Tombs-Souvey informed the Commission that last year budget included Capital Funds for the MPD Arrest Data GRID Enhancement Project and funding for

a new position for an IT Specialist to assist with MPD project and routine maintenance of the GRID data system.

- **Introduction of IT Specialist, Basil Evans:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey introduced the agency's new staff member Basil Evans, IT Specialist to the Commission members. Mr. Evans briefly discussed his professional background ~~for to~~ the Commission. The Commission members welcomed him.
- **Introduction of New Commission Member, Judge Juliet McKenna:** Judge Lee informed the Commission members of the recent membership changes and the new appointed judicial member to the Commission, Judge Juliet McKenna. Judge Lee introduced Judge Juliet McKenna to the Commission. The Commission members and staff introduced themselves and welcomed her. Judge Lee ~~reportedly~~ expressed his thanks to Judge Weisberg on his long service and commended him for the work he had accomplished with the Commission.

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IV. MPD Data Feed Enhancement Project- Informational Item, Barbara Tombs-Souvey, Executive Director:

**MPD Data Feed Enhancement Project:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey briefly provided background information on the ~~electronic~~ Guideline Reporting Information -data-Data system (GRID) system and its relation to the ~~development of~~ MPD Arrest Data Feed Enhancement Project. Ms. Tombs-Souvey stated that the MPD Data Feed Enhancement will enable arrest data to be integrated feed into the GRID system, ~~which allows enabling~~ the Commission to follow track a felony case from arrest through sentencing. Ms. Tombs-Souvey informed Commission members of the 12 month contract entered with MindCubed for the enhancement project and the hiring of IT Project Director, Gerry Roth to oversee the development of MPD Enhancement Project. Ms. Tombs-Souvey discussed the following three major phases of the project:

- First Release – February 27, 2020 – Ensuring Transfer of arrest all data through the XML interface, development of the database and validation of the data
  - coming in, Designing of tables and making sure data is validated
- Second Release- May 7, 2020 - Integrated of arrest data into the Enhanced-GRID system Design
- Third Release – August 9, 2020 – Final Testing of the GRID system

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Ms. Tombs-Souvey stated that the completion date is scheduled for November 2, 2020, which will allow for a is three weeks trouble shooting period before the end of the contract. ~~to allow time to address any issues before the system goes live.~~ Ms. Tombs-Souvey opened the floor any questions. There was brief discussion among Commission members.

V. DC Social Media Policy –Action Item, Miatta Sesay-Wood, Outreach Specialist

**DC Social Media Policy:** Ms. Sesay-Wood gave provided an overview of the Social Media Access and User Policy draft, which was requested by Commission members during at the November 2019 meeting. Ms. Sesay-Wood opened the floor for questions or comments from the Commission members. The Commission members suggested contacting the DC Board of Ethics and Government Accountability to discuss the appropriate means of addressing inappropriate and

inaccurate information that may be posted on the Commission’s social media platforms by site visitors.

**VI. Fast Facts–Adult Sex Offenses – Action Item, Taylor Tarnalicki, Research Analyst**

**Fast Facts-Adult Sex Offenses:** Ms. Tarnalicki ~~briefly~~ gave ~~an~~ brief overview of the Adult Sex Abuse Fast Facts. Ms. Tarnalicki opened the floor for comments, edits or suggestions from the Commission members. There were some questions and suggestions from Commission members regarding the style of the document and some minor content changes requested. Ms. Tarnalicki informed the Commission members of the upcoming fast facts topics and publishing dates. It was suggested that a four part Fast Fact Series including Attempted Robbery, Armed Robbery and Robbery be the focus for ~~the next future~~ Fast Facts.

**VII. Continued Discussion of Title 16 Sentences, Informational Item:**

- a. **GRID Box Analysis – Mehmet Ergun, Statistician:** Mr. Ergun presented an overview of the initial felony sentences imposed, in terms of length to serve in prison, by Master Grid box range, for Juvenile offenders ages 16 and 17 year old (“Title 16 sentences”) who were sentenced between January 1, 2013 and September 30, 2019 in adult court. Mr. Ergun opened the floor for questions from Commission members. There were some questions raised from Commission members regarding the distribution of sentences within the GRID boxes. Judge Lee requested staff to look at data reflecting criminal history in Offense Severity Group 8.
- b. **Follow-Up from Prior Title 16 Sentencing Data-Taylor Tarnalicki, Research Analyst –** Was deferred to the February meeting. Will be discussed at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:45pm.

NEXT MEETING:

February 18, 2020

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