



# District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

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## DRAFT MINUTES OF VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING

June 16, 2020

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

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

Milton Lee	Frederick Cooke, Jr.
Juliet McKenna	Dave Rosenthal
Danya Dyson	Katerina Semyonova
Renata Cooper	Cedric Hendricks
Molly Gill	William”Billy”Martin
Julie Samuels	Marvin Turner

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

Eric Glover  
Diane Strote for Sonya Thompson  
Robert Contee  
Steve Husk  
Kevin Whitfield for Charles Allen

### **Staff in Attendance:**

Barbara Tombs-Souvey	Basil Evans	Taylor Tarnalicki
Mia Hebb	Mehmet Ergun	Georgia Pham

- I. Judge Lee called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
- II. Review and Approval of the Minutes from the February 16, 2020 – Action Item, Judge Lee.
- III. Introduction of Commission’s New General Counsel, Informational Item, Judge Lee

**Introduction of Commission’s New General Counsel:** Judge Lee introduced Georgia Pham, the Commission’s new General Counsel to members. Ms. Pham briefly discussed her professional background, which included employment with various law firms and her past experience as an Assistant Attorney General in Delaware focusing on Drug offenses. Commission members welcomed her to the Commission.

- IV. Agency FY2020 and FY2021 Budget Overview –Informational Item, Barbara Tombs-Souvey, Executive Director.

**Agency Budget FY2020 and FY2021 Overview:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey briefly gave an overview of the agency budget changes affecting FY2020 and FY2021 to the Commission members. The current FY 2020 budget is projected to be reduced by \$120,204, resulting in a 69% reduction the agency’s current NPS funds and a 10% reduction in the current PS funds.

This reduction was implemented to address the District's projected revenue shortfall for the current fiscal year.

The proposed FY 2021 agency budget includes a 1.5% overall reduction from the FY 2020 budget. This reduction reflects a 10.3% decrease in NPS funds compared to FY2020. The agency may face resource challenges in the upcoming year due to increased O&M contract costs with the completion of MPD Grid Enhancement Project during FY 2021.

V. Overview of Sentencing Commission's 2019 Annual Report – Informational Items, Barbara Tombs-Souvey, Executive Director.

**Overview of Sentencing Commission's 2019 Annual Report:** Ms. Tombs-Souvey presented an overview of the key findings of the Sentencing Commission's 2019 Annual Report. Sentencing trends presented focused on the following:

- Distribution of Sentences by Type
- Offense Category by Sentence Type
- Sentenced Imposed by Age Group
- Sentences Imposed for Homicide and Weapon Offenses
- Felony Sentences Imposed by Gender
- Guidelines Compliance Rates

Judge Lee opened the floor for any questions or concerns. There were a few questions raised by Commission members regarding sentences imposed for specific offenses.

VI. Proposed Modifications to the approved Community Outreach and Education Strategy – Informational Item, Judge Lee, Chairman and Barbara Tombs-Souvey, Executive Director:

**Proposed Modifications to the approved Community Outreach and Education Strategy:** Judge Lee discussed the proposed modifications to the Community Outreach and Education Strategy that was presented to the Commission for review. Judge Lee informed Commission members that these revisions were necessary due to the pandemic and are subject to change based on the Mayor's Health Emergency Order. Ms. Tombs-Souvey added that the agency staff will continue to utilize social media platforms in order to disseminate information to the general public. She also stated that the staff is working to develop a strategy to host virtual trainings and presentations through You-Tube and Podcasts. Judge Lee opened the floor for questions or comments. Several Commission members expressed support for the use of various social media platforms to increase community outreach efforts.

VII. Schedule Next Meeting – Action Item, Judge Lee, Chairman

**Schedule Next Meeting:** Judge Lee informed the Commission members that the next Commission meeting will be held in July to approve the 2020 Guidelines Manual and to provide an overview of the Title16 discussion to date. Judge Lee opened up the floor for discussion. Commission members were in agreement with the proposed agenda for the July meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:52pm.

NEXT MEETING:  
July 21, 2020  
Via ZOOM