

--These minutes were amended by vote during the Commission's July 17, 2024, meeting--



District of Columbia Sentencing Commission

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

MINUTES OF VIRTUAL COMMISSION MEETING

June 18, 2024

Via WebEx

Voting Members in Attendance:

Hon. Milton Lee	Hon. Rainey Brandt	Joel Castón
Frederick D. Cooke, Jr	Renata Cooper	Nazgol Ghandnoosh
Hon. Marisa Demeo	Cedric Hendricks	Katerina Semyonova
Sean Holihan	William R. Martin	

Non-Voting Members in Attendance:

Christina Hillyer for Sonya Thompson	Erika McJimpsey	Stephen Husk
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Staff in Attendance:

Linden Fry	Maeghan Buckley	Brittany Bunch
Taylor Tarnalicki	Emily Blume	Keelin Herbst
Nicholas McGuire	Mia Hebb	

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

Judge Lee called the June monthly meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. A roll call was completed, and a quorum was established.

1. Review and approval of the minutes from April 30, 2024, Commission meeting – Action Item, Judge Lee, Chairman.

The Commission received the draft April meeting minutes for final review prior to the meeting. Members voted by roll call to approve the minutes (eleven votes in favor, zero opposed). The motion was carried, and the minutes were adopted.

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

a. The Commission's FY25 Budget

Mr. Fry provided the Commission with an update on the D.C. fiscal year 2025 budget. Currently, the Commission has a tentative FY25 budget of \$1,793,052. Mayor Bowers' office proposed a 5.9% budget increase for the Commission. This one-time budget increase will address the rising Grid operations and maintenance costs and will also fund the translation of the D.C. Voluntary Sentencing Guidelines Manual into Spanish. While the Manual translation is primarily a one-time cost, the ongoing operations and maintenance costs will require additional funding next year. Additionally, Councilwoman Pinto and the Judiciary and Public Safety (JPS) Committee added an additional \$85,900 for agency promotions and merit-based salary increases. It is important to note that, due to budgetary constraints, agency staff members have not received a merit-based raise in five years.

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b. Odyssey/Enterprise Justice and GRID System Update

Superior Court Criminal Division partner agencies, including the Commission, have started preliminary testing some of the data that will come from the Court's new case management system once it is implemented. The agency's contractor has implemented some of the changes that will be necessary. There is still the potential for the schema and structure of the data coming from the Court to change. Full system development and scenario testing will not begin for several more months. There is a possibility that the agency will need to request additional funding in the future depending on the scope of further changes made to the Court's new system or the results after full testing.

c. 2025 Guidelines Manual Schedule

The next Sentencing Guidelines Manual will go into effect on January 1, 2025. Agency staff will be primarily proposing non-substantive changes, including a complete reorganization of the manual and brand new or significantly modified examples. The agency requests that the Guidelines Implementation Committee (GIC) begin its meetings in September. All Commission members are welcome to participate in the GIC process.

d. New Data Response Publications

Commission staff have published two new data response publications to its website. One is an arrest to sentencing analysis on Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle, and the other is on sentences imposed for Gun Registry offenses.

e. Upcoming Community Events

There are currently eight community outreach events scheduled for the Summer. Commission members are encouraged to reach out to Brittany Bunch, the Commission's Outreach Specialist, if they are interested in attending any of these events.

3. Closed Executive Session

Per the Commission's announced agenda, the Commission unanimously voted to enter a closed session pursuant to D.C. Official Code §§ 2-575(b)(10) and (12). The Commission proceeded to enter a closed session.

a. Closed Executive Session – Sentencing Guidelines Training for Commission Members and Staff – Training Item, Linden Fry D.C. Sentencing Commission

Meetings are closed to the public when training and developing members of the Commission pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(12).

b. Closed Executive Session – Commission Staffing Update – Information Item, Judge Lee and Linden Fry

Meetings are closed to the public when discussing agency personnel decisions pursuant to D.C. Code § 2-575(b)(10).

Note: Meeting minutes for agenda items held in closed executive sessions will not be made public.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

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NEXT MEETING:
July 16, 2024
Via Zoom

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